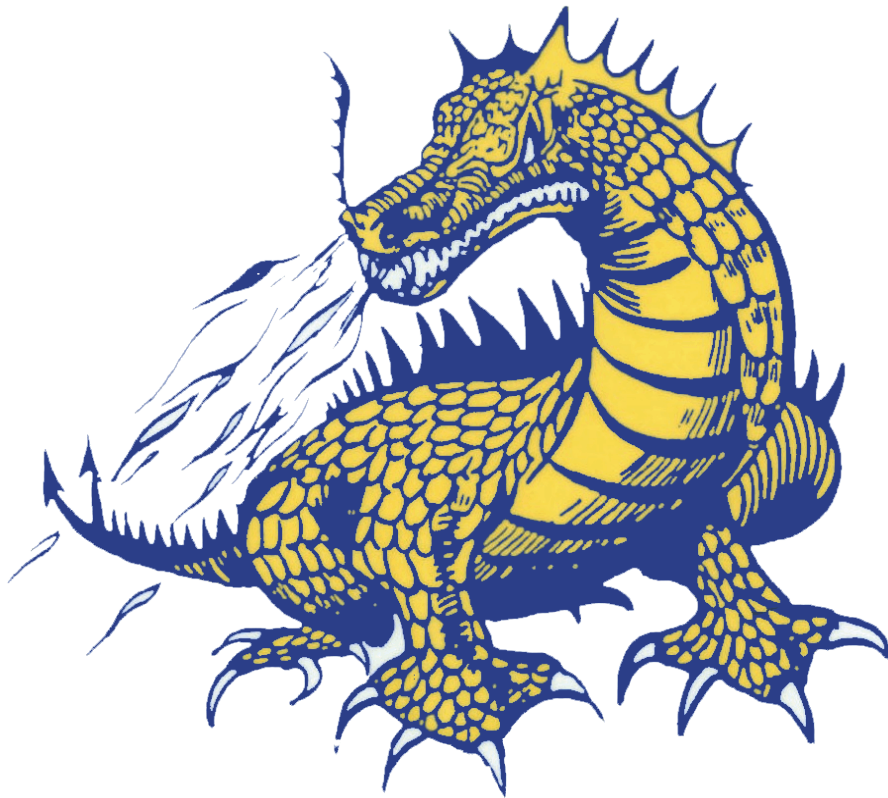


**DEWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2018-2019**



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Drew Whiting, President
April Herring, Vice President
Shawanna Wansley, Secretary
Kenneth Graves
Brad Koen
Johnny Lockley
Bruce Morgan

SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. Nick Hill
DeWitt School District
1841 S. Grandview
DeWitt, AR 72042

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Rachel Mitchell
1209 West 16th Street
DeWitt, AR 72042

DEAN OF STUDENTS

Mr. Mark Courtney
1209 West 16th Street
DeWitt, AR 72042

**2018-19 SCHOOL CALENDAR
DeWitt School District**

August 13	First Day for Students
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
October 12	End of 1st Quarter
October 22	Professional Development Day & Parent/Teacher Conferences- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
November 19-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21	End of 2 nd Quarter
December 24-January 4	Christmas Holiday
January 7	First Day for Students
January 14	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 18	Presidents' Day Holiday
February 25	Professional Development Day & Parent/Teacher Conferences- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
March 8	End of 3 rd Quarter
March 18-22	Spring Break
April 19	Good Friday Holiday
May 18	Graduation
May 23	End of 4 th Quarter
May 24	Professional Development
May 27	Memorial Day
May 28, 29	Professional Development

In accordance with §6-10-106, the following 5 days will be student/staff make-up days if missed before the date(s) specified: January 21, February 18, April 19, May 28, and May 29, 2019. Any additional days needed to meet Arkansas Standards for Accreditation will be added at the end of the school year.

Students do not attend school on professional development days of October 22 and February 25.

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DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE ALL STUDENTS EQUAL AND EQUITABLE ACCESS TO A SAFE AND NURTURING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY CAN GROW MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND TECHNOLOGICALLY INTO CAPABLE AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS. THE DISTRICT STANDS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO ACCEPT THIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL STUDENTS IN OUR CARE.

DEWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

TO TEACH AND INSPIRE STUDENTS TO BECOME LIFELONG LEARNERS AND TO INSTILL THE VALUES NECESSARY TO BE PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS.

DMS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mrs. Rachel Mitchell, Principal
870-946-3708
rmitchell@dewittdragons.net

Mr. Mark Courtney, Dean of Students
870-946-3708
mcourtney@dewittdragons.net

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Use of the masculine pronoun throughout the policies adopted by this Board is for the sole purpose of ease in sentence construction and should not be construed as Board intention to discriminate against females in either its written materials or its practices. The feminine pronoun will be used only in those policies where the masculine form would be totally inappropriate.

For your information:

The handbook is available for review at www.dewittschooldistrict.net.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

To: All Parents

From: DeWitt School District

As the parent of a student in the DeWitt School district, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the Arkansas Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the Arkansas Department of Education has decided that the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major: whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please call 870-946-3708.

ALMA MATER

Hail DeWitt, our Alma Mater,
Voices sound in praise of thee;
Honor, courage, truth, and glory
Be thine to eternity.
Hearts are lifted high in gladness;
Blue-Gold banners fill the sky,
We will love thee, Alma Mater,
Even till the day we die.

School Colors - Blue & Gold Mascot-Dragon

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of this educational institution to provide equal opportunity without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or qualified disability in its educational programs and activities. This includes, but is not limited to admissions, educational services, financial aid and employment.

This educational institution will disseminate nondiscriminatory policies to students, parents, employees and the general public prior to the beginning of each school year.

Committees will be selected in a fair and equitable manner and will reflect the diversity of the district in terms of sex, race, socio-economic level, disability, national origin and other population.

STUDENT AND PARENT HANDBOOK PHILOSOPHY

The DeWitt School District assumes the responsibility of providing students attending its schools a high quality education that challenges each student to achieve their maximum potential. The District shall endeavor to create the environment within the schools necessary to attain this goal. The creation of the necessary climate shall be based on the following core beliefs:

- The District's vision statement will be developed with input from students, parents, business leaders and other community members.
- All students can be successful learners.
- Students learn at different rates and in different ways.
- A primary goal shall be to give students the skills they need to be lifelong learners.
- The education of all citizens is basic to our community's well-being.
- Student achievement is affected positively by the involvement of parents and the community in the schools.
- The District is responsible for helping cultivate good citizenship skills in its students.
- Students reflect the moral and ethical values of their environment.
- All people have a right to a safe environment.
- Each person is responsible for his/her own actions.
- Innovation involves taking risks.
- Schools are responsible for creating the conditions that promote success.
- Each person is entitled to retain his/her dignity.
- All people have the right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to treat others respectfully.

- For teachers to succeed in cultivating high student achievement, they need to be given the materials, training and environment necessary to produce such results.

STUDENT HANDBOOK

It shall be the policy of the DeWitt School District that the most recently adopted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy or policies, the more recently adopted language will be considered binding and controlling on the matter provided the parent(s) of the student, or the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older have acknowledged receipt of the controlling language.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

DEFINITIONS:

- “Reside” means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.
- “Resident” means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.
- “Residential address” means the physical location where the student’s parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a legal guardian, person having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.
- The schools of the district shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court reside within the District and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.
- In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District’s schools separate and apart from his or her parents, guardians or other persons having lawful control of him or her under an order of a court, the person must actually reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance.

- The children or wards of any person who is at least a half-time employee of this district, but resides in another district, is eligible to enroll in District schools.
- Children whose parent or legal guardian relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard may continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation or attend school in the school district where the children have relocated. A child may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must be a resident of the District as defined in District policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), meet the criteria outlined in policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS or in policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN, be accepted as a transfer student under the provisions of policy 4.4, or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Private school students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement.

The District shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or his/her parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.

Prior to the child’s admission to a District school:

1. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall furnish the child’s social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the department of education.
2. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child’s age:
3. A birth certificate;
4. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child’s date of birth;
5. An attested baptismal certificate;
6. A passport;
7. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child’s parent or guardian;
8. United States military identification; or

9. Previous school records.
10. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding. The Board of Education reserves the right, after a hearing before the Board, not to allow any person who has been expelled from another school district to enroll as a student until the time of the person's expulsion has expired.
11. In accordance with Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS (see page 14).

UNIFORMED SERVICES MEMBER'S CHILDREN

For the purposes of this policy:

- "active duty" members of the uniformed services" includes members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211;
- "uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services;
- "Veteran" means: a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

"Eligible child" means the children of:

- active duty members of the uniformed services;
- members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement; and
- members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death.

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:

- be allowed to continue his/her enrollment at the grade level commensurate with his/her grade level he/she was in at the time of transition from his/her previous school, regardless of age;
- be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in his/her previous school;
- enter the District's school on the validated level from his/her previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;

- be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in his/her previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses/and/or programs;
- be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in his/her previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
- make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
- be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student's guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
- be eligible to continue attending District schools if he/she has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Definitions

- "In process" means the student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and is waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional dose(s).
- "Serologic testing" to a medical procedure used to determine an individual's immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella.

General Requirements

Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, no student shall be admitted to attend classes in the District who has not been age appropriately immunized against:

- Poliomyelitis;
- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Pertussis;
- Red (rubella) measles;
- Rubella;
- Mumps;

- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Meningococcal disease;
- Varicella (chickenpox); and
- Any other immunization required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

The District administration has the responsibility to evaluate the immunization status of District students. The District shall maintain a list of all students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or who have an exemption provided by ADH to the immunization requirements based on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds. Students who are not fully age appropriately immunized when seeking admittance shall be referred to a medical authority for consultation.

The only types of proof of immunization the District will accept are immunization records provided by a:

- A. Licensed physician;
- B. Health department;
- C. Military service; or
- D. Official record from another educational institution in Arkansas.

The proof of immunization must include the vaccine type and dates of vaccine administration. Documents stating “up-to-date”, “complete”, “adequate”, and the like will not be accepted as proof of immunization. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted. Valid proof of immunization and of immunity based on serological testing shall be entered into the student’s record.

In order to continue attending classes in the District, the student must have submitted:

1. Proof of immunization showing the student to be fully age appropriately vaccinated;
2. Written documentation by a public health nurse or private physician of proof the student is in process of being age appropriately immunized, which includes a schedule of the student’s next immunization;
3. A copy of a letter from ADH indicating immunity based on serologic testing; and/or
4. A copy of the letter from ADH exempting the student from the immunization requirements for the current school year, or a copy of the application for an exemption for the current school year if the exemption letter has not yet arrived.

Students whose immunization records or serology results are lost or unavailable are required to receive all age appropriate vaccinations or submit number 4 above.

Temporary Admittance

While students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or have not yet submitted an immunization waiver may be enrolled to attend school, such students shall be allowed to attend school on a temporary basis only. Students admitted on a temporary basis may be admitted for a maximum of thirty (30) days (or until October 1st of the current school year for the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and meningococcal vaccinations required at ages eleven (11) and sixteen (16) respectively if October 1st is later in the current school year than the thirty (30) days following the student's admittance). No student shall be withdrawn and readmitted in order to extend the thirty (30) day period. Students may be allowed to continue attending beyond the thirty (30) day period if the student submits a copy of either number 2 or number 4 above.

Students who are in process shall be required to adhere to the submitted schedule. Failure of the student to submit written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician demonstrating the student received the vaccinations set forth in the schedule may lead to the revocation of the student's temporary admittance; such students shall be excluded from school until the documentation is provided.

The District will not accept copies of applications requesting an exemption for the current school year that are older than two (2) weeks based on the date on the application. Students who submit a copy of an application to receive an exemption from the immunization requirements for the current year to gain temporary admittance have thirty (30) days from the admission date to submit either a letter from ADH granting the exemption or documentation demonstrating the student is in process and a copy of the immunization schedule. Failure to submit the necessary documentation by the close of the thirty (30) days will result in the student being excluded until the documentation is submitted.

Exclusion from School

In the event of an outbreak, students who are not fully age appropriately immunized, are in process, or are exempt from the immunization requirements may be required to be excluded from school in order to protect the student. ADH shall determine if it is necessary for students to be excluded in the event of an outbreak. Students may be excluded for twenty-one (21) days or longer depending on the outbreak. No student excluded due to an outbreak shall be allowed to return to school until the District receives approval from ADH.

Students who are excluded from school are not eligible to receive homebound instruction unless the excluded student had a pre-existing IEP or 504 Plan and the IEP/504 team determines homebound instruction to be in the best interest of the student. To the extent possible, the student's teacher(s) shall place in the principal's office a copy of the student's assignments:

- for the remainder of the week by the end of the initial school day of the student's exclusion; and
- by the end of each school's calendar week for the upcoming week until the student returns to school.

It is the responsibility of the student or the student's parent/legal guardian to make sure that the student's assignments are collected.

Students excluded from school shall have five (5) school days from the day the student returns to school to submit any homework and to make up any examinations. State mandated assessments are not included in "examinations" and the District has no control over administering state mandated make-up assessments outside of the state's schedule. Students shall receive a grade of zero for any assignment or examination not completed or submitted on time.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

The DeWitt School District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational agency (LEA) liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include, but not limited to:

- Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
- Coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
- Ensure that school personnel receive professional development and other support regarding their duties and responsibilities for homeless youths;
- Are enrolled in school; youths; and
- Are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and to LEA:

Ensure that public notice of the education rights of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youth, and unaccompanied homeless youths, including school, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.

To the extent possible, the LEA liaison and the building principal shall work together to ensure no homeless child or youth is harmed due to conflicts with District policies solely because of the homeless child or youth's living situation; this is especially true for district policies governing fees, fines, and absences.

Homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district's school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with the DeWitt School District Policy 4.1 or 4.2, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. It is the responsibility of the District's LEA liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process.

For the purpose of this policy "school of origin" means:

The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool; and designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools when the child completes the final grade provided by the school of origin.

The District shall do one of the following according to what is in the best interests of a homeless child.

1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness: In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and for the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
2. Enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the District shall:

Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth; Consider student-centered factors related to the child or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.

If the District determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the district shall provide the child's or

youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal. For an unaccompanied youth, the District shall ensure that the LEA liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, give priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

- The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the LEA liaison), to and from the child's school.
- For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence and:
- Are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
- Are migratory children living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

In accordance with Federal law, information on a homeless child or youth's living situation is part of the student's education record and shall not be considered, or added, to the list of directory information.

STANDARD SCHOOL CHOICE

Capacity Determination and Public Pronouncement

The Board of Directors will adopt a resolution containing the capacity standards for the District. The resolution will contain the acceptance determination criteria identified by academic program, class, grade level and individual school. The school is not obligated to add any teachers, other staff, or classrooms to accommodate choice applications. The District may only deny a Standard School Choice application if the district has a lack of capacity by the District having reached ninety percent (90%) of the maximum student population in a program, class, grade level, or school building authorized by the Standards or other State/Federal law.

The District shall advertise in appropriate broadcast media and either print media or on the Internet to inform students and parents in adjoining districts of the range

of possible openings available under the School choice program. The public pronouncements shall state the application deadline and requirements and procedures for participation in the program. Such pronouncements shall be made in the spring, but in no case later than March 1.

Application Process

The student's parent shall submit a school choice application on a form approved by ADE to this district. The transfer application must be postmarked or hand delivered on or before May 1 of the year preceding the fall semester the applicant would begin school in the District. The District shall date and time stamp all applications as they are received in the District's central office. It is the district's responsibility to send a copy of the application that includes the date and time stamp to the student's resident district within ten (10) days of the District receiving the application. Applications postmarked or hand delivered on or after May 2 will not be accepted. Statutorily, preference is required to be given to siblings of students who are already enrolled in the district. Therefore, siblings whose applications fit the capacity standards approved by the Board of Directors may be approved ahead of an otherwise qualified non-sibling applicant who submitted an earlier application as identified by the application's date and time stamp.

The approval of any application for a choice transfer into the District is potentially limited by the applicant's resident district's statutory limitation of losing no more than three percent (3%) of its past year's student enrollment due to Standard School Choice. As such, any District approval of a choice application prior to July 1 is provisional pending a determination that the resident district's three percent (3%) cap has not been reached.

The Superintendent will consider all properly submitted applications for School Choice. By July 1, the Superintendent shall notify the parent and student's resident district, in writing, of the decision to accept or reject the application.

Accepted Applications

Applications which fit within the District's stated capacity standards shall be provisionally accepted, in writing, with the notification letter stating a reasonable timeline by which the student shall enroll in the District by taking the steps detailed in the letter, including submission of all required documents. If the student fails to enroll within the stated timeline, or if all necessary steps to complete the enrollment are not taken, or examination of the documentation indicates the applicant does not meet the District's stated capacity standards, the acceptance shall be null and void.

A student, whose application has been accepted and who has enrolled in the District, is eligible to continue enrollment until completing his/her secondary education.

Continued enrollment is conditioned upon the student meeting applicable statutory and District policy requirements. Any student who has been accepted under choice and who either fails to initially enroll under the timelines and provisions provided in this policy who chooses to return to his/her resident district; or who enrolls in a home school or private school voids the transfer and must reapply if, in the future, the student seeks another school choice transfer. A subsequent transfer application will be subject to the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the application is considered by the District.

A present or future sibling of a student who continues enrollment in this District may enroll in the District by submitting a Standard School Choice application. Applications of siblings of presently enrolled choice students are subject to the provisions of this policy including the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the sibling's application is considered by the District. A sibling who enrolls in the District through Standard School choice is eligible to remain in the District until completing his/her secondary education.

Students whose applications have been accepted and who have enrolled in the district shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability.

Rejected Applications

The District may reject an application for a transfer into the District under Standard School Choice due to a lack of capacity. However, the decision to accept or reject an application may not be based on the student's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, English proficiency level, or previous disciplinary proceedings other than a current expulsion.

An application may be provisionally rejected if it is for an opening that was included in the District's capacity resolution, but was provisionally filled by an earlier applicant. If the provisionally approved applicant subsequently does not enroll in the District, the provisionally rejected applicant could be provisionally approved and would have to meet the acceptance requirements to be eligible to enroll in the district.

Rejection of applications shall be in writing and shall state the reason(s) for the rejection. A student whose application was rejected may request a hearing before the State Board of Education to reconsider the application which must be done, in writing to the State Board within ten (10) days of receiving the rejection letter from the District.

Any applications that are denied due to the student's resident district reaching the three percent (3%) limitation cap shall be given priority for a choice transfer the following year in the order that the District received the original applications.

Transfers Out of the District

All Standard School Choice applications shall be granted unless the approval would cause the district to have a net enrollment loss (students transferring out minus those transferring in) of more than three percent (3%) of the average daily membership on October 15 of the immediately preceding year. By December 15 of each year, ADE shall determine and notify the District of the net number of allowable choice transfers. For the purpose of determining the three percent

(3%) cap, siblings are counted as one student, and students are not counted if the student transfers from a school or district in:

- Academic Distress or classified as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support under A.C.A. 6-18-227;
- Facilities Distress under A.C.A. 6-21-812 or
- foster Child School choice under A.C.A. 6-28-233.

If, prior to July 1, the District receives sufficient copies of requests from other districts for its students to transfer to other districts to trigger the three percent (3%) cap, it shall notify each district the District received Standard School Choice applications from that it has tentatively reached the limitation cap. The District will use confirmations of approved choice applications from receiving districts to make a final determination of which applications it received that exceeded the limitation cap and notify each district that was the recipient of an application to that effect.

Facilities Distress School Choice Applications

There are a few exceptions from the provisions of the rest of this policy that govern choice transfers triggered by facilities distress. Any student attending a school district that has been identified as being in facilities distress may transfer under the provisions of this policy, but with the following four (4) differences:

- The receiving district cannot be in facilities distress.
- The transfer is only available for the duration of the time the student's resident district remains in distress;
- The student is not required to meet the June 1 application deadline; and
- The student's resident district is responsible for the cost of transporting the student to this District's school.

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL CHOICE

Transfers Into or Within the District

For the purposes of this section of the policy, a “lack of capacity” is defined as when the receiving school has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal or state law, the ADE Rules for the Standards of Accreditation, or other applicable rules. There is a lack of capacity if, as of the date of the application for Opportunity School Choice, ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level at the nonresident school are filled.

Unless there is a lack of capacity at the district’s school or the transfer conflicts with the provisions of a federal desegregation order applicable to the District, a student who is enrolled in or assigned to a school classified by the ADE to be in academic distress or in a district classified by ADE as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support is eligible to transfer to the school closest to the student’s legal residence that is not in academic distress or in a district classified as in need of level 5 Intensive Support. The student’s parent or guardian, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), must successfully complete the necessary application process by July 30 preceding the initial year of desired enrollment.

Within thirty (30) days from receipt of an application from a student seeking admission under this section of the policy, the Superintendent shall notify in writing the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, whether the Opportunity School Choice application has been accepted or rejected. The notification shall be sent via First-Class Mail to the address on the application.

If the application is accepted, the notification letter shall state the deadline by which the student must enroll in the receiving school or the transfer will be null and void.

If the District rejects the application, the District shall state in the notification letter the specific reasons for the rejection. A parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, may appeal the District’s decision to deny the application to the State Board of Education. The appeal must be in writing to the State Board of Education via certified mail, return receipt requested, no later than ten (10) calendar days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, after the notice of rejection was received from the District.

A student’s enrollment under Opportunity School Choice is irrevocable for the duration of the school year and is renewable until the student completes high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment. This provision for continuing eligibility

under Opportunity Choice does not negate the student's right to apply for transfer to a district other than the student's assigned school or resident district under the Standard School Choice provisions of this policy.

The District may, but is not obligated to provide transportation to and from the transferring district.

Transfers Out of or Within the District

If a District school has been classified by the ADE as being in academic distress or the District has been classified by ADE as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support, the District shall timely notify the parent, guardian, or student, if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, as soon as practicable after the academic distress or in need of Level 5 Intensive Support designation is made of all options available under Opportunity Choice. The District shall offer the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, an opportunity to enroll the student in any public school or school district that has not been classified by the ADE as a public school in academic distress or school district in need of Level 5 Intensive Support.

Additionally, the District shall request public service announcements to be made over the broadcast media and in the print media at such times and in such a manner as to inform parent or guardians of students in adjoining districts of the availability of the program, the application deadline, and the requirements and procedure for nonresident students to participate in the program.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Every parent, guardian or other person having custody or care of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy, within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions:

- The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
- The child is being homeschooled and the conditions of the home school policy have been met.
- The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, guardian or other person having custody or charge of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulations of the Department of Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
- The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
- The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary

- vocational- technical institution, a community college or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
- The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. 6-18-201 (b).

HOME SCHOOL

Enrollment in Home School

- Parents or legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children must give written notice to the Superintendent of their intent to home school. The notice shall be given:
- At the beginning of each school year, but no later than August 15;
 - Fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the child (provided the student is no currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive unexcused absences) and at the beginning of each school year thereafter, or
 - Within thirty (30) calendar days of the parent or legal guardian establishing residency within the district during the school year.

Written notice of the parent or legal guardian's intent to home school shall be delivered to the Superintendent through any of the following methods:

- Electronically, including without limitation by email;
- By mail; or
- In person

The notice shall include:

- The name, sex, date of birth, grade level and the name and address of the school last attended, if any;
- The mailing address and telephone number of the home school;
- The name of the parent or legal guardian providing the home school;
- Indicate if the home-schooled student intends to participate in extracurricular activities during the school year;
- A statement of whether the home-schooled student plans to seek a high school equivalency diploma during the current school year;
- A statement if the home-school student plans to seek a driver's license during the current school year;
- A statement that the parent or legal guardian agrees that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of their children during the time the parents or legal guardians choose to home school; and
- A signature of the parent or legal guardian, which must be notarized if the home-schooled student plans to seek a driver's license during the school year.

To aid the District in providing a free and appropriate public education to students in need of special education services, the parents or legal guardians home-schooling

their children shall provide information that might indicate the need for special education services.

Enrollment or Re-Enrollment in Public School

A home-schooled student who wishes to enroll or re-enroll in a District school shall submit:

- A transcript listing all courses taken and semester grades from the home school;
- Score of at least the thirtieth percentile on a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment taken in the past year; and
- A portfolio of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including without limitation;
 - Curricula used in the home school;
 - Tests taken and lessons completed by the home-schooled student ; and
 - Other indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress.

If a home-schooled student is unable to provide a nationally recognized norm-referenced score, the District may either assess the student using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment or waive the requirement for a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score.

A home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District will be placed at a grade level and academic course level equivalent to or higher than the home-schooled student's grade level and academic course level in the home school:

- As indicated by the documentation submitted by the home-schooled student;
- By mutual agreement between the public school and the home-schooled student's parent or legal guardian; or
- If the home-schooled student fails to provide the documentation required by this policy, with the exception of the nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score, the District may have sole authority to determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits in the same manner the district uses when determining grade placement and course credits for students enrolling or re-enrolling in the District who attended another public or private school.

The district shall afford a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the District's other students. The district shall not deny a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District any of the following on the basis of the student having attended a home school:

- Award of course credits earned in the home school;

- Placement in the proper grade level and promotion to the next grade level;
- Participation in any academic or extracurricular activity;
- Membership in school-sponsored clubs, associations, or organizations;
- A diploma or graduation, so long as the student has enrolled or re-enrolled in the District to attend classes for at least the nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation; or
- Scholarships

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

No student in the DeWitt School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups. Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to the Director of Federal Programs/Equity, 1841 S. Grandview Drive, DeWitt, AR 72042; 870-946-3576; eeo@dewittdragons.net.

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, student's regular attendance at school is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2018 AND THEREAFTER

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, both a Smart Core Informed Consent Form and a Smart Core Waiver Form will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student's permanent record. Parents must sign one of the forms and return it to the school so it can be placed in the student permanent records. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades sixth (6) through twelfth (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not

participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum providing they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year. Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents at least every other year to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means:

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;
- Discussions held by the school's counselors with students and their parents; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children for all students who meet the definition

of “eligible child” in Policy 4.2— ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the following categories. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for students participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required by the Arkansas Department of Education, the district requires an additional two (2) units to graduate for a total of 24 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, all students must pass the test approved by ADE that is similar to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in order to graduate.

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format. In addition to the other graduation requirements contained in this policy, students are required to take at least one (1) digital learning course for credit while in high school.

In tenth (10th), eleventh (11th), or twelfth (12th) grade, all students shall cover the Personal and Family Finance Standards by receiving credit for:

SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) Units

- English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th
- Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit
- Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)
 - Algebra I or Algebra A&B, which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9
 - Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A&B, which may be taken in grades 8- 9 or 9-10
 - A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the graduation requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the Smart Core requirement.
 - Algebra II
 - Beyond Algebra II; this can include Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Algebra III, Advanced Topic and Modeling in Mathematics, Mathematical Applications and Algorithms, Linear systems and Statistics or any of

several IB advanced Placement math courses. (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.)

- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry.
- Natural Science: a total of three (3) units with lab experience chosen from
 - One unit of Biology; and either
 - Two units chosen from the following three categories (there are acceptable options listed by the ADE for each)
 - Physical Science
 - Chemistry
 - Physics or Principles or Technology I & II or PIC PhysicsOne unit from the three categories above and a computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.
- Social Studies: three (3) units
 - Civics: one-half (1/2) unit
 - World History: one (1) unit
 - American History: one (1) unit
- Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit
NOTE: while one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.
- Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit
- Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit
- Economics: one-half (1/2) unit
Dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits for the six (6) required Career focus elective credits.

Career Focus: Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split

Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

CORE: Sixteen (16) Units

- English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th
 - Oral Communications: one-half (1/2) unit
 - Mathematics: four (4) units
 - Algebra or its equivalent (1) unit
 - Geometry or its equivalent (1) unit
 - All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
 - (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable.)
 - A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry
 - A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two (2) units of the four (4) unit requirement.
 - Science: three (3) units
 - at least one (1) unit of Biology or its equivalent; and
 - two units chosen from the following three categories (there are acceptable options listed by the ADE for each)
 - Physical Science
 - Chemistry
 - Physics or
 - One unit from the three categories above and a computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.
 - Social Studies: three (3) units
 - Civics one-half (1/2) unit
 - World History: one (1) unit
 - American History: one (1) unit
 - Physical Education: one-half (1/2) unit
- NOTE: while one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.
- Health and Safety: one-half (1/2) unit
 - Fine Arts: one-half (1/2) unit
 - Economics: one-half (1/2) unit
- Dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits for the six (6) required Career focus elective credits.

Career Focus: Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course

concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduation from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career focus graduation requirements.

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The District shall have an alternative learning environment (ALE) which shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social, or academic problems.

The Superintendent or designee shall appoint an Alternative Education Place Team which shall have the responsibility of determining student placement in the ALE. A student may be enrolled in the ALE only on the referral of the Alternative Education Placement Team. The team's placement decision is final and may not be appealed.

The team is to be comprised of the following:

- A school counselor from the referring school;
- The ALE administrator and/or ALE teacher;
- The building principal or assistant principal from the referring school'
- A parent or legal guardian (if they choose to participate);
The district shall document its efforts to contact the student's parent/guardian to schedule a meeting or a phone call for a placement meeting at the parent or guardian's convenience, and maintain such documentation in the student's Student Action Plan (SAP).
- LEA special education/504 representative (if applicable);
- At least one (1) of the student's regular classroom teacher(s); and
- If the District so chooses, the student.

Students who are placed in the ALE shall exhibit at least two of the following characteristics:

- Disruptive behavior;
- Dropping out from school;
- Personal or family problems or situations;
- Recurring absenteeism;

For the purposes of the ALE, personal or family problems or situations are conditions that negatively affect the student's academic and social progress. These

may include, but are not limited to:

- Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics
- Abuse: physical, mental, or sexual;
- Frequent relocation of residency;
- Homelessness;
- Inadequate emotional support;
- Mental/physical health problems;
- Pregnancy; or
- Single parenting.

No later than five (5) school days after a student begins alternative education interventions the Alternative Education Placement Team shall develop a signed agreement between the ALE, the parent or legal guardian (if they choose to participate), and the student, outlining the responsibility of the ALE, parent or legal guardian, and the student to provide assurance that the plan for each student is successful.

No later than one (1) week after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall assess the student's current functioning abilities and all relevant social, emotional, academic, career, and behavioral information and develop an SAP outlining the intervention services to be provided to the student that is in compliance with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rules. The SAP may be revised from time to time by the ALE placement team and a positive behavior or transitional plan shall be developed and added to the SAP prior to a student's return to the regular educational environment.

The district's ALE program shall follow class size, staffing, curriculum, and expenditure requirements identified in the ADE Rules.

CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school as they are while on school grounds. Appropriated disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of conduct rules.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on buses. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. Disciplinary measures for problems related to bus behavior shall include suspension or expulsion from school, or suspending or terminating the student's transportation privileges. Transporting students to and from school who have lost their transportation privileges shall become the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

TRANSPORTATION

The DeWitt School District will provide the best transportation program possible for the greatest number of students. Only those students residing in the school district who are attending school are eligible for bus transportation.

All students will be assigned a seat on the bus in which to sit. The first row of the bus may be used to assign seats to students from any school that requires close supervision.

General rules for riding the school bus:

- Be at your bus stop five minutes prior to your estimated pickup time and stand a safe distance from the road.
- Do not play on the roadways while waiting for the bus.
- Wait until the bus stops and the driver signals it is safe to approach or cross in front of the bus.
- Always cross the road in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Never cross the road behind the bus.
- Wait until the bus leaves the area before you cross the road to check the mail.
- If you miss the bus, do not hitchhike to school.
- Enter and leave the bus quickly and orderly.
- The school bus is an extension of the classroom and all classroom rules of conduct apply.
- While riding the bus:
 - All students are to follow the directions of the bus driver at all times.
 - Respect your driver. Act 814 of 1997 makes it unlawful for any person or persons to threaten, curse or use abusive language to a school bus driver in the presence of students.
 - Respect the rights of other riders, no harassment or intimidation of other riders will not be tolerated.

- Find your seat and remain seated and facing forward while the bus is moving.
- Keep bus aisle clear of books, bags, feet, legs, etc. at all times.
- No balloons, flowers or other items that cannot be stored in a backpack will be permitted on the bus.
- Speak softly, no loud or distracting noises are allowed.
- Any act that jeopardizes the safety of students on the bus is prohibited.
- No food, drinks, candy or gum will be allowed on the bus.
- Do not bring water guns, rubber bands or any shooting devices on the bus.
- Do not put hands, arms, legs or head out the windows or doors.
- Do not throw objects in the bus or out the windows of the bus.
- No drugs, alcohol or tobacco product of any kind is allowed on the bus.
- No matches, lighters or other flammable materials are allowed on the bus.
- Do not tamper with emergency windows, doors and other safety equipment on the bus.
- The use of cell phones is prohibited on school buses transporting students to and from school during the defined school day.
- No vandalism to school or personal property is allowed.

Act 36 of 1987 makes the parents of a minor child responsible for reimbursing the school for any damages caused by the minor child up to \$5000.

Disciplinary procedure: Students causing discipline problems on the bus will be reported to the Director of Transportation. They will be handled as School Bus Behavior Problems.

- First Offense: Reprimand – D-Hall
- Second Offense: Corporal Punishment – In School Suspension
- Third Offense: 3 Days In School Suspension
- Fourth Offense: 5 Days Suspension from bus
- Fifth Offense: 10 Days Suspension from bus
- Sixth Offense: Suspension from bus for the remainder of semester

For offenses determined severe in nature, the District has the right to surpass the first five (5) disciplinary procedures and immediately deny a student's bus privileges.

NOTICE: Any student who needs to ride a different bus than his/her own for any specific reason or who does not ride a bus regularly and needs to ride a bus for any specific reason must have a written request signed in advance by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal before he/she will be allowed on a bus other than his/her regular bus.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO RIDE A SCHOOL BUS, NOT A RIGHT!

ABSENCES

Excused Absences

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement to the principal or designee upon his/her return to school from the parent or legal guardian stating such reason. A written statement presented for an absence having occurred more than five (5) school days prior to its presentation will not be accepted.

- The student's illness or when attendance could jeopardize the health of other students. A maximum of 10 such days are allowed per semester unless the condition(s) causing such absences is of a chronic or recurring nature, is medically documented, and approved by the principal.
- Death or serious illness in their immediate family;
- Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student's faith;
- Attendance at an appointment with a government agency;
- Attendance at a medical appointment;
- Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal; or
- Participation in an FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity;
- Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students.
- Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
- Absences granted, at the Superintendent's discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and twelve (12).

Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving a page.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Excessive absences may, however, be the basis for the denial of course credit, promotion, or graduation.

Unexcused Absences

Absences not defined above or not having an accompanying note from a parent or legal guardian, presented in the timeline required by this policy, shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with 10 unexcused absences in a course in a semester shall not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student. When a student has five (5) unexcused absences, his/her parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be notified. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school days in which sick absences occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds ten (10) unexcused absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's unexcused absences. An absentee committee will be formed by grade to address each situation. Formal arrangements shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.

Students who attend in-school suspension shall not be counted absent for those days. Days missed due to out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be unexcused absences.

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and administration is required to suspend the former student's operator's license until he/she meets certain requirements specified in the statute.

Applicants for an instruction permit or for a driver's license by persons less than eighteen (18) years old on October 1 of any year are required to provide proof of a high school diploma or enrollment and regular attendance in an adult education program or a public, private, or parochial school prior to receiving an instruction permit. To be issued a driver's license, a student enrolled in school present of a "C"

average for the previous semester or similar equivalent grading period for which grades are reported as part of the student's permanent record.

APPOINTMENTS AND EARLY CHECKOUT

We encourage you to make health-related appointments after school hours. The success of the student is dependent on them being in class. We discourage any early checkout if possible. Excessive early checkouts may result in your child being retained or losing credit in the class.

SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

Students shall be permitted to return from school-sponsored events with parents upon request of the parents. The parent will sign out the student at the school event. A student may lose the right to go on school-sponsored trips due to discipline.

USE OF STUDENTS BY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Community organizations wishing to use students in speeches, programs, etc. shall make their requests known to the appropriate principal at least three days in advance. These students shall be excused only when the permission of the parent is given. The principal shall ensure that a minimum of classes will be missed by the student.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Buildings will be opened for the entrance of students at 7:40 a.m. School buildings will not be opened to the students without a teacher in charge.

BELL SCHEDULE

	FIRST BELL	8:00
1 ST PERIOD	8:05	8:50
2 ND PERIOD	8:54	9:39
3 RD PERIOD	9:43	10:28
4 TH PERIOD	10:32	11:17
DMS LUNCH	11:17	11:52
5 TH PERIOD	11:56	12:41
6 TH PERIOD	12:45	1:30
7 TH PERIOD	1:34	2:19
8 TH PERIOD	2:23	3:15

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited during the school day. Those students choosing to participate shall do so by facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts, or in an appropriate salute in uniform, while reciting the Pledge. Students choosing not to participate shall be quiet while either standing or sitting at their desks.

Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge, but students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not disrupt those students choosing to recite the Pledge. Students choosing not to recite the Pledge shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation or disciplinary action.

Following the Pledge a moment of silence will be observed.

SUPPLIES AND TEXTBOOKS

Each student will furnish his/her own school supplies. Parents/guardians should check with their student periodically to determine if additional supplies are needed. Textbooks are provided for student use free of charge. Students are responsible for the lost or damaged books and will be expected to pay for replacements.

Damaged Textbook Price List:

1 st year (new book)	Full Price
2 nd year	5/6 of cost
3 rd year	2/3 of cost
4 th year	1/2 of cost
5 th year	1/3 of cost
6 th year	1/6 of cost

VISITS AND CONFERENCES

Parents/Guardians wishing to visit their children during the school day shall register first with the office. Student visitors in the classroom can be disruptive to the educational process. Student visitation is strongly discouraged. Any visitation to the classroom shall be allowed only with the permission of the school principal.

SCHOOL TELEPHONE

The telephone is a business phone. Students are not to use it for making social arrangements or unnecessary calls. Messages will be delivered to students in case of emergencies. Students are not taken out of class to talk on the phone unless it is an extreme emergency. **NOTE: only the phone in the office shall be used to call home due to illness. The use of cell phones by students during the school day is prohibited.**

Parents/guardians and students are asked to make necessary arrangements for after school transportation while at home each morning before coming to school. Remember to plan ahead for emergencies, because plans often must change. Be sure your child knows what to do on those occasions.

LOST AND FOUND

The school cannot assume responsibility for loss of personal items. However, if it is reported immediately, every effort will be made to help locate the lost item. All personal items should be clearly marked for identification. Items not needed for school work should be left at home.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

As good citizens, students are obligated to respect and protect all school property and help keep the building, furniture, lockers and school equipment as attractive as possible. If a student is guilty of defacing or destroying school property, he/she will be expected to pay for the property to the extent of replacing as new or as good as new and face disciplinary action.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Many special services are available to assist your child. Some of the services available include:

Media Center Personnel	Guidance Counselor
Gifted and Talented Personnel	Physical Education
Special Education Services	After School Tutoring
School Nurse	Food Services
Mental Health/Counseling	

GRADE POLICY

The following grading scale shall be used at DeWitt Middle School:

90-100	A=4 Points
80-89	B=3 Points
70-79	C=2 Points
60-69	D=1 Points
59 and below	F=0 Points

- Progress reports will be sent according to the district calendar to parent/guardians of DMS students. Parents of students will receive a progress report at 4 ½ weeks in writing.
- Grades assigned to students reflect only educational objectives and are consistent with laws and regulations.
- If a student is having difficulty in class, the teacher(s) may call the parent/guardian for assistance in helping the student.
- Parents will be assigned a login and password ID for viewing student's grades online at the district website.

The grades of a child in foster care shall not be lowered due to an absence from school due to:

- A change in the child's school enrollment.
- The child's attendance at a dependency-neglect court proceeding; or
- The child's attendance at court-ordered counseling or treatment.

NINE WEEKS GRADES

The first nine weeks grade of each semester will be determined by using daily work, (homework, weekly tests, and other assignments) and a nine weeks test, which will count a maximum of 20% of the nine weeks grade. The second nine weeks grade of each semester will be determined the same as the first nine weeks grade except a semester test will be given. A minimum of six grades, excluding, a nine weeks test or semester test, will be required each nine weeks.

SEMESTER TEST

The semester test shall be a comprehensive test covering the context of the two nine weeks grading periods of each semester. The semester test shall carry the academic weight of 20% of the semester grade. The formula for computing the semester grade is as follows: double each nine weeks grade average, add the test score and divide by five.

EXEMPTION IN GRADES 6TH - 8TH POLICY

Students may be exempt from their semester tests (both semesters) if they meet the following criteria:

- A-5 absences or less (in a semester)
- B-3 absences or less (in a semester)
- C-0 absences (in a semester)

Students who have been assigned 6 days of ISS or who have been suspended in a semester cannot be exempt. There will be no exceptions made for these rules. Exemptions are based on individual classes.

LEGAL CUSTODY

Act 660 of 1993 indicates that in order to avoid continuing child custody controversies from involving public school personnel and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in the school, the transfer of a child between the child's custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, is prohibited from taking place on the real property of a school on normal school days during normal hours of school operation. The provisions of this policy shall not prohibit one parent (custodial or non-custodial) from transporting the child to school and the other parent (custodial or non-custodial) from picking the child up from school at prearranged times on prearranged days if prior approval had been made with the school's principal.

When the non-custodial parent is to be denied access to the student, the custodial parent must provide the principal with:

- A copy of the court order giving custodial right to the parent.
- A written statement to the principal that such denial is approved by the custodial parent.

LEGAL NAMES

Students must use their legal birth names for all official school documents. Name changes will only be accepted upon receipt of a court order.

PERMANENT RECORDS

Permanent school records, as required by the Arkansas Department of Education, shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the District until the student graduates or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance. A copy of the student's permanent record shall be provided to the receiving school district upon request.

STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. It is the school's responsibility to notify the parents, not the students. Students do not need to text or call parents to inform them that they are ill.

The student will remain in the school's health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.

If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student's emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date.

INSURANCE

The DeWitt School District has entered into a contractual agreement with Student Insurance and underwritten by HSR Insurance Company to purchase insurance on all students at school, on a bus, or any supervised school activity.

The DeWitt School District assumes no responsibility as a result of injuries that occur at school or supervised school activities, however this insurance is provided at the District's expense. This is Secondary Insurance to whatever health insurance the parent or guardian has for their children, and all claims should be filed with the primary health insurance company and with Student Insurance. You will need to

indicate on the Student Insurance claim form the name and address of your

insurance carrier. If the student has no other insurance coverage, HSR will become the primary carrier and will pay accordingly. The parent or guardian should indicate on the claim form if they have no other health insurance.

All policies have limitations and exclusions. HSR will pay up to the amounts that are listed on the student brochure. Please review the Policy Exclusions and Limitations that are listed on the brochure.

In case of an injury, it is the responsibility of the parent to file a claim form. These forms are available in the principal's office, school nurse, or coach. These forms need to be signed by the sponsor in charge when the injury occurred. The coaches, nurse, sponsor, or building principal will be happy to complete the form, however, no School District employee is responsible for filing your claim.

If you wish to take out the 24-hour supplemental plan offered by HSR, mail the brochure with your check or money order to Student Insurance at the address listed. All information listed in the above information should be followed for 24 hours supplemental coverage.

The DeWitt School District and its employees are not responsible for any cost for any bills or treatment to your child by a doctor, clinic or health care facility.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS

The DeWitt School District may provide from time to time for the administration of exams, screenings or body mass index testing of its students. The intent of the exams or screenings shall be to detect contagious or infectious diseases or defects in hearing, vision or other elements of health that would adversely affect the student's ability to achieve to their full potential.

- The district shall notify parents, at least annually, of the specific or approximate dates of any non-emergency, physical examination or screening that is:
- Required as a condition of attendance.
- Administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance.
- Not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.
- Except in instances where a student is suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, parents shall have the right to opt their student out of the exams or screenings by using the form provided or by providing certification from a physician that he/she has recently examined the student.

- A student may be required to pass a physical exam before being allowed to participate in certain extracurricular activities to help ensure they are physical capable of withstanding the rigors of the activity. It is understood that students who refuse to take such an exam will not be allowed to participate in the desired activity.

HOMEWORK

Homework is considered to be part of the educational program of the District. Assignments shall be an extension of the teaching/learning experience that promotes the student's educational development. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized and should be viewed by the students as purposeful. Students who copy homework or cheat on homework assignments will receive a zero.

Teachers are aware of the potential problem students may have completing assignments from multiple teachers and will limit the amount of homework they give from day to day. Parents shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

Students who copy homework or cheat on homework assignments will receive a zero.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a form of dishonesty that occurs when a person passes off someone else's work as his or her own. Plagiarism is an act that will have serious academic consequences in high school and in college. Forms of plagiarism range from failing to cite an author for ideas incorporated into a student's paper to cutting and pasting paragraphs from different websites to handing in a paper downloaded from the Internet. All are plagiarism. There are two main things all school students should know about plagiarism:

- Plagiarism in most instances is easy to identify and expose. The very force that makes plagiarism easy and tempting to some students (the internet) makes its detection easy. Most teachers can locate the source of suspected plagiarism within a few minutes of searching the web. In this context, plagiarism is as much ignorance as it is dishonesty. Students should be aware that all teachers have access online tools that are very effective resources for catching plagiarism. Further, the experienced teacher will always be able to distinguish the fluency of sentences and word choice of adolescent writers when compared to university students or professional writers. It is this latter that uncovers most plagiarism in high school.

- All parties to plagiarism are considered equally guilty. If you share your coursework with another student and he/she plagiarizes it, you are considered as guilty as the one who has plagiarized your work, since you enabled the plagiarism to take place. Under no circumstances should a student make his/her coursework available to another student unless the teacher gives explicit permission for this to happen.

Students who plagiarize are likely to be caught, and the consequences will be severe and will include anyone who enabled the plagiarism to take place. All student work produced for school will be subject to an electronic database to determine plagiarism.

Consequences for plagiarizing work will range from redoing the project for half (1/2) credit for first time offenders to receiving no credit for second time offenders.

REPORTS TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Report cards will be printed at the end of each 9-weeks grading period. Non-custodial parents with visitation rights may request current scholastic records.

PROMOTION/RETENTION

A disservice is done to students through social promotion and is prohibited by state law. The District shall, at a minimum, evaluate each student annually in an effort to help each student who is not performing at grade level. Parents or guardians shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student(s). Notice of a student's possible retention or required retaking of a course shall be included with the student's grades sent home to each parent/guardian or the student if 18 or older. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be held as necessary in an effort to improve a student's academic success.

At least once each semester, the parents and teacher(s) of a student in kindergarten through eighth (8th) grade shall be notified in writing of the student's independent grade-level-equivalency in reading.

Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Promotion or retention of students, or their required retaking of a course shall be primarily based on the following criteria. If there is doubt concerning the promotion or retention of a student, or their required retaking of a course, a conference shall be held before a final decision is made that includes the following individuals:

- The building principal or designee
- The student's teacher(s)
- School counselor
- A 504/special education representative (if applicable)
- The student's parents

The conference shall be held at a time and place that best accommodates those participating in the conference. The school shall document participation or non-participation in required conferences. If the conference attendees fail to agree concerning the student's placement, the final decision to promote or retain shall rest with the principal or his/her designee.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each student shall have a student success plan (SSP) developed by school personnel in collaboration with the student's parents and the student that is reviewed and updated annually. A student's SSP shall use multiple academic measures to personalize learning in order for students to achieve their grade-level expectations and individual growth. The SSP will identify if the student is in need of additional support or acceleration. Academic measures to be used in creating and updating a student's SSP shall include, but are not limited to:

- Statewide student assessment results;
- Subject grades;
- Student work samples; and
- Local assessment scores.

By the end of grade eight (8), the student's SSP shall:

- Guide the student along pathways to graduation;
- Address accelerated learning opportunities;
- Address academic deficits and interventions; and
- Include college and career planning components.

Based on a student's score on the college and career assessment:

- The student's SSP will be updated in order to assist the student with college and career readiness skills, course selection in high school, and improved academic achievement; and
- Provide a basis for counseling concerning postsecondary preparatory programs.

An SSP shall be created:

- By no later than the end of the school year for a student in grade eight (8) or below who enrolls in the District during the school year; or
- As soon as reasonably possible for a student in grade nine (9) or above who enrolls in the District at the beginning or during the school year.

A student's individualized education program (IEP) may act in the place of the student's SSP if the IEP addresses academic deficits and interventions for the

student's failure to meet standards-based academic goals at an expected rate or level and includes a transition plan that addresses college and career planning components. Promotion/retention or graduation of students with an IEP shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP.

Students who either refuse to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempt to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are originally administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity, including school dances, prom homecoming, senior events, and may be prevented from walking or participating in graduation exercises. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or following statewide assessment, as applicable. The Superintendent or designee may wave this paragraph's provisions when the students' failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances. Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY

Grade 6: A Student must successfully complete 5 courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, 4 of which shall be the core curriculum area specified by the Arkansas Department of Education for accrediting schools.

Grade 7: A student must successfully complete 4 courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, 3 of which shall be the core curriculum area specified by the Arkansas Department of Education Standards for accrediting schools.

Grade 8: A student must successfully complete 4 courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, 3 of which shall be the core curriculum area specified by the Arkansas Department of Education for accrediting schools.

To successfully complete shall mean to have a passing grade when the yearly average is computed.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Principal and guidance counselor prior to enrollment in course must approve correspondence courses in advance. A student will be allowed to take a maximum of two correspondence courses in order to be promoted to the next grade. Courses will count as 1/3 of the final grade. Final test of the correspondence course will be taken on campus with the cost of monitoring the test to the parents.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION / EQUAL ACCESS

Non-curriculum related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria:

- The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated.
- There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government or its agents or employees.
- The meeting must occur during non-instructional time.
- Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meeting only in a non-participatory capacity.
- The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meeting is voluntary.

Fraternalities, sororities and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization, extracurricular activity or sport program. Students who are convicted of participation in hazing or the failure to report hazing shall be expelled.

STUDENT TRANSFERS

The DeWitt School District shall review and accept or reject requests for transfers, both into and out of the district, on a case-by-case basis at the July and December regularly scheduled board meetings.

The District may reject a nonresident's application for admission if its acceptance would necessitate the addition of staff or classrooms exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, or cause the District to provide educational services not currently provided in the affected school. The District shall reject applications that would cause it to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation.

Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Department of Education to a school in this district shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school. Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Any student transferring from a school that is not accredited by the Department of Education to a District school shall be evaluated by District staff to determine the student's appropriate grade placement. A student transferring from home school will be placed in accordance with policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The Board of Education reserves the right, after a hearing before the Board, not to allow any person who has been expelled from another district to enroll as a student until the time of the person's expulsion has expired.

Except as otherwise required or permitted by law, the responsibility for transportation of any non-resident student admitted to a school in this District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents. The District and the resident district may enter into a written agreement with the student or student's parents to provide transportation to or from the District, or both.

PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS / DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Except when a court order regarding a student has been presented to the district to the contrary, all students' educational records are available for inspection and copying by the parents of any student who is under the age of eighteen (18). At the age of eighteen (18), the right to inspect and copy a student's records transfers to the student. The district forwards education records, including disciplinary records, to schools that have requested them and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

The district shall receive written permission before releasing educational records to any agency or individual not authorized by law to receive and/or view the educational records without prior parental permission. The district shall maintain a record of requests by such agencies or individuals for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information from the education records of each student. Disclosure of education records is authorized by law to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A personal record kept by a school staff member is not considered an education record if it meets the following test:

- it is in the sole possession of the individual who made it;
- it is used only as a personal memory aid; and

- information contained in it has never been revealed or made available to any other person, except the maker's temporary substitute.

For purposes of this policy, a school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member; a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task; or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

For the purposes of this policy a school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility, contracted duty, or duty of elected office.

A parent or guardian does not have the right to remove any material from a student's records, but such parent or guardian may challenge the accuracy of a record. The right to challenge the accuracy of a record does not include the right to dispute a grade, disciplinary rulings, disability placements, or other such determinations, which must be done only through the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, the decision of whom is final. A challenge to the accuracy of material contained in a student file must be initiated with the building principal, with an appeal available to the Superintendent or his designee. Any appeal above that level will be subject to the procedure set out in federal law and/or regulation.

Unless the parent, guardian or student, if above the age of eighteen (18) objects, directory information about a student may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as school publications such as annual yearbooks, graduation announcements, and district and school authorized web sites. Directory information includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic, mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, classes in which he/she is enrolled, his/her placement on the honor roll (or the receipt of other types of honors) as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. A student's name and photograph will only be displayed on the district or school's web page(s) after receiving the written permission from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.

The form for objecting to making directory information available is located in the back of the student handbook and must be completed and signed by the parent or age-eligible student and filed with the building principal's office no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of each school year or the date the student is

enrolled. Failure to file an objection by that time is considered a specific grant of permission.

In addition to releasing PII to school officials without permission, the District may disclose PII from the education records of students in foster care placement to the student's caseworker or to the caseworker's representative without getting prior consent of the parent. For the District to release the student's PII without getting permission:

- The student must be in foster care;
- The individual to whom the PII will be released must have legal access to the student's case plan;
- The Arkansas Department of Human Services, or a sub-agency of the Department, must be legally responsible for the care and protection of the student.

For purposes of this policy, the DeWitt School District does not distinguish between a custodial and noncustodial parent, or a non-parent such as a person acting in loco parentis or a foster parent with respect to gaining access to a student's records. Unless a court order restricting such access has been presented to the district to the contrary, the fact of a person's status a parent or guardian, alone, enables that parent or guardians to review and copy his child's records.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal. Additionally, a student's participation in, and the District's operation of, extracurricular activities shall be subject to the following policy.

All students meeting this policy's criteria are eligible for extracurricular activities.

Definitions:

1. Extracurricular activities are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class-time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions and club activities.

2. Academic Courses are those courses for which class time is scheduled and can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation, is taught by a teacher required to have State certification in the course, and has a course content guide which has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Any of these courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.
3. Supplemental Improvement Program is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the current Arkansas Activities Association Handbook

Academic Requirements: DMS

1. A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.
2. The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.
3. The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward his/her graduation requirements.
4. Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

Students with an Individual Education Program - In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

Arkansas Activities Association - In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) governing interscholastic activities.

A student is allowed to participate in an SIP for a maximum of two consecutive semesters and requires the student to improve his/her GPA by at least 10% by the end of the first semester to remain eligible for the second semester. By the end of

the second semester, the student must have attained a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for competitive interscholastic activities. Following one or more semesters where the student has attained a 2.0 GPA, this cycle may be repeated.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS

Home-schooled student means a student legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school and who meets or has met the criteria for being a home-schooled student, as established by A.C.A. 6-15-503

Interscholastic activity means an activity between schools subject to regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association that is outside the regular curriculum of the school district, such as an athletic activity, fine arts program, or a special interest group or club.

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.

Home-schooled students whose parents or guardians are legal residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the student's resident school zone as permitted by this policy.

Home-schooled students whose parent or legal guardian are not residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the District if the superintendent of the student's resident district and the superintendent of the District both agree in writing to allow the student to participate in interscholastic activities at the District.

Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, homeschool students who meet the provisions of this policy, AAA Rules, and applicable Arkansas statutes shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in an interscholastic activities without discrimination. The District shall provide a reasonable alternative to any prerequisite for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity that the home-schooled student is unable to meet because of his or her enrollment in a home school.

To be eligible to try out and participate in interscholastic activities, the student or the parent of a student shall mail or hand deliver the student's request to participate to the student's school's principal before the signup, tryout or participation deadline established for traditional students. Additionally, the student shall demonstrate academic eligibility by obtaining a minimum test score of the 30th percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement test

Series, Tenth Edition; another nationally recognized norm-referenced test; or a minimum score on a test approved by the State board of Education.

A student who meets the requirements for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity is required to register for no more than one course in the District's school where the student is intending to participate in an interscholastic activity.

The student shall regularly attend the class in which the student is registered beginning no later than the eleventh (11th) day of the semester in which the student's interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

A home-schooled student who has met the try out criteria; and who has been selected to participate in the interscholastic activity shall meet the following criteria that also apply to traditional students enrolled in the school;

- Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;
- Attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students;
- Required drug testing
- Permission slips, waivers, physical exams; and
- Participation or activity fees.

A home-schooled student who is not a resident of the District may begin participating in interscholastic activities:

- Immediately upon being approved for participation for all interscholastic activities other than athletic activities; and
- One (1) calendar year after being approved to participate in interscholastic activities that are athletic activities unless the approval is prior to July 1 of the school year the student would have been enrolled in seventh (7th) grade if the student were enrolled in public school.

A home-schooled student who is not a resident of the District and is prohibited under this policy from participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity for one (1) calendar year may immediately participate in rehearsals, tryouts, practices, auditions, classes or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity.

Students who participate in extracurricular or athletic activities under this policy will be transported to and from the interscholastic activities on the same basis as other students are transported.

A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the resident school district for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five days after the student withdraws from the member school.

ATHLETICS FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT

To receive physical education credit for participation in athletics, a student must be enrolled in a program that receives credit in physical education, subject to course approvals. The student will receive credit only if he participated in a given sport in lieu of participation in his normal physical education class and would receive credit for that semester, subject to course approvals.

DAILY ATTENDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION

Students that miss more than 4 periods on an 8 period school day are ineligible to participate in games, practices, performances, contests or credited work programs unless the building principal clears the absence in advance.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students who miss school due to an excused absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during their absence under the following rules:

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed what assignments they need to make up.
2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments when asked by a returning student.
3. Students are required to ask for their assignments on their first day back at school or their first class day after their return.
4. Make-up tests are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.
5. Students shall have one class day to make up their work for each class day they are absent.
6. Make-up work which is not turned in within the make-up schedule for that assignment shall receive a zero.
7. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.
8. Students who are absent on the day their make-up work is due must turn in their work the day they return to school whether or not the class for which

- the work is due meets the day of their return.
9. As required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan.
 10. Work may not be made up for credit for unexcused absences unless the unexcused absences are part of a signed agreement as permitted by policy 4.7—ABSENCES. Out- of-school suspensions are unexcused absences.
 11. Work missed while a student is expelled from school may not be made up for credit and students shall receive a zero for missed assignments.
 12. In lieu of the timeline above, assignments for students who are excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during a disease outbreak are to be made up as set forth in Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATION.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

All publications that are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, or are produced in conjunction with a class shall be considered school-sponsored publications. School publications do not provide a forum for public expression. Such publications, as well as the content of student expression in school-sponsored activities, shall be subject to the editorial control of the District's administration whose actions shall be reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns and adhere to the following limitations:

1. Advertising may be accepted for publications that does not condone or promote products that are inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience or that endorse such things as tobacco, alcohol or drugs.
2. Unsuitable for immature audiences Publications may be regulated to prohibit writings, which are, in the opinion of the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane.
3. Publications may be regulated to refuse to publish material which might reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order, or to associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.
4. Prohibited publications include:
 - a. Those that are obscene to minors.
 - b. Those that are libelous or slanderous, including material containing defamatory
 - c. Falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials, which are made with knowledge of their falsity or reckless disregard of the truth.
 - d. Those that constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy as deformed by state law.

- e. Publications that suggest or urge the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises.
- f. Publications which suggest or urge the violation of lawful school regulations.
- g. Hate literature that scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious or racial groups.

Student publications that are displayed on school web pages shall follow the same guidelines as listed above plus they shall:

- Not contain any non-educational advertisements.
- Not contain any personally identifying information.
- State that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the School Board or the employees of the district.

Student Distribution of Non-school Literature Publications, and Materials

A student or group of students who distribute ten (10) or fewer copies of the same non-school literature, publications, or materials (hereinafter “non-school materials”), shall do so in a time, place, and manner that does not cause a substantial disruption of the orderly education environment. A student or group of students wishing to distribute more than ten (10) copies of non-school materials shall have school authorities review their non-school materials at least three (3) school days in advance of their desired time of dissemination. School authorities shall review the non-school materials, publications prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those non-school materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment will likely result from the distribution. Concerns related to any denial of distribution by the principal shall be heard by the superintendent or his designee, whose decision shall be final. The Deputy Superintendent shall review non-school publications prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that disruption will likely result from the distribution.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

The school principal or designee shall establish reasonable regulations governing the time, place, and manner of student distribution of non-school materials.

The regulations shall:

1. Be narrowly drawn to promote orderly administration of school activities by preventing disruption and may not be designed to stifle expression;
2. Be uniformly applied to all forms of non-school materials;
3. Allow no interference with classes or school activities;
4. Specify times, places, and manner where distribution may and may not occur;
5. Not inhibit a person's right to accept or reject any literature distributed in accordance with the regulations;
6. Students shall be responsible for the removal of excess literature that is left at the distribution point for more than three (3) days and are responsible for picking up any materials thrown on school grounds.

The Superintendent, along with the student publication advisor, shall develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations shall include definitions of terms and timelines for the review of materials.

CONTACT WITH STUDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL

Contact by Parents

Parents wishing to speak to their children during the school day shall register first with the office.

Contact by Non-Custodial Parents

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or his/her designee establishing the parent's custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered "no contact" or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting unsupervised visitation may eat lunch, volunteer in their child's classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school's principal.

Arkansas law provides that, in order to avoid continuing child custody controversies from involving school personnel and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in the District's schools, the transfer of a child between his/her custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, shall not take place on the school's property on normal school days during normal hours of school operation. The custodial or non-custodial parent may send to/drop off the student at school to be sent to/picked up by the other parent on predetermined days in accordance with any court order provided by the custodial parent or by a

signed agreement between both the custodial and non-custodial parents that was witnessed by the student's building principal. Unless a valid no-contact order has been filed with the student's principal or the principal's designee, district employees shall not become involved in disputes concerning whether or not that parent was supposed to pick up the student on any given day.

Arkansas law provides that, in order to avoid continuing child custody controversies from involving school personnel and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in the District's schools, the transfer of a child between his/her custodial and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, shall not take place on the school's property on normal school days during normal hours of school operation. The custodial or non-custodial parent may send to/drop off the student at school to be sent to/picked up by the other parent on predetermined days in accordance with any court order provided by the custodial parent or by a signed agreement between both the custodial and non-custodial parents that was witnessed by the student's building principal. Unless a valid no-contact order has been filed with the student's principal or the principal's designee, district employees shall not become involved in disputes concerning whether or not that parent was supposed to pick up the student on any given day.

SEARCH, SEIZURE AND INTERROGATIONS

The district respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning. The Superintendent, principals, and their designees have the right to inspect and search school property and equipment. They may also search students and their personal property in which the student has a reasonable, and individualized expectation of privacy, when there is reasonable suspicion to believe such student or property contains illegal items or other items in violation of Board policy or dangerous to the school community. School authorities may seize evidence found in the search and disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence found which appears to be in violation of the law shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

School property shall include, but not be limited to, lockers, desks, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by students. When possible, prior notice will be given and the student will be allowed to be present along with an adult witness, however, searches may be done at any time with or without notice or the student's consent. A personal search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The Superintendent, principals, and their designees may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to help conduct searches. Such searches may include the use of specially trained dogs.

School official of the same sex shall conduct personal searches with an adult witness of the same sex present.

CONTACT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES, OR BY COURT ORDER

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a “72-hour hold” without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal’s designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student’s parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis on student enrollment forms.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student’s parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state’s social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number. The principal or the principal’s designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, and investigator of the Crimes against Children Division of the Department of the State Police, or an investigator of employee of the Department of Human Services.

Investigators for the Professional Licensure Standards Board may meet with students during the school day to carry out the investigation of an ethics complaint.

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

No students shall possess a weapon, display what appears to be a weapon, or threaten to use a weapon while in school, on or about school property, before or after school, in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity, en route to or from school or any school sponsored activity, off the school grounds at any school bus stop, or at any school sponsored activity or event. Military personnel, such as ROTC cadets, acting in the course of their official duties are expected.

A weapon is defined as any firearm, knife, razor, ice pick, dirk, box cutter, nun chucks, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive, or any other instrument or substance capable of causing bodily harm. For the purposes of this policy, "firearm" means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use.

Possession means having a weapon, as defined in this policy, on the student's body or in an area under his/her control. If, prior to any questioning or search by any school personnel, a student discovers that he/she has accidentally brought a weapon, other than a firearm, to school including a weapon, other than a firearm, that is in a vehicle on school grounds, and the student informs the principals or a staff person immediately, the student will not be considered to be in possession of a weapon unless it is a firearm. The weapon shall be confiscated and held in the office until such time as the student's parent/legal guardian shall pick up the weapon from the school's office.

Repeated offenses are unacceptable and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student as otherwise provided for in this policy.

Except as permitted in this policy, students found to be in possession on the school campus of a firearm shall be recommended for expulsion for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent shall have the discretion to modify such expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents or legal guardians of students expelled under this policy shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property. Parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to readmitting the student.

Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a firearm policy violation shall also be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for

allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property. The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The mandatory expulsion requirement for possession of a firearm does not apply to a firearm brought to school for the purpose of participating in activities approved and authorized by the district that include the use of firearms. Such activities may include ROTC programs, hunting safety or military education, or before or after-school hunting or rifle clubs. Firearms brought to school for such purposes shall be brought to the school employee designated to receive such firearms. The designated employee shall store the firearms in a secure location until they are removed for use in the approved activity.

The district shall report any student who brings a firearm or weapon to school to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system by notifying local law enforcement, 7446 of 2013. One of the results is an awareness that A.C.A 5-73-119 trumps the more lenient US DOE Guidelines. The net result is that the leniency provisions of the policy for students who inadvertently bring a firearm to school have been deleted.

The exemption is for IDEA purposes where the possession can reasonable be associated with the student's disability. To be eligible for ESEA funds, the federal Department of Education requires assurance that the district:

1. Is in compliance with the State law requiring the one-year expulsion; and
2. A description of the circumstances surrounding expulsions imposed under the one-year expulsion requirement, including:
 - the name of the school concerned;
 - the number of students expelled from the school; and
 - the type of firearms concerned

This requirement applies even in the instances where the district exercised its option to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. The DOE Guidance on the Gun Free Schools Act prohibits the use of the case-by-case option to avoid "over-all compliance with the one-year expulsion requirements." The statute that specifies the parents' penalties is A.C.A 5-27-270, but it is also helpful to have A.C.A 5-4-201 and A.C.A 5-4-401 available which spell out the fines and possible imprisonment for a class B misdemeanor offense.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE AND PARASITES

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students

by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: chicken pox, measles, scabies, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye, impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B, or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 when taken orally).¹ A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school.

To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any blood borne, food borne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials, such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat).

The District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to the school until the outbreak has been resolved and the students return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up immediately. The management of lice should minimally disrupt the education process. When a child gets lice, it does not indicate neglect on the part of the parent and does not indicate the child or the environment has not been kept clean. When a student is initially identified as having live head lice the student is to be referred to the parent immediately. Any siblings of the infested student who also attend school will also be checked for live lice by designated school personnel. Distribution of education material to parents on head lice, nit combing and treatment will be provided. Upon returning to school after being sent home with lice the parent must provide proof of treatment. This can be a package or a UPC code.

After a student has been sent home two times a semester with head lice, a doctor's note stating that they are free of lice will be required for re-admission into school.

STUDENT MEDICATIONS

Prior to the administration of any medication, including any dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy. All signed medication consent forms are to be maintained by the school nurse.

Unless authorized to self-administer, students are not allowed to carry any medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications or any dietary supplements or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the school nurse. The student may bring the medication if accompanied by a written authorization from the parent or legal guardian. When medications are brought to the school nurse, the nurse shall document, in the presence of the parent, the quantity and type of the medication(s). If a student brings the medications, the school nurse shall ask another school employee to verify, in the presence of the student the quantity of the medication(s). Each person present shall sign a form verifying the quantity and type of the medication(s).

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering health care provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings. Schedule II medications that are permitted by this policy to be brought to school shall be stored in a double locked cabinet.

Students with an individualized health plan (IHP) may be given over-the-counter (OTC) medications to the extent giving such medications are included in the student's IHP.

The only Schedule II medications that shall be allowed to be brought to the school are methylphenidate (e.g. Ritalin or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse), dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), and amphetamine sulfate (e.g. Adderall or close related medications as determined by the school nurse).

For the student's safety, no student will be allowed to attend school if the student is currently taking any other Schedule II medication than permitted by this policy. Students who are taking Schedule II medications which are not allowed to be brought to school shall be eligible for homebound instruction if provided for in their IEP and 504 plans.

The district's supervising registered nurse shall be responsible for creating both on campus and off campus procedures for administering medications.

Students who have written permission from their parent or guardian and a licensed health care provider to self-administer either a rescue inhaler or auto inject able epinephrine, or both and who have a current consent form on file shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication while in school, at an on-site school sponsored activity, while traveling to or from school, or at an off-site school sponsored activity. Students are prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry a rescue inhaler or auto-inject able epinephrine, or both does not require him/her to have such on his/her person. The parent or guardian of a student who qualifies under this policy to self-carry a rescue inhaler or auto-inject able epinephrine, or both on his/her person shall provide the school with the appropriate medication which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Students may be administered Glucagon in emergency situations by the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a trained volunteer school employee designated as a care provider, provided the student has:

1. An IHP developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provides for administration of Glucagon in emergency situations; and
2. A current, valid consent form on file from their parent or guardian.

When the nurse is unavailable, the trained volunteer school employee who is responsible for a student shall be released from other duties during:

- The time scheduled for a dose of insulin in the student's IHP; and
- Glucagon or non-scheduled insulin administration once other staff have relieved him/her from other duties until a parent, guardian, or other responsible adult, or medical personnel has arrived.

A student shall have access to a private area to perform diabetes monitoring and treatment functions as outlined in the student's IHP.

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine: The school nurse or other school

employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained and certified by a licensed physician may administer an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations to students who have an IHP developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provides for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine to the student when the employee believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

Students with an order from a licensed health care provider to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine and who have written permission from their parent or guardian shall provide the school nurse an epinephrine auto-injector. This epinephrine will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction and the student is either not self-carrying his/her epinephrine auto-injector or the nurse is unable to locate it.

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school's intention to dispose of any medication. Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be disposed of by the school nurse in accordance with current law and regulation.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted not fewer than three (3) times per year with at least one each in the months of September, January, and February. Students, who ride school buses, shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

The District shall annually conduct an active shooter drill and school safety assessment may be conducted for all District schools in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel. The training will include a lockdown exercise with panic button alert system training. Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate to the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.

Drills may be conducted during the instructional day or during not-instructional time periods.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted to test the implementation of the District's emergency plans in the event of violence, or terrorist attack, natural disaster, other emergency, or the District's Panic Button Alert System. Students shall be included in the drills to the extent practicable.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The DeWitt School District Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of the District's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs at any time on the school grounds, off school grounds at a school- sponsored function, activity, or event, and going to and from school or a school activity.

The District's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to a felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, as assault or battery, drug law violations or sexual misconduct of a serious nature. Any disciplinary action pursued by the District shall be in accordance with the student's appropriate due process rights.

The District's licensed personnel policy committee shall review the student discipline policies annually and may recommend changes in the policies to the DeWitt School Board. The Board has the responsibility of determining whether to approve any recommended changes to student discipline policies.

The District's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent or legal guardian shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies.

It is required by law that the principal or person in charge, report to the police any incidents where a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision.

The minimum penalty for student misconduct will be a verbal warning and the maximum penalty will be expulsion by the Board and/or legal action dependent upon the severity and frequency of the misconduct.

Any student who gives false information or wrongfully accuses another student or staff member may be subject to disciplinary action.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT - RULES FOR BEHAVIOR/CONSEQUENCES

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following rules:

1. Refusal to Follow School and/or Classroom Rules

Students shall comply with reasonable instructions from administrators, teachers, instructional assistants, school bus drivers or any other authorized school district employee.

Penalty: Warning and corporal punishment – suspension

2. Academic Dishonesty

A student will not cheat on tests, homework or graded assignments nor will a student aid other students in cheating on graded assignments.

Penalty: Zero for test – suspension

3. Defiant Behavior

Open defiance or blatant refusal to follow the reasonable directives of any authorized school district employee.

Penalty: Warning – suspension

4. Truancy (Skipping School or Class)

A student will not be absent from school without parent or school authorities' prior knowledge and consent. A student absent from his classroom or other assigned learning station without permission from school authorities will be considered as truant. Each truancy will be treated as an unexcused absence.

Students found to be truant will not be allowed to make up major tests and assignments (A.C.A. §6-18-17, A.C.A. §6-18-222).

Penalty: Suspension to Expulsion

5. Leaving Campus or Designated Area without Permission

After arrival on the school campus, a student will not leave the campus or designated area without permission from school authorities.

Penalty: Suspension to Expulsion

6. School Bus Rules and Regulations

All students shall conduct themselves in accordance with the conduct code governing student behavior in school and in accordance with school bus regulations when on the bus or at the bus stop area (see Transportation).

7. Profanity, Verbal Harassment, Obscene Gestures

A student will not use in verbal or written form profane, violent, vulgar, abusive, insulting, sexual or disrespectful language at any time. A student will not use physical gestures that convey a connotation of obscene or disrespectful acts, infringe upon the rights of others or cause or begin an overt and immediate disruption of the educational process (A.C.A. §5-60-113, school bus drivers; A.C.A. §5-17-207, disorderly conduct; A.C.A. §5-71-208, harassment; A.C.A. §6-17-106, insult/abuse of teachers; A.C.A. §6-18-506).

Penalty: Corporal punishment – expulsion

8. Smoking and Smokeless Tobacco

A student may not smoke nor have possession, control, or distribute any tobacco product (including but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) tobacco-related substances, smoking paraphernalia (matches, lighters, etc.) in or on school property, including school buses, at any time with the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e- cigarettes, e- cigars, e-pipes, or under any other name or descriptor. (A.C.A. §6- 21-609, A.C.A. §20-27-701, A.C.A. §20-27-702, A.C.A. §20-27-703).

First offense-3 days ISS

Second offense-5 days ISS

Third offense-3 days OSS

9. Gambling

Students shall not gamble while on school property, school buses or at school-sponsored events (A.C.A. §5-66-101, et seq; A.C.A. §5-66-112, card games; A.C.A. §5-66-113, games of hazard or skill — betting).

Penalty: Warning – suspension

10. Forgery or Falsification of Information or Failure to Provide Identification

No student shall falsify signatures or information on official school records, refuse to give identification or give false identification when identity is requested by a staff member.

Penalty: Corporal Punishment – suspension

11. Fighting

An altercation between two or more students where punches, pushing, shoving, and/or verbal attacks are made will be considered fighting. All parties involved in the altercation, regardless of who initiated the fight, may be subject to disciplinary actions. An altercation may be considered disorderly conduct (A.C.A. §5-7 1-207).

First offense-3 days OSS

Second offense-5 days OSS

Third offense-10 days – Expulsion

12. Persistent Disregard for School or Classroom Rules

A student who persists in acts of misconduct after the school has made and documented reasonable efforts to secure his adherence to established rules will be recommended for expulsion. Efforts toward behavior modification will be made prior to recommendation for expulsion except when the student has committed an offense so serious in nature that immediate expulsion is necessary.

Penalty: Parent conference – expulsion

13. Bullying

Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions, whether it occurs on the school grounds; off the school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity or event; or going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

Bullying is any pattern of behavior by a student, or a group of students, that is intended to harass, intimidate, ridicule, humiliate, or instill fear in another student or group of students. Bullying behavior can be a threat of, or actual physical harm, electronic forms of bullying (Cyber-bullying), or it can be verbal abuse of the student. Bullying is a series of recurring actions committed over a period of time directed toward one student, or successive, separate actions directed against multiple students.

Students receiving threats over electronic devices such as email, text, web pages, etc. are encouraged to save these messages and turn that information over to the proper authorities. However, if it is proven that these messages were sent during school hours, while the student was on campus, from another student, the student sending the message, or sending retaliatory messages is subject to disciplinary action.

Penalty: Warning — expulsion

14. Student Dress and Grooming

Students that fail to follow the dress code will be sent home to change and the instructional time missed will be unexcused. Repeated offenses will result in additional consequences.

- Shorts and skirts are permitted; however, they shall be mid-thigh or longer.
- Hats shall be worn only on designated days approved by the principal. No covering is allowed on the head inside the building at any time for females or males.
- Clothing that displays messages or illustrations of a profane or crude nature or advertisements for drugs, alcohol or any illegal substance shall not be allowed.
- Lycra, latex, holes above knees, spandex or similar body material garments will not be permitted.
- No tight fitting clothing of any kind.
- Leggings must be worn with an appropriate length top not as pants.
- Pajamas are not allowed without permission.
- All shirts must have sleeves. Open shoulder tops are not allowed.
- All students must wear shoes, house shoes are not allowed.
- Blouses and shirts must be long enough to keep the midriff, back and stomach covered on a consistent basis.
- Clothing that reveals cleavage is not appropriate. According to ACT 835 of 2011, wearing of clothing that exposes the breast of a female is prohibited.
- Halter tops, tube tops and tank tops are not allowed.
- Students shall not wear sagging or low riding pants that reveal undergarments or anatomy. According to ACT 835 of 2011, wearing of clothing that exposes underwear or buttocks is prohibited.
- Facial jewelry that is deemed inappropriate by the principal or his designee may not be worn at school. Earrings, (studs not hoops) for male students are permitted at school.
- School sponsored uniforms may be worn to school if approved by the principal.

Penalty: Warning – suspension

15. Pornography

Students shall not possess pornography on school grounds. The student may be reported to legal authorities.

Penalty: Warning-expulsion

16. Public Display of Affection

Public display of affection includes, but is not limited to, kissing, hugging, holding hands, and inappropriate touching. Public display of affection is inappropriate school behavior. Failure to comply with reasonable expectations of school staff will lead to disciplinary action.

Penalty: Warning – expulsion

17. Loitering by Suspended or Expelled Student

No suspended or expelled student shall linger on school grounds or within 100 feet of the school without permission of the school administrator, nor shall they go on school district property for any purpose while serving suspension/expulsion. The parent may be notified and student may be referred to legal authorities (A.C.A. §6-21-606; A.C.A. §6-21-607).

Penalty: Corporal punishment — expulsion

18. Loitering on an Unassigned Campus

No student from another campus is allowed on another school's campus during school hours without permission of school officials (A.C.A. §6-21-606; A.C.A. §6-21-607).

Penalty: Corporal punishment — expulsion

19. Possession of Paging Devices, Lasers and/or Other Electronic Communication Devices

Students are forbidden from having any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication devices, cameras, as well as MP 3 players, iPods, and other portable music devices. Such devices may be stored in the student's locker or vehicle so long as they are turned off. Exceptions may be made by the building principal or his/her designee for health or other compelling reasons. (A.C.A. §5- 71-227; A.C.A. §6-60-122).

Penalty: Seizure of electronic device and detention – suspension

20. Possessing, Using or Being under the Influence of Alcohol

Students shall not possess, use or be under the influence of alcohol at school or school-related activities. Students breaking this rule for the first time will be suspended for ten (10) days and placed on probation. The student/family must show proof that they are enrolled with a counseling agency recognized by the District or the student will be recommended for expulsion. The District will provide a list of recognized agencies to the principal.

If the student breaks the rule a second time, he will immediately be recommended for expulsion. The student may be reported to legal authorities.

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

21. Possessing, Using or Being under the Influence of Illegal Drugs

Students shall not possess, use or be under the influence of illegal drugs at school or school-related activities. The student may be reported to legal authorities.

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

22. Possessing or Using Drug Paraphernalia

Students may not possess, use or transmit any objects which could reasonably be considered drug paraphernalia (pipes, clips, papers).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

23. Possession of Fireworks

No student shall possess, use or threaten to use any fireworks.

Penalty: Corporal punishment – expulsion

24. False Emergency Alarm/Calling 911

A student shall not circulate a story of a fire, bombing, bomb threat or other catastrophe when that student knows the story to be untrue. If injury results to any person as a result of the false alarm, the student will be reported to law enforcement agencies (A.C.A §5-71-210, see Rule 39).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

25. Simple Assault or Simple Terroristic Threat

A student shall not engage in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to another student or threaten another student, making that student fear imminent physical harm (A.C.A §5-13-205, assault 2m1; 5-13-206, assault 31d; A.C.A. §5-13-301, misdemeanor terroristic threat; A.C.A. §6-17-113, duty to report all threats and acts of violence). Note: Threats conveyed with a weapon or with the use of a weapon shall be reported to the police immediately by the administrator. Also, threats to cause death or serious physical injury or threats to cause physical injury to teachers or employees are a “D” Felony.

Penalty: Suspension — expulsion

26. Disorderly Conduct

No student shall engage in inappropriate behavior that substantially disrupts or interferes with, or is likely to disrupt or interfere with, any school function, activity or school program. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, fighting, threats, excessive noise, abusive language, obscene gestures, exposing private parts, disrupting lawful assembly of person (A.C.A. §571- 207), disorderly conduct — “C” Misdemeanor).

Penalty: Warning – expulsion

27. Misdemeanor Battery — Minor Physical Injury

A student will not threaten or attempt to cause injury or physical harm to another student, nor will a student strike or beat another student (A.C.A. §5-13-203, Batt.3rd~ A.C.A. §5-1-102(14); A.C.A. §5-13-206, Assault 2”; A.C.A. §5-13-207, Assault 3”).

Penalty: Corporal punishment – expulsion

28. Sexual Indecency

Students shall not commit sexual indecency on school property, in school vehicles or on school related trips. Sexual indecency is defined in A.C.A §5-14-101 and A.C.A. § 5-14-111. Copies of these laws are available upon request.

Penalty: Suspension — expulsion

29. Indecent Exposure

Students shall not expose their private parts in a public place or in public view or under circumstances knowing the conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm (A.C.A. §5-14-112, indecent exposure, "A" Misdemeanor) NOTE: Exposing private parts is disorderly conduct. (See Rule 26).

Penalty: Suspension --- expulsion

30. Criminal Mischief/Vandalism — Relatively Minor Damage

No student shall destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by his/her child (A.C.A. §5-38-203; A.C.A. §5-38-204; A.C.A. §5-71-26; A.C.A. §6-21-604; A.C.A. §6-21- 605).

Penalty: Suspension --- expulsion

31. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is unwanted verbal, written, or physical behavior of a sexual nature. Such behavior is illegal if it creates an environment that is hostile or intimidating. Typical examples of sexual harassment include sexually oriented gestures, jokes or remarks that are unwelcome; repeated and unwanted sexual advances; touching or other unwelcome bodily contact; physical intimidation and mockery or scorn base on perceived sexual orientation. (See also pg. 86, Policy 4.27)

Penalty: Corporal punishment-expulsion

32. Misdemeanor Theft

Students shall not take or possess property that does not belong to them (A.C.A. §5-36-103; A.C.A.~5-36-106 less than \$500). The parent must make restitution.

Penalty: Restitution and suspension – expulsion

33. Extortion/Bribery

No student will obtain or attempt to obtain something of value from another person either by physical force or by threat (illegal acts).

Penalty: Corporal punishment – expulsion

34. Membership in Fraternities, Sororities, Secret Clubs, Gang Activities or Associations

The Board is authorized to suspend or expel any student of the District who joins or promises to join or who solicits other persons to join or pledge to become a member of a public school fraternity, sorority, secret society or gang activity or association or to wear or display any insignia of such fraternity, sorority, secret society or gang activity or association while in and attending District schools.

Gangs which initiate, advocate or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or school-sponsored activity or which disrupt the school environment and/or school activity are harmful to the

education process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory or manner of grooming which, by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol or any other attribute which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur (A.C.A. §6-18-601; A.C.A. §6-18-603; A.C.A. §6-18-605; A.C.A. §6-18-606).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

35. Unauthorized Accessing or Attempting to Access Computer Files

A student shall not modify or erase software without authorization, introduce any viral agent, access another individual's electronic documents or create, reproduce or distribute documents containing vulgar language or obscene materials on any school computer, printer, copier or other equipment. A student may lose use of network resources.

Penalty: Loss of computer use privileges and suspension – expulsion

36. Possession or Use of Prohibited Weapon

No student shall, without permission from a school official, possess, use or threaten to use any weapon upon any school property, in or upon any school bus, at designated bus stops, or at school-related events. Students will not possess objects or devices of no reasonable use at school and which may cause physical injury.

Penalty: Suspension - expulsion

37. Terroristic Threatening – Threats of Serious Physical Injury or Property Damage/Threats to Teachers/Staff

Students shall not, with the purpose of terrorizing another person, threaten to cause death or serious physical injury or substantial property damage to another person or threaten physical injury to teachers or school employees (A.C.A. §6-17-113, duty to report all threats and acts of violence).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

38. False Bomb, Fire Alarm/Threat

A student shall not activate a fire alarm or cause an evacuation (A.C.A. §5-7-1-211).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

39. Assault/Battery with Substantial Risk of Death or Serious Physical Injury

A student shall not engage in conduct which creates a substantial danger of death or serious physical injury to another person (A.C.A. §5-13-201, Batt; I; A.C.A. §5-13-202, Batt. II; A.C.A. §5-13-204, Agg. Assault; A.C.A. §5-13-205, 1st Deg. Assault; A.C.A. §5-1-102(19)).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

40. Assault/Battery of Staff

No student shall strike or attempt to strike a teacher or other school personnel

(A.C.A. §5-13-201, Battery I; A.C.A. §5-13-202 — “serious physical injury,” Battery II which also includes intentionally causing “physical injury” to teacher or employee).
Penalty: Suspension --- expulsion

41. Sexual Abuse or Rape

Students shall not engage in sexual conduct with another person by forcible compulsion or engage in sexual contact with another person who is incapable of consent because he/she is physically/mentally helpless; nor shall students engage in sexual intercourse or deviant sexual activity with another person by forcible compulsion or with another person who is incapable of consent because he is physically/mentally helpless (A.C.A. §5-14-108 Sexual abuse — [St degree-C felony’ A.C.A. §5-14-103 Rape —Y felony).
Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

42. Robbery

Students shall not take property belonging to another person or the school by force, threat of forces or with the use of a deadly weapon (A.C.A. §5-12-102; A.C.A. §5-12-103).
Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

43. Felony Theft — Personal Property

Students shall not take the property of another person or be in possession of property belonging to another without that person’s permission. If a student steals or is in possession of property belonging to another person worth \$500 or more, that student has committed a more serious crime (A.C.A. §5-36-103; A.C.A. §5- 36-106).
Penalty: Restitution and suspension~CXPU15i0h1

44. Felony Theft — Student Property

A student shall not take possession of property that belongs to the school without permission. If a student takes or is in possession of school property worth \$500 or more without permission, (A.C.A. §5-36-103; A.C.A. §5-36-106) parents must make restitution.
Penalty: Restitution and suspension – expulsion

45. Selling, Attempting to Sell/Distribute or Purchase Drugs/Alcohol

A student who sells or attempts to sell, distribute or purchase illegal drugs (or any substance he claims to be a controlled substance) or alcohol, shall be reported to legal authorities (A.C.A. §5-64-401).
Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

Sentences for sale of controlled substances within 1,000 feet of public or private schools shall be enhanced by two (2) years and a fine of no less than \$1,000 (A.C.A. §5-64-401). Prohibited substances shall include any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, or other controlled substance or

beverage containing alcohol or intoxicant of any kind. Students of DeWitt School District should be aware that school district officials have access to a registered drug dog. The dog, while gentle, has been specially trained to locate marijuana, alcohol and other illegal drugs. Periodic, unannounced visits to all District schools and school-sponsored activities will be made by the dog and its handler. Lockers, automobiles and other areas of the building will be searched. Students will be held responsible for any prohibited items found in their lockers, automobile or belongings at school. Should prohibited items be found, the violators will be disciplined under District policies and may be prosecuted under local, state or federal laws.

46. Criminal Mischief/Vandalism — Major Damage

No student shall purposely and without legal justification destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by the student (A.C.A. §6-21-604) (A.C.A. §5-38-203; A.C.A. §9-27-330; A.C.A. §9-27-331).

Penalty: Restitution and suspension — expulsion

47. Arson

No student shall deliberately burn or attempt to burn school property (A.C.A. §5-38-301).

Penalty: Suspension – expulsion

48. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

No student shall possess, use, threaten to use, or otherwise be involved with any firearm/handgun, weapon, facsimile weapon or any other instrument that is capable of inflicting physical injury or death. Weapons prohibited by law upon any school-related event include, but are not limited to: any firearm/handgun (whether loaded or unloaded), knife, razor, ice pick, dirk, brass or metal knuckle, martial arts implement, box cutter, BB gun, pellet gun, pump gun, blackjack, sword, spear in a cane, Billie club, sap, rifle, shotgun, machine gun, bomb, grenade, booby trap, explosive device, Taser or other instrument that uses electrical current to cause neuromuscular incapacitation, or any other implement designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting physical injury or death (Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994: Act 567 of 1995; A.C.A. §5-73-102; A.C.A. §5-73-104; A.C.A. §5-73-108; A.C.A. §5-73-119; A.C.A. §5-73-120; A.C.A. §5-73-122; A.C.A. §6-21-608).

Penalty: Reported to legal authorities and suspension - expulsion

WARNING! Illegal possession or use of prohibited weapons on school property or upon a school bus by a student shall result in suspension of driver's license (A.C.A. 5-73-128).

49. Food and Gum on Campus

Students shall not chew gum in the school buildings. No eating food in the halls or other areas in the building. Students may not leave or bring back food for lunch

without permission from the principal. Students are not allowed to have food or drinks on school premises except in designated areas. Parents should not bring food to their child during the school day.

Penalty: Reprimand and/or detention hall

50. Behavior Not Covered

DeWitt School District reserves the right to pursue disciplinary or legal action for behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools even though such behavior is not specified in written rule. The building Principal reserves the right to deem all activities appropriate or inappropriate.

DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL

No student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds. Teachers may remove from class and send to the principal or principal's designee office a student whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Students who refuse to leave the classroom voluntarily will be escorted from the classroom by the school administration. Local law enforcement will be contacted in the event the student refuses to leave the classroom voluntarily with the school administrator.

TARDY POLICY

Tardiness to class is disruptive and repeated tardiness cannot be tolerated. If a student misses more than 25 minutes in any class period, it is considered an absence. The consequences for habitual tardiness in one class per nine weeks are as follows:

- 3rd Tardy - Detention to Corporal Punishment
- Recurring tardies will result in detention to suspension.

STUDENT ASSAULT OR BATTERY

A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, or attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person

(student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures, vulgar, abusive or insulting language, taunting, threatening, harassing or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common understanding, is calculated to:

- Cause a breach of the peace;
- Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school;
- Arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation. Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the deleterious effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools.

Therefore, no student in the DeWitt School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, attempt to sell, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who: is on or about school property, is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus, is en route to or from school or any school sponsored activity.

Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to, alcohol or any alcoholic beverage; inhalants that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond; LSD or any other hallucinogen; marijuana; cocaine; heroin or any other narcotic drug; PCP; amphetamines; steroids; "designer drugs"; look-alike drugs; or any controlled substance.

Selling, distributing, or attempting to sell or distribute, or using over-the-counter or prescription drugs not in accordance with the recommended dosage is prohibited.

BULLYING

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs his/her of their dignity, detracts from the

safe environment necessary to promote student learning and will not be tolerated by the Board. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off the school property at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; or going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

A school principal or his or her designee who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall promptly investigate the complaint or report and make a record of the investigation and any action taken a result of the investigation.

Attribute means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

Bullying means the intentional harassment, intimidation,, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that causes or creates a clear and present danger of:

- Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;
- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

Electronic act means without limitation a communication or image transmitted by means of an electronic device, including without limitation a telephone, wireless phone or other wireless communications device, computer, or pager that results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

Electronic acts of bullying are prohibited whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school, and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose;

Harassment means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to

another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and substantial disruption means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

Cyber Bullying of School Employees is expressly prohibited and includes, but is not limited to:

- Building a fake profile or website of the employee;
- Posting or encouraging others to post on the Internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a school employee;
- Posting an original or edited image of the school employee on the Internet
- Accessing, altering, or erasing any computer network, computer data program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords of a school employee; making repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or transmission to a school employee;
- Making, or causing to be made, and disseminating an unauthorized copy of data pertaining to a school employee in any form, including without limitation the printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network;
- Signing up a school employee for a pornographic Internet, site; or
- Without authorization of the school employee, signing up a school employee for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages.

Examples of "Bullying" may include but are not limited to a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

- Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes.
- Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate.
- Mocking, taunting or belittling.
- Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a

- person.
- Demeaning humor relating to a student's actual or perceived personal attributes
 - Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans.
 - Blocking access to school property or facilities.
 - Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property.
 - Stealing or hiding books or belongings.
 - Threats of harm to students(s), possessions or others.
 - Electronic forms of bullying (Cyber-bullying) which include, but are not limited to email, text messaging, blogging, etc.
 - Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 4.27, is also a form of bullying, and/or
 - Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual or transgender, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender. (Examples: "Slut, You are so gay." "Fag" "Queer")

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal.

The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the principal. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the principal. The principal shall be responsible for investigating the incident(s) to determine if disciplinary action is warranted. The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook, which may have simultaneously occurred. In addition to any disciplinary actions, the District shall take appropriate steps to remedy the effects resulting from bullying.

Notice of what constitutes bullying, the District's prohibition against bullying, and the consequences to students who bully shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium and school bus. Parents, students, school volunteers, and employees shall be given copies of the notice.

GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITIES

The Board is committed to ensuring a safe school environment conducive to promoting a learning environment where students and staff can excel. An orderly environment cannot exist where unlawful acts occur causing fear, intimidation, or physical harm to students or school staff. Gangs and their activities create such an atmosphere and shall not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions.

The following actions are prohibited by students on school property or at school functions:

1. Wearing or possessing any clothing, bandanas, dew rags, jewelry, symbol or other sign associated with membership in, or representative of, any gang.
2. Engaging in any verbal or nonverbal act such as throwing signs, gestures or handshakes representative of membership in any gang.
3. Recruiting, soliciting, or encouraging any person through duress or intimidation to become or remain a member of any gang.
4. Extorting payment from any individual in return for protection from harm from any gang.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students arrested for gang related activities occurring off school grounds shall be subject to the same disciplinary actions as if they had occurred on school grounds.

STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The DeWitt School District is committed to having an academic environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

The District believes the best policy to create an educational environment free from sexual harassment is prevention; therefore, the District shall provide informational materials and training to students, parents/legal guardians/other responsible adults, and employees on sexual harassment. The informational materials and training on sexual harassment shall be age appropriate and, when necessary, provided in a language other than English or in an accessible format. The informational materials and training shall include, but are not limited to: the nature of sexual harassment; the District's written grievance procedures for complaints of sexual harassment;¹ that the district does not tolerate sexual harassment; that students can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of

adverse consequences; the redress that is available to the victim of sexual harassment;² and the potential discipline for perpetrating sexual harassment.

“Sexual harassment” means conduct that is:

1. Of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Sexual advances;
 - b. Requests for sexual favors;
 - c. Sexual violence; or
 - d. Other personally offensive verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature;
2. Unwelcome; and
3. denies or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from any of the District’s educational programs or activities through any or all of the following methods:
 - a. Submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual’s education;
 - b. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual; and/or
 - c. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual’s academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

The terms “intimidating,” “hostile,” and “offensive” include conduct of a sexual nature that has the effect of humiliation or embarrassment and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it limits the student’s ability to participate in, or benefit from, an educational program or activity.

Within the educational environment, sexual harassment is prohibited between any of the following: students; employees and students; and non-employees and students.

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances and may occur regardless of the sex(es) of the individuals involved. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Making sexual propositions or pressuring for sexual activities;
- Unwelcome touching;
- Writing graffiti of a sexual nature;
- Displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, or written materials;

- Performing sexual gestures or touching oneself sexually in front of others;
- Telling sexual or crude jokes;
- Spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities;
- Discussions of sexual experiences;
- Rating other students as to sexual activity or performance;
- Circulating or showing e-mails or Web sites of a sexual nature;
- Intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; and
- Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether or not the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender.

Students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment, or the parent/legal guardian/other responsible adult of a student who believes their student has been subjected to sexual harassment, are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator who will provide assistance on the complaint process. Under no circumstances shall a student be required to first report allegations of sexual harassment to a school contact person if that person is the individual who is accused of the harassment.

Complaints will be treated in a confidential manner to the extent possible. Limited disclosure may be provided to: individuals who are responsible for handling the District's investigation to the extent necessary to complete a thorough investigation; the extent necessary to submit a report to the child maltreatment hotline; the Professional Licensure Standards Board for complaints alleging sexual harassment by an employee towards a student; or the extent necessary to provide the individual accused in the complaint due process during the investigation and disciplinary processes. Individuals who file a complaint have the right to request that the individual accused of sexual harassment not be informed of the name of the accuser; however, individuals should be aware that making such a request may substantially limit the District's ability to investigate the complaint and may make it impossible for the District to discipline the accused.³

Students, or the parents/legal guardians/ other responsible adult of a student, who file a complaint of sexual harassment shall not be subjected to retaliation or reprisal in any form, including threats, intimidation, coercion, or discrimination. The District shall take steps to prevent retaliation and shall take immediate action if any form of retaliation occurs regardless of whether the retaliatory acts are by District officials, students, or third parties.

Following the completion of an investigation of a complaint, the District will inform the parents/legal guardian/other responsible adult of the student, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), who filed the complaint:

- The final determination of the investigation;
- Remedies the District will make available to the student; and
- The sanctions, if any, imposed on the alleged harasser relevant to the student.

Following the completion of an investigation of a complaint, the District will inform the parents/legal guardian/other responsible adult of the student, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), who was accused of sexual harassment in the complaint:

- The final determination of the investigation; and
- The sanctions, if any, the District intends to impose on the student.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment. Following an investigation, any student who is found by the evidence to more likely than not have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion.

Students who knowingly fabricate allegations of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Individuals who withhold information, purposely provide inaccurate facts, or otherwise hinder an investigation of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Notes: ¹ The U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights requires that there are separate written grievance procedures in addition to the written policy. The grievance procedures should include the following:

- A statement of the school's jurisdiction over Title IX complaints;
- Adequate definitions of sexual harassment (which includes sexual violence) and an explanation as to when such conduct creates a hostile environment;
- Notice of where complaints may be filed;
- Reporting policies and protocols, including provisions for confidential reporting;
- Identification of the employee or employees responsible for evaluating requests for confidentiality;
- Provisions for adequate, reliable, and impartial investigation of complaints, including the opportunity for both the complainant and alleged perpetrator to present witnesses and evidence;
- Designated and reasonably prompt time frames for the major stages of the complaint process;
- Written notice to the complainant and alleged perpetrator of the outcome of the complaint;
- Notice that Title IX prohibits retaliation;

- Notice of a student’s right to file a criminal complaint and a Title IX complaint simultaneously;
- Notice of available interim measures that may be taken to protect the student in the educational setting;
- The evidentiary standard that must be used (preponderance of the evidence) (i.e., more likely than not that sexual harassment occurred) in resolving a complaint;
- Notice of potential remedies for students;
- Notice of potential sanctions against perpetrators;
- Sources of counseling, advocacy, and support; and
- Assurance that the school will take steps to prevent recurrence of any sexual harassment and remedy discriminatory effects on the complainant and others, if appropriate.

² Depending on the specific nature of the problem, remedies for the complainant might include, but are not limited to:

- Providing an escort to ensure that the complainant can move safely between classes and activities;
- Ensuring that the complainant and alleged perpetrator do not attend the same classes;
- Moving the complainant or alleged perpetrator to another school within the district;
- Providing counseling services (which must be free of charge to the student);
- Providing medical services;
- Providing academic support services, such as tutoring
- arranging for the complainant to re-take a course or withdraw from a class without penalty, including ensuring that any changes do not adversely affect the complainant’s academic record; and
- reviewing any disciplinary actions taken against the complainant to see if there is a causal connection between the harassment and the misconduct that may have resulted in the complainant being disciplined.

³ Factors to be considered when a complainant requests no investigation or no disciplinary action be taken include:

- Circumstances that suggest there is an increased risk of the alleged perpetrator committing additional acts of sexual harassment or other violence, which include:
 - Whether there have been other sexual harassment complaints about the same alleged perpetrator;
 - Whether the alleged perpetrator has a history of arrests or records from a prior school indicating a history of violence;
 - Whether the alleged perpetrator threatened further sexual harassment or other violence against the student or others; and

- Whether the sexual harassment was committed by multiple perpetrators;
- Whether the student's report reveals a pattern of perpetration, such as illicit use of drugs or alcohol, at a given location or by a particular group that suggests there is an increased risk of future acts of sexual harassment under similar circumstances;
- Whether the sexual harassment was perpetrated with a weapon;
- The age of the student subjected to the sexual harassment; and
- Whether the school possesses other means to obtain relevant evidence, such as through security cameras, eye witness accounts, or physical evidence.

Legal References: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681, et seq.

34 CFR part 106

POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

To protect the security of statewide assessments, no electronic device, as defined in this policy, shall be accessible by a student at any time during assessment administration unless specifically permitted by a student's individualized education program (IEP) or individual health plan this means that when a student is taking an AESAA assessment, the student shall not have his/her electronic device in his/her possession. Any student violating this provision shall be subject to this policy's disciplinary provisions.

As used in this policy, "electronic devices" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

- Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
- Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
- Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully
- Giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
- Using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
- Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing a visual depiction of oneself or another person engaged in inappropriate school

conduct.

The student and/or the student's parents or guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing electronic devices. The school is not responsible for lost, broken or stolen phones. Students misusing electronic devices shall have them confiscated. Confiscated devices may be picked up at the school's office after the confiscation period is over at the end of the school day. Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any electronic devices that have been confiscated.

Before and after normal school hours, possession of electronic devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

Confiscated cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be placed in the school's office. Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any cell phones and other electronic communication devices that have been confiscated. A search of a confiscated device shall meet the reasonable individualized suspicion requirements of Policy 4.32---SEARCH, SEIZURE AND INTERROGATIONS.

No student shall use any wireless communication device for the purpose of browsing the Internet; composing or reading emails and text messages; Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's (IEP) or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-515 (b) (3) (D) (ii)

DMS CONSEQUENCES:

- 1st Offense: 1 day detention and device confiscated. Parent may pick up device after school that day.
- 2nd Offense: Device will be taken up for 5 days.
- 3rd Offense: Device will be taken up for 10 days.
- 4th Offense: Device will be taken up for 10 days and 3 days of ISS.
- Failure to give up phone to school personnel will result in 3 days of OSS.

NOON DETENTION

The purpose of noon detention is to serve as an alternative form of discipline for students violating rules and procedures set forth in the student handbook and those

rules not covered in the student handbook. Failure of the student to serve the assigned days will result in additional days. Failure to serve additional assigned days will result in the student being given Corporal Punishment or Out of School Suspension.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

The ISS on campus suspension program is designed to keep students in school who have committed violations of school rules and required removal from the regular school environment. The program emphasizes regular attendance, exemplary conduct, and intensified learning effort. ISS affords students the opportunity to remain current on all schoolwork.

Students assigned to ISS study in an isolated environment away from the mainstream of the regular school program, activities, and students. Assignments are prepared for them by their regular classroom teachers; however, the ISS instructor may require other work to be completed by students during the course of the day. A list of ISS rules will be given to the student at the beginning of the day to be copied by the student. These rules will be strictly enforced. Students who do not follow these rules may be suspended.

Students who have been assigned ISS excessively may be suspended. During the period of suspension, students serving in in-school suspension shall not attend any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension nor shall the student participate in any school-sponsored activities.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The DeWitt School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or his designated staff members who are required to have state-issued certificates as a condition of their employment.

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given an opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, shall be administered in the presence of another certified staff member as a witness, and shall not be excessive nor administered with malice.

Refusal of corporal punishment subjects the student to alternate forms of discipline, including suspension.

SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

Students cannot benefit from the educational opportunities the school environment affords, if they are not at school. Administrators, therefore, shall strive to find ways to keep students in school as participants in the educational process. There are instances, however, when the needs of the other students or the interests of the orderly learning environment require the removal of a student from school. The Board authorizes school principals or their designees to suspend upon which the suspension is imposed. The suspension may be in school or out of school. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs at any time on the school grounds, off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event, and going to and from school or a school activity. A student may be suspended for behavior including, but not limited to, that

- Is in violation of school policies, rules, or regulations;
- Substantially interferes with the safe and orderly educational environment;
- School administrators believe will result in the substantial interference with the safe and orderly educational environment; and/or
- Is insubordinate, incorrigible, and violent or involves moral turpitude.

Out-of-school suspension shall not be used to discipline a student for skipping class, excessive absences, or other forms of truancy.

The school principal or designee shall proceed as follows in deciding whether or not to suspend a student:

1. The student shall be given written notice or advised orally of the charges against him/her.
2. If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence against him/her and be allowed to present his/her version of the facts.
3. If the principal finds the student guilty of the misconduct, he/she may be suspended.

When possible, notice of the suspension, its duration, and any stipulations for the student's re- admittance to class will be given to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) prior to the suspension.

Such notice shall be handed to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or mailed to the last address reflected in the records of the school district.

Generally, the notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process,

thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.

It is the parents' or legal guardians' responsibility to provide current contact information to the district which the school shall use to immediately notify the parent or legal guardian upon the suspension of a student. Notification shall be by one of the following means, listed in order of priority:

1. A primary call number
2. The contact may be by voice, voice mail, or text message
3. An email address
4. A regular first class letter to the last known mailing address

The district shall keep a log of contacts attempted and made to the parent or legal guardian.

Out-of-school suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent, but not to the Board. In-school suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may NOT be appealed to the Superintendent or the Board.

Suspensions initiated by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

Students that receive an Out-of-School Suspension or have accumulated six (6) days or more of In-School Suspension may not be eligible for field trips, school dances, exemptions from school, etc.

During the period of their suspension, students serving out-of-school suspension shall not attend any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension nor shall the student participate in any school-sponsored activities.

EXPULSION

The Board may expel a student for a period longer than ten (10) school days for violation of the District's written discipline policies. The Superintendent may make a recommendation of expulsion to the Board for student conduct;

- Deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate;
- Where the student's continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment; or
- Would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th)

grade unless the student's behavior:

- Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
- Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means;
or
- Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

The Superintendent or his designee shall give written notice to the parents or legal guardians (mailed to the address reflected on the District's records) that he will recommend to the Board that the student be expelled for the specified length of time and state the reasons for the recommendation to expel. The notice shall give the date, hour, and place where the Board will consider and dispose of the recommendation.

The hearing shall be conducted not earlier than ten (10) school days following the date of the notice, except that representatives of the Board and student may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation.

The President of the Board, Hearing Officer, or other designated Board member shall preside at the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in open session of the Board unless the parent requests that the hearing be conducted in executive session. Any action taken by the Board shall be in open session.

During the hearing, the Superintendent will present evidence, including the calling of witnesses, which gave rise to the recommendation of expulsion. The student, or his/her representative, may then present evidence including statements from persons with personal knowledge of the events or circumstances relevant to the charges against the student. Formal cross-examination will not be permitted. However, any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or designee, the student, or his/her representative may question anyone making a statement and/or the student. The presiding officer shall decide questions concerning the appropriateness or relevance of any questions asked during the hearing.

The Superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student for a period of not less than one (1) year for possession of any firearms or other weapon prohibited on the school campus by law. The Superintendent shall, however, have the discretion to modify the expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The Superintendent and the Board shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

CLOSED CAMPUS

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day. Students may be given permission to leave the campus by a school administrator and must sign out in the office upon their departure.

FOOD SERVICES

Free and reduced price lunches shall be provided for children whose parents meet eligibility requirements as set by the State Department and US Department of Agriculture. Parents must fill out forms provided by the school to determine eligibility before free and reduced lunches can be served. Students at DMS will pay for lunches on Monday of each week.

DMS Breakfast and Lunch Prices:

Breakfast: \$1.25

Reduced Breakfast .30

Lunch: \$2.25

Reduced Lunch .40

The district only provides substitute meal components on menus to accommodate students with handicapping conditions meeting the definition of a disability as defined in USDA regulations. A parent /guardian wishing to request such a dietary accommodation must submit the appropriate information to the district's Director of Child Nutrition.

FOOD SERVICE PREPAYMENT

The district does not offer credit for food items purchased in the school cafeteria; payment for such items is due at the time the food items are received. Staff, students, or parents choosing to do so may pay weekly or monthly in advance for meals.

SOLICITATIONS-STUDIES

Participation in any fund raising or charity drive sponsored by the school or outside agency shall be entirely voluntary as far as each student is concerned. There shall be no cause for embarrassment to those who do not cannot participate or contribute. All fund raising and charity drives sponsored by a school must receive the approval

of the principal. In no case will approval be given for such activities during the regular school day.

Distribution of material, advertisement and literature through schools: Materials submitted by outside agencies are not to be distributed to the students or sent to the homes unless authorization of such distribution has come from the Superintendent of Home.

WEBSITE PRIVACY POLICY

The DeWitt School District operates and maintains a website for the purpose of informing the citizens of the district about its activities. The website does not use “cookies” or IP addresses to collect or retain personally identifying information about visitors to its website nor is and such information given to “third parties.” Any data collected is used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

- The site serves no commercial purpose and does not collect any information from individuals for such purpose.
- Photographs of students shall not be displayed on any page of the district’s website without the prior written consent of the parent (or the student is 18 or older).
- The site provides for email communication between the District and individuals for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the District and its activities or between teachers and their students. The site may also provide for password-protected communication between the District and its staff.

INTERNET SAFETY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

For the purposes of this policy, “electronic device” means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

The District makes electronic device(s) and/or electronic device Internet access available to students, to permit students to perform research and to allow students to learn how to use electronic device technology. Use of district electronic devices is for educational and/or instructional purposes only. Student use of electronic device(s) shall only be as directed or assigned by staff or teachers; students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their electronic device use, including email, and that monitoring of student electronic device use is continuous.

No student will be granted Internet access until and unless an Internet and

electronic device use agreement, signed by both the student and the parent or legal guardian (if the student is under the age of 18) is on file.

The District is dedicated to protecting students from materials on the Internet or world wide web that are inappropriate, obscene, or otherwise harmful to minors; therefore, it is the policy of the District to protect each electronic device with Internet filtering software that is designed to prevent students from accessing such materials. For purposes of this policy, “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion:
- depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals: and
- taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

The District is dedicated to ensuring that students are capable of using the Internet in a safe and responsible manner. The District uses technology protection measures to aid in student safety and shall also educate students on appropriate online behavior and Internet use including, but not limited to:

- interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms;
- cyber bullying awareness; and
- cyber bullying response.

The opportunity to use the District’s technology to access the Internet is a privilege and not a right. Students who misuse electronic devices or Internet access in any way will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook and/or Internet safety and electronic device use agreement. Misuse of the Internet includes:

- The disabling or bypassing of security procedures, compromising, attempting to compromise, or defeating the district’s technology network security or Internet filtering software:
- The altering of data without authorization;
- Disclosing, using, or disseminating passwords, whether the passwords are the student’s own or those of another student/faculty/community member, to other students;
- Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or

- anyone else either on the internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's academic endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- Using electronic devices for any illegal activity, including electronic device hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
 - Using electronic devices to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics;
 - Using electronic devices to violate any other policy or is contrary to the Internet safety and electronic device use agreement.

Students who use a school issued cell phone and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/Computer Use Policy, shall be subject to discipline:

- **1st offense – Parent contact to ISS**
- **2nd offense – Loss of use for remainder of semester (use only under direct supervision)**
- **3rd offense – Loss of use for remainder of school year (use only under direct supervision)**

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

The DeWitt School District grievance procedures, including steps to be followed by students to resolve a grievance is as follows. The following procedures will be used for filing, processing and resolving alleged Title VI (race), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (handicap) and discrimination complaints of students.

Every student of the DeWitt School District is guaranteed the right to present his grievance, in accordance with provisions of this policy, free from interference, coercion, restraint, discrimination or reprisal.

Definitions:

Discrimination Complaint: A complaint alleging any policy, procedure or practice which discriminates on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, qualified handicap or age.

- **Student Grievant:** A student of the DeWitt School District who submits a complaint alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex or qualified handicap.
- **Equity Coordinator:** The person(s) designated to coordinate efforts to comply with and carry out responsibilities under the civil rights laws and other state and federal laws addressing equal educational opportunity. The Coordinator is responsible for processing complaints.
- **Respondent:** The person alleged to be responsible for the violation alleged in

a complaint. The term may be used to designate persons with responsibility for a particular action or those persons with supervisor responsibility for procedures and policies in those areas covered in the complaint.

Filing and Processing Discrimination Complaints

Step I: The grievant submits complaint to the Equity Coordinator, stating name, nature and date of alleged violation; names of person responsible (where known); and requested action. Complaint must be submitted within thirty (30) days of alleged violation. Complaint forms are available in the school office or the Equity Coordinator's office. The Equity Coordinator issues a decision to the student or employee. If the grievant or respondent is not satisfied with the decision, they must notify the Equity Coordinator and request a hearing with the Superintendent.

Step II: The Equity Coordinator schedules a hearing with the grievant and Superintendent the Superintendent issues a decision following the hearing. If the grievant or respondent is not satisfied with the decision, they must notify the Equity Coordinator and request a hearing with the governing board.

Step III: The Equity Coordinator notifies the governing board after receiving the request. The Equity Coordinator schedules a hearing with the governing board. A hearing is to be conducted within thirty (30) days from the date of notification to the governing board. The governing board issues a final written decision after the hearing regarding the validity of the grievance and any action to be taken.

General Provisions

- **Extension of Time:** Any time limits set by these procedures may be extended by mutual consent of parties involved. The total number of days from the date that complaint is filed until complaint is resolved shall be no more than 180 days.
- **Access to Records and Regulations:** The DeWitt School District shall provide copies of all regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age qualified handicap or veteran upon request. All parties to the grievance procedure shall have the right to examine any and all records relating to the complaint. For the purpose of confidentiality, names may be omitted.
- **Confidentiality of Records:** Complaint records will remain confidential unless permission is given by the parties involved to release such information. No complaint records shall be entered in the permanent record file. Complaint records shall be maintained on file for three years after complaint resolutions.
- All parties will be provided with an appropriate amount of time, as

established by the governing board, for a general presentation of the situation.

- Each party will be provided with the opportunity to prove witnesses and evidence and the right to question opposing witnesses concerning the situation.
- Each party will have the right to be represented in whole or in part by a person of his/her own choosing. The grievant will have the right to a confidential or public grievance hearing.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The board has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras in any district building, on district property, and in district buses and vehicles. Video recorder placements shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff, and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy in areas or at events that occur in plain view of other students, staff, or visitors.

Signs shall be posted on campus buildings and in district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video camera may be in use. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules caught by the cameras.

The district shall retain copies of video recordings for a minimum of two (2) weeks before they are erased which may be accomplished by either deletion with a new recording. Parents wishing to view a video recording need to be aware that it may not be available after the two week period unless the video contains evidence of misconduct.

Video recording shall be considered student education records and any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law. Videos containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or federal law shall be retained until issue of the misconduct has been settled.

Students who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable surveillance cameras and equipment shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

GEAR UP

Delta Gear-UP, sponsored by Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, offers various resources and programs for our students to improve their academic performance. Resources include classroom supplies, technology equipment and software. Students can take advantage of the many programs available such as free academic tutoring, college and career planning, parental involvement meetings, and summer school activities.

DEWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

School Improvement Status-Focus School

Grade Levels-6-8

Parent Involvement Coordinator - Courtney Barnett

Parent Involvement Committee Members:

Rachel Mitchell - Principal

Cecilia Odaware - Math/Literacy Coach

Jacqueline Duncan - Resource teacher

Emily Fisher - Family works and consumer science

Joli Holzhauser - Parent Advisory

Michelle Hollimon - Community Representative/Advisor

1. The school website is available for parents to access homework/test assignments, grades can be accessed by PIN numbers assigned at the beginning of school. Parents and teachers can email each other concerning students. Open house will be held at the beginning of the year to distribute information concerning students. Letters will be sent home as needed to help inform parents of workshops and meetings. Information will be given to the local newspapers and radio stations to distribute information about meetings, workshops, and dates of interest. Report cards will be distributed every 4 weeks regarding the academic progress of students.
2. The school will hold open houses and regular Parent /Teacher Conferences to increase parent involvement and build staff and parent capacity to share information. The Parent/Teacher Conferences are held in September and February of the school year. The school will encourage parents by using: fundraisers, classroom speakers, tutors, book fair helpers, field trip

- volunteers, open houses, and other methods to help parents be involved with their students.
3. We will provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities by providing the state mandated training as well as linking the Department of Education website with all its resources to the school website to be accessible to parents. The district/school will provide a minimum of 2 hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.
 4. School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student compact which will outline how all three share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement.
 5. The school will enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Association that will foster better parental/community involvement within the school.
 6. Resources for parents will be provided in a variety of ways. These shall include a parent center in the library with resources parents may check out, handouts at open houses and Parent/ Teacher conferences, computer access to grades and teachers for communication purposes, and the school counselor.
 7. The school/district will hold an annual meeting to evaluate the Title 1-Part A through an evaluation using the data from a needs assessment survey filled out by stakeholders such as teachers, parents, and staff. This survey will address topics such as needs of parents and students.
 8. The results from the parent interest surveys will be used to make decisions about the effectiveness of school programs, professional development, planning parental involvement activities, and editing the ACSIP plan of the school.

DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT IN-HOUSE NOTIFICATION

Parents, Students and Teachers:

As a result of our recent building survey concerning asbestos, we are pleased to announce that areas of several buildings in our district were found to contain asbestos, pose no immediate health problems.

However, in the interest of your future safety, DeWitt School District has drafted and put in action an operations and management plan to safely manage all affected areas. This management plan is available for your reading from the hours of 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Monday through Friday at the Administration Office located at 1841 South Grandview Drive in DeWitt.

Should you have any questions, please call Jeff Rader, Director of Facilities at 870-946-3131.

DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT/STUDENT STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

Student Name: _____

The statement below must be signed and returned to the first period teacher within one (1) week after the student receives it. If, after one (1) week, the student has not returned the form, he/she will be given noon detention until he/she does comply.

We have read the DMS Handbook for Student Conduct and Discipline and although we may not agree with all the regulations, we understand that the students must adhere to them while he is at school or in attendance at school-sponsored activities.

We acknowledge that we have received the DeWitt School District's policy regarding Smart Core curriculum as a course of study for graduation.

We acknowledge that we have received the DeWitt School District's policy regarding the Parental Involvement Plan.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Mailing Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Physical Address: _____

2018 DeWitt Dragons Football

August 14	Barton (Benefit)	6:00
August 24	Stuttgart	7:00
August 31	@Riverview	7:00
September 7	@Carlisle	7:00
September 14	BYE	
September 21	Hamburg	7:00
September 28	@Helena	7:00
October 5	@Crossett	7:00
October 12	Warren (HC)	7:00
October 19	@Dumas	7:00
October 26	Star City	7:00
November 1	Monticello (SR Night)	7:00

DeWitt JR Dragons

August 23	@Stuttgart (Benefit Jamboree)	5:30
August 30	Barton	6:00
September 6	@Star City	7:00
September 13	@Monticello	7:00
September 20	@Hamburg	7:00
September 27	Helena	7:00
October 4	Crossett	7:00
October 11	@Warren	7:00
October 18	Dumas	7:00

DeWitt 7th Grade Dragons

September 6	@Star City	5:30
September 13	@Monticello	5:30
September 20	No Game	-----
September 27	Helena	5:30
October 4	Crossett	5:30
October 11	@Warren	5:30
October 18	Dumas	5:30

2018-19 Dragon/Dragonettes Basketball Schedule

Date:	Opponent/Location:	Teams	Time:
11/9	@ Kipp Delta	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
11/12	vs. Stuttgart	7G, 7B, JG, JB	4:00pm
11/15	@White Hall	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
11/16	@Clarendon	JG, JB, SG, SB	4:00pm
11/26-12/1	@Quitman Tournament	SG, SB	TBA
12/3	vs. Dermott	JG, JB, SG, SB	4:00pm
12/4	vs. Rison*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
12/7	vs. Drew Central*	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
12/11	@Lakeside (Lake Village)*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
12/14	@ Helena Central*	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
12/27-29	@Heber Springs Tourn.	SG, SB	TBA
1/4	vs. Stuttgart	JG, JB, SG, SB	4:00pm
1/8	vs. Dumas*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/11	vs. Dollarway*	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/15	@McGehee*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/18	@Rison*	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/22	@Drew Central*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/25	vs. Lakeside (Lake Village)*	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/28	vs. Hermitage	JG, JB, SG, SB	4:00pm
1/29	vs. Helena Central*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
1/31	@Dumas*	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
2/5	@Dollarway*	JG, SG, SB	5:00pm
2/8	vs. McGehee*(Senior Night)	JB, SG, SB	5:00pm
TBD	Jr. Conference Tournament	JG, JB	TBD
TBD	Conference Tournament	SG, SB	TBD
TBD	Regional Tournament	SG, SB	TBD
TBD	State Tournament	SG, SB	TBD

*Denotes a conference game