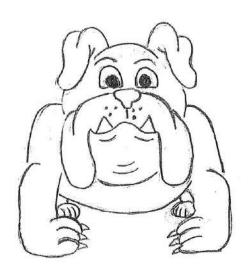
# Parker Farms Elementary School



30 Parker Farms Road Wallingford CT 06492

Phone: (203) 294-6200 Fax: (203) 294-6229

2014 - 2015 Edition

School Hours 8:55 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

# a H a n d **O**

# A Letter to Parker Farms Families

Hello Students & Parents,

This family handbook is a guide to inform you of the school and district policies for the 2014-2015 school year. There are existing policies and procedures along with new policies included in this handbook for your review.

Parents, please note there is an updated attendance policy in place due to state mandates (page 4, policy 5113) and a new policy "Responsible Use for Electronics" (page 24, policy 6141.321).

Students and parent/guardians please sign off and return the last page of this handbook titled <u>"Responsible Use Agreement for District Computer Systems and Internet"</u>.

Thank you,

Rich Napoli Principal

# MISSION STATEMENT OF DISTRICT

1. The mission of the Wallingford Public Schools is to educate all students to their highest level of academic potential and to teach them the skills and knowledge to become capable, creative and responsible members of society.

#### **PREFACE**

The material covered within this family handbook is intended as a method of communicating to students and parents regarding general district information, rules and procedures and is not intended to either enlarge or diminish any Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Material contained herein may therefore be superseded by such Board policy, administrative regulation or negotiated agreement. Any information contained in this handbook is subject to unilateral revision or elimination from time-to-time without notice.

This booklet is written for our students and their parents. It contains required and useful information. Because it cannot be as personal a communication as we would like, we address students not directly as "you" but rather as "the student," "students," or "children." Likewise, the term "the student's parent" may refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume responsibility for the student. Both students and parents need to be familiar with the District's Student Code of Conduct which is intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere conducive for learning.

The Family Handbook is designed to be in harmony with Board policy. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect portions of this handbook will be made available to students and parents through newsletters, web pages, and other communications.

# **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

#### Nondiscrimination

# Grievance Procedure for Section 504, Title IX, and Title VII Regulations

The Wallingford Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), or genetic information in establishing preliminary hiring and employment practices and establishing and providing school activities and programs.

The Board of Education Compliance Officer for Title IX and Safe School Climate Coordinator is Cindy Lavalette, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel. Mrs. Lavalette's phone contact information is: 203-949-6508. Her mailing address is 43 Hall Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492.

The Board of Education Compliance Officer for 504 and Title VI is Robert Mancusi, Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Mr. Mancusi's phone contact information is: 203-294-5946. His mailing address is 415 Church Street/Rte. 68, Yalesville, CT 06492.

The Safe School Climate Coordinator for Parker Farms is Mr. Richard Napoli, Principal. Mr. Napoli's phone contact information is: 203-294-6200. His mailing address is 30 Parker Farms Road, Wallingford, CT 06492.

**Definitions:** A "grievance" is a complaint by an employee, or group of employees, or a student or group of students based upon an alleged violation of the provisions of Section 504, Title IX, or Title VII.

The term "employee" is considered to apply to any employee of the Wallingford Board of Education. The term "student" is considered to apply to any student enrolled in the Wallingford Public Schools. The term "teacher" is considered to apply to any teacher employed by the Wallingford Board of Education. The "teacher",

"employee", or "student" may include a group of teachers or a group of employees or a group of students who are similarly affected by a grievance.

An "aggrieved person" is the person or persons making the claim.

The term "days", when used in this article, shall, except when otherwise indicated, mean working days.

# **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible administrative level, equitable solutions to the problems which may arise under the provisions of Section 504, Title IX, or Title VII.

The parties agree that these proceedings shall be kept as informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.

Nothing herein contained shall be construed as limiting the right of the complainant having a problem to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate member of the administration.

Any complainant shall have the right at any time to present any grievance to such persons and through such channels as are designated for that purpose in this article.

#### **Time Limits**

Since it is important that grievances be processed as rapidly as possible, the number of days indicated at each level should be considered as a maximum, and every effort should be made to expedite the process. The time limits specified may, however, be extended by mutual agreement in writing.

If a complainant does not file a grievance in writing as provided herein within 30 days after the aggrieved person knew or should have known of the act or condition on which the grievance is based, and then the grievance shall be considered waived.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE policy, please go to the district website http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/

#### ADMISSION/PLACEMENT

A student seeking enrollment in Parker Farms Elementary School for the first time or following attendance in another Connecticut public school district, out-of-state attendance, private school attendance or admission through a bona fide foreign exchange program should contact the main office. A student who is transferring from non-public schools or schools outside the district will be placed at his/her current grade level. Students who are classified as homeless under federal law and do not have a fixed residence will be admitted pursuant to federal law.

#### **ADVERTISING**

The Wallingford Public Schools maintain careful controls on the way in which students are exposed to materials and announcements, other than those directly related to school sponsored programs and activities. Caution is exercised to prevent exploitation of the system and its students.

# **ADVISORY COUNCIL (PTAC)**

Representatives of the parents and staff meet with the principal on a regular basis to offer advice on school matters. The council provides input on budget issues, curriculum and instruction, facilities, student assessment, educational equipment, support services, new programs, additional staffing requests and school community relations. Personnel issues may not be discussed, as they are governed by State Statute. Any question or concern may come before the council for discussion by attending a meeting in person, submitting an item in writing or by contacting a member of the council.

# **ASBESTOS**

Legislation requires all school buildings to be reevaluated to determine if asbestos is present and if it poses a significant health hazard to the building's occupants. The District has on file plans showing the location of asbestos in each building and measures undertaken to comply with regulations to maintain a safe school environment. Requests to review these plans may be made in the school office.

The building is inspected every six months to determine any changes in the conditions of the materials. Additionally, the building is thoroughly re-inspected every three years by licensed asbestos inspectors following the same basic criteria as the original inspection.

# ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

#### **School Hours**

Grades 3-5

8:55 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.

Students can enter the building beginning at 8:40 AM and report directly to their classrooms. Please do not drop off students before the 8:40 bell since staff will not be on duty until this time. This is to ensure the safety of your children. Please be sure to have your child/children here on time. All students who arrive after 8:55 AM must sign in at the office before going to class. School dismissal is at 3:20 PM.

If you are picking up your child after school, you must park in the lot and meet your child in room 1 or 2 with your ID at 3:20, unless your child has written permission to exit the 5<sup>th</sup> grade doors without supervision. All students should have a daily dismissal form completed for the office.

# **ASSEMBLIES**

There are times when classes, grades, teams or the entire school may gather for assembly programs. These programs are arranged to bring information or entertainment to the student community. A student's conduct in assemblies must meet the same standards as in the classroom.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

# Reporting an Absence

Every attempt should be made to confine necessary appointments to after school, weekends and vacation periods. When a parent determines that an absence is necessary, parents are requested to contact the school at **203-294-6200 before 9:30 A.M.** to report it. We have voice mail, so we offer 24-hour service. State your child's name, teacher and a brief explanation of the absence. To comply with the attendance policy and to ensure the safety of all students, the office staff is required to contact parents who do not report an absence. Students will have the opportunity to make up work missed during an absence. For extended absences, parents may request work for home by calling the office by 10:00 a.m. and the material will be available for pick-up at 3:20 p.m.

# **Attendance Policy 5113**

Connecticut state law requires parents to cause their children, ages of five to eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Parents or persons having control of a child five years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until age six or seven. Mandatory attendance terminates upon graduation or withdrawal with written parent/guardian consent at age seventeen.

In order for students to develop to their full potential, the Board of Education deems it essential that students attend school on a regular basis. The learning experiences that occur in the classroom are considered to be meaningful and essential components of the learning process. Time lost from class tends to be irretrievable in terms of opportunity for instructional interaction.

# **ATTENDANCE** (continued)

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school, such as a field trip, for at least half of the regular school day. An absence due to an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered an excused absence.

#### I. Excused Absence

The Board believes a student should not be absent from school without the parents' knowledge and consent, therefore verification of an absence should be in writing by a parent or guardian. For absences one through nine, an absence shall be considered "excused" when a child does not attend school and appropriate documentation has been submitted within ten school days of the student's return to school by the student's parent or guardian approving the absence, due to:

- 1. Illness or injury,
- 2. Death in the family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family,
- 3. Observance of a religious holiday,
- 4. Mandated Court appearances,
- 5. School sponsored activity,
- 6. Lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends, (This reason does not require documentation)
- 7. Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by a district administrator and in accordance with State Department of Education guidelines. Written excuse for such absences should be submitted to school officials by the child's parent or guardian. All other absences with or without written explanation shall be considered unexcused.
- 8. Suspension, (This reason does not require documentation)

For the tenth absence and all others thereafter, the same reasons cited above shall still constitute "excused" absences; however documentation by a medical professional is now required for illness, regardless of the length of the absence. All absences will be recorded as "unexcused" unless documentation is submitted within ten days of the date of the absence and satisfies the definition of excused absence.

#### II. Unexcused Absence

Board of Education policy with respect to unexcused absences stresses prevention by requiring schools to make all reasonable efforts to keep parents and students informed as to attendance problems and to make all reasonable efforts to help students improve their attendance when such improvement is warranted. Only when all local resources are exhausted is referral to legal authorities recommended.

A student's absence from school shall be considered "unexcused" unless the absence meets the definitions, listed for an "excused" absence, including the documentation requirements; or if the absence is the result of school or district disciplinary action.

#### III. Tardiness

Students who arrive later than the scheduled beginning of the school or class period will be considered tardy. Tardiness may be explained by a parent or guardian but any absence from class will be considered as an accumulated absence and the student may lose credit on the high school level. Students tardy to school are responsible for work done in classes missed as well as assignments due. At Parker Farms, a student is considered tardy (entering after 8:55 AM) must report directly to the office before going to his/her classroom.

#### IV. Dismissals

The Board of Education recognizes the need for students to be in school for the full instructional day. It is encouraged that early dismissal should be requested only in emergency situations. Request for a release of a student during the school day originating outside the schools must be handled by the administration to ensure maximum provisions for the safety and welfare of the student.

When students need to be dismissed early from school, they are to bring a written note signed by a parent or guardian to the main office prior to the start of school. The office staff will verify the authenticity of the note by contacting the parent or guardian by phone and will issue the student a dismissal pass.

Students who are dismissed from school before the end of the school day at the request of their parent or guardian will not be permitted to return to school on the same day unless the dismissal is for a medical or dental appointment or a court appearance and such appointment is validated in writing by the doctor/dentist or court official. Students who become ill during the school day may be excused by the school nurse and are not permitted to return to school until the following day.

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

We align our practices with the Health and Wellness policy adopted by the Wallingford Public Schools. To that end, we promote a healthy lifestyle and discourage <u>edible</u> treats to celebrate birthdays. Rather, we encourage you to celebrate your son's/daughter's birthday with pencils, erasers, books, or by donating a book in your child's name to our library.

# BULLYING

Bullying behavior by any student in the Wallingford Public Schools is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

# **Bullying**

The Board of Education (Board) promotes a secure and happy school climate, conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior. Therefore it shall be the policy of the Board that bullying of a student by another student is prohibited.

The Board believes that a school environment in which students feel safe, supported, engaged and helpfully challenged is optimal for learning and healthy development. The Board seeks an environment in which students and adults feel socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically safe; an environment that is free of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

#### **Definitions**

**"Bullying"** means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district that:

- A. causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property,
- B. places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property,
- C. creates a hostile environment at school for such student,
- D. infringes on the rights of such student at school, or
- E. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral, or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics. (*The student against whom the activity is directed must be attending school in the same district as the students engaged in the activity.*)

"Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

# **BULLYING** (continued)

- "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted.
- "Electronic communication" means any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photo-optical system.
- "Hostile environment" means a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the school climate;
- "Outside of the school setting" means at a location, activity or program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education.
- **"School employee"** means (a) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (b) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.
- "School climate" means the quality and character of school life with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the school community between and among students and adults. (and reflects norms, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices and organizational structures.)

Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to:

- 1. physical violence and attacks,
- 2. verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs including ethnically-based or gender based verbal put-downs,
- 3. threats and intimidation,
- 4. extortion or stealing of money and/or possessions,
- 5. exclusion from peer groups within the school,
- 6. the misuse of electronic communications for the purpose of bullying, harassing, or sexually harassing other students within school or out of school ("cyberbulling"),
- 7. targeting of a student based on the student's actual or perceived "differentiating" characteristics such as race; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; gender; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; socioeconomic or academic status; physical appearance; or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability.

Such conduct is disruptive of the educational process and, therefore, bullying is not acceptable behavior in this district and is prohibited.

Students who engage in any act of bullying, on school grounds, at a school sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by the Board of Education, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the Board of Education, and outside of the school setting if such bullying:

- 1. creates a hostile environment at school for the victim,
- 2. infringes on the rights of the victim at school, or
- 3. substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school

are subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement officials.

# **BULLYING** (continued)

A comprehensive program, to improve the school climate, involving everyone in the schools and the community, to address bullying at all school levels is essential to reducing incidences of bullying. Such a program must involve interventions at all levels, school wide, classroom and individual.

The District's program: (Also outlined in the section pertaining to the "Safe School Climate Plan.")

- 1. Requires the development and implementation of a safe school climate plan by the Board of Education to address the existence of bullying in its schools;
- 2. Permits anonymous reports of bullying by students to school employees and written reports of suspected bullying by parents or guardians;
- Requires school employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to orally notify the safe school climate specialist or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not later than two school days after making such an oral report;
- 4. Requires the safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written report;
- 5. Requires the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
- 6. Requires each school to have a prevention and intervention strategy, as defined by statute, as amended, for school employees to deal with bullying, including language about bullying in student codes of conduct and in all student handbooks;
- 7. Provides for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying;
- 8. Requires each school to notify parents or guardians of all students involved in a verified act of bullying not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation. The notice shall be simultaneously mailed to the parent/guardian with whom the student primarily resides and to the other parent/guardian if requested. The notice must describe the school's response and any consequences that may result from further acts of bullying;
- 9. Requires each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying and the parents or guardians of the student against whom such act was directed, to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and to prevent further acts of bullying;
- 10. Establishes a procedure for each school to document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in such school and make such list publicly available; and report such number to the Department of Education and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;
- 11. Requires the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing reported incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline;
- 12. Prohibits discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying;
- 13. Requires the development of student safety support plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that addresses safety measures the school will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying;
- 14. Requires the principal of a school or the principal's designee, to notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal or the principal's designee believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct;
- 15. Prohibits bullying (A) on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education, or through the use

# **BULLYING** (continued)

of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by the local or regional board of education, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school;

- 16. Requires, at the beginning of each school year, for each school to provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's safe school climate plan, and
- 17. Requires all school employees to annually complete the training required by C.G.S. 10-220a, as amended. Such training shall include identifying and responding to bullying and preventing and responding to youth suicide;

**Note:** Certified employees are required to complete annual training on the prevention and identification of bullying and response to bullying and the prevention and response to youth suicide. The State Department of Education, within available appropriations, is required to provide annual training to non-certified school employees.

- 18. Requires students and the parents/guardians of students to be notified annually of the process by which they may make reports of bullying;
- 19. As required, but not later than January 1, 2012, the Board of Education shall approve the safe school climate plan developed pursuant to statute and submit such plan to the Department of Education for its review, analysis, and cooperative assistance; and
- 20. Requires that not later than thirty calendar days after approval by the Board, the safe school climate plan shall be made available on the Board's and each individual school in the District's Internet website and such plan is to be included in the District's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

# **Bullying**

The Board expects prompt and reasonable investigations of alleged acts of bullying. The safe school climate specialist of each school is responsible for handling all complaints of alleged bullying. The safe climate specialist shall investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bully promptly.

In addition, the norms that are established by adults through consistent enforcement of all policies pertaining to conduct and modeling appropriate behavior at school and at home will reduce the instances and damage of bullying. It is necessary for students to promote the concept that caring for others is a valued quality, one that is accepted and encouraged.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

#### **CAFETERIA**

Rules of cleanliness are to be observed at all times. Misconduct in the cafeteria may be cause for receiving an assigned seat or forfeiting the right to eat in that location or such other disciplinary action deemed appropriate for the misconduct.

# Cafeteria Conduct Guidelines

- Students will handle food, food containers, eating utensils, and paper products in a polite manner.
- Students will eat what he/she brings or buys for lunch. Sharing food is not permitted.
- Students will be responsible for cleaning up after themselves (i.e. table, chair and floor.)
- Students will use indoor voices when speaking to other children at their table.
- Students will remain seated during lunch (except when throwing out garbage), unless permission to leave is granted by an adult.
- Students will leave food, paper, and cartons in the lunchroom.

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers to students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. Free and reduced price lunches are available based on financial need. Information on this program can be obtained from the district website.

Food and beverages offered for sale to students, will meet federal and state standards and guidelines. In conformity with applicable law, necessary accommodations will be provided, where required, for students with food allergies, including emergency procedures to treat allergic reactions which may occur.

Charging is not encouraged by the District.

# **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM**

Students are expected to pursue their school work with integrity and honesty. Cheating and plagiarism demonstrates a lack of integrity and character. That is inconsistent with Wallingford Public Schools' goals and values. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable. The misrepresenting by students of homework, class work, tests, reports, or other assignments as if they were entirely their own work shall be considered forms of cheating and/or plagiarism. Consequences of cheating and /or plagiarism shall be academic in nature unless repeated incidences require disciplinary action. Consequences for cheating will take into account the grade level of the student and the severity of the misrepresentation.

#### CHILD ABUSE

CT law **mandates** that any school employee that has regular contact with a student in the school system "who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe" that a child has been <u>abused or neglected</u> or is in danger of being abused or neglected must make an oral report followed within 12 hours with a written report to the Department of Children and Family Services (C.G.S. 17a-101) Specific procedures governing the reporting of abuse and neglect are in effect, and staff receive yearly training in their use.

Reporting of child abuse and neglect is a responsibility which is taken seriously. If there is any doubt about reporting suspected abuse or neglect a report will be made. The school will work with the parents and appropriate social agencies in all cases.

Child abuse is defined as any physical injury inflicted by other than accidental means or injuries which are not in keeping with the explanation given for their cause. Improper treatment, such as malnutrition, sexual molestation, deprivation of necessities, emotional abuse, cruel punishment or neglect, is also considered child abuse.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/

# **CLASS PLACEMENT**

Every effort will be made to place students with teachers where a positive student-teacher relationship will be established. Parents will have an opportunity to provide information relative to placement. The final decision for placement rests with the principal or his/her designee.

# **CONDUCT**

Students are responsible for conducting themselves properly in a responsible manner appropriate to their age and level of maturity. The district has authority over students during the regular school day and while going to and from school on district transportation. This jurisdiction includes any school-related activity, regardless of time or location, and any off campus school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location.

Student responsibilities for achieving a positive learning environment in school or school related activities include but are not limited to:

1. Use appropriate and acceptable school language.

- 2. Treat classmates and adults with kindness and respect.
- 3. Complete class work and homework responsibly.
- 4. Walk quietly in the halls.
- 5. Behave in the classroom so that learning can take place.
- 6. Behave in a safe manner waiting for and boarding buses.
- 7. Respect the property of others.
- 8. Resolve conflicts without force.
- 9. Refrain from chewing gum.
- 10. Dress and govern themselves at all times in keeping with good taste.

Students are subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion, for misconduct which is seriously disruptive of the educational process and is a violation of publicized Board of Education policy, even if such conduct occurs off-school property and during non-school time. In determining whether conduct is seriously disruptive of the education process, for purposes of suspension and expulsion, the administration in cases of suspension, and the Board of Education or impartial hearing board, in matters of expulsion may consider, but consideration is not limited to (1) whether the incident occurred within close proximity of a school, (2) whether other students were involved, or whether there was gang involvement, and (3) whether the conduct involved violence, threats of violence, or the unlawful use of a weapon and whether any injuries occurred.

Students at school or school-related activities are prohibited from the following. This list includes but is not limited to:

- 1. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
- 2. Throwing objects that can cause bodily injury or damage property.
- 3. Leaving school grounds or school-sponsored events without permission.
- 4. Directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward other students or staff.
- 5. Disobeying directives from school personnel or school policies, rules, and regulations.
- 6. Being disrespectful or directing profanity, vulgar language, or obscene gestures toward teachers or other school employees.
- 7. Committing robbery or theft.
- 8. Damaging or vandalizing property owned by the school, other students, or school employees.
- 9. Disobeying school rules on school buses.
- 10. Fighting, committing physical abuse, or threatening physical abuse.
- 11. Committing extortion, coercion, or blackmail; that is, forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
- 12. Name-calling, making ethnic or racial slurs or derogatory statements that may substantially disrupt the school program or incite violence.
- 13. Engaging in inappropriate physical contact disruptive to the school environment or disturbing to other students.
- 14. Assaulting a teacher, staff member or other individual.
- 15. Possessing a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument, firearm, martial arts weapon, or weapon facsimile.
- 16. Prescription and/or over the counter drugs which are given to a person other than who the drug is prescribed.
- 17. Hazing, bullying
- 18. Behaving in any way that disrupts the school environment or educational process.
- 19. Using electronic devices during the school day in school buildings, without prior approval of the principal.
- 20. Threatening in any manner, including orally, in writing, or via electronic communication, a member of the school including any teacher, a member of the school administration or another employee, or a fellow student.

# **CONDUCT** (continued)

21. Taking, storing, disseminating, transferring, viewing or sharing of obscene images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer of other means, including but not limited to texting and emailing.

# **Dangerous Weapons and Instruments**

No guns, knives or any other objects, including martial arts weapons and facsimiles of weapons, capable of threatening or causing injury or death may be brought onto school grounds. Any object used to cause injury will be considered a weapon. Violators will be subject to arrest and prosecution, as well as, appropriate disciplinary action. Any student found to possess a weapon on school grounds or during a school-activity will be expelled from school.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

# DRESS CODE (Board of Education Policy reference JFCA)

Students are expected to dress in keeping with good taste and in clothing that allows for participation in the activities of the school day. Extremes in dress and grooming that may be disruptive to the school operation, the educational process in general and/or the health, safety and welfare of the students are not allowed.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

# **DEFIBRILLATORS IN SCHOOLS (AED'S)**

Parker Farms has (1) one automatic external defibrillator (AED) and school personnel trained in AED operation and cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). The AED and trained personnel will be available during the school's normal operational hours, at school-sponsored athletic events and practices on school grounds and at school-sponsored events not taking place during normal school operational hours. The school also has an emergency action response plan addressing the use of trained school personnel to respond to individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or similar life threatening emergencies.

# **DISCIPLINE**

A student who violates the district's code of conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. The disciplinary actions may include using one or more discipline management techniques, such as detention, removal from class, removal to an alternative education program, in school suspension, out of school suspension, and expulsion. Disciplinary measures will be appropriate for the offense. Students are subject to discipline, up to including suspension and expulsion for misconduct, which is seriously disruptive of the educational process and violates publicized board of education policy even if such conduct occurs off-school property and during non-school time.

# **DETENTION**

A student may be detained outside of school hours for no more than one hour on one or more days for violation of the code of contact. The detention shall not begin, however, until the students' parents have been notified of the reason for the detention (and can make arrangements for the student's transportation on the day(s) of the detention).

# **SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION**

# I. Removal of students from class by school personnel

- **A. Cause for Removal:** The Board of Education authorizes teachers to remove any student who deliberately causes a serious disruption of the educational process within the classroom.
- **B. Duration of Removal:** Such removal may not exceed ninety minutes and the pupil so removed must be sent to a designated area. No pupil is to be removed from class more than twice in one week or six times in one year unless such pupil is referred to the building principal or his/her designee for an informal hearing.

- **C. Notification to Administrator:** Any teacher who removes a student from class is to immediately notify the administration of his/her action and the reasons therefore.
- **D. Notification to Parents:** Parents of students who are removed from class will be notified by phone and letter.

# II. Suspension of student

- **A. Conduct Leading to Suspension:** An authorized member of the administrative staff may suspend from school privileges any student whose conduct on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity:
  - 1. Endangers persons or property, or
  - 2. Is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or
  - **3.** Violates a publicized policy of the Board of Education. Further, an authorized member of the administrative staff may suspend from school privileges any student whose conduct off school grounds is violative of such policy and is so seriously disruptive of the educational process.

The suspension may be in the form of in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension. Effective July 1, 2009, suspensions pursuant to this policy shall be in-school suspensions, unless during the informal hearing the administration determines that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension. An in-school suspension may be served in the school that the pupil attends, or in any school building under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, as determined by the administration.

**B. Length of Suspension:** An in-school suspension means an exclusion from regular classroom activity (but not exclusion from school) for no more than 10 consecutive school days, provided such exclusion shall not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. No pupil shall be placed in in-school suspension more than fifteen (15) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion.

An out-of-school suspension means an exclusion from school privileges for no more than ten consecutive days for any one incident and such suspension which is not completed by the end of a school year may not be carried over into the next school year. No student shall be placed in out-of-school suspension more than ten (10) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless the student is granted a formal hearing.

- **C. Grounds for Suspension:** If occurring on or off school property, on school transportation, or at any school-sponsored activity shall include, but not limited to one or more of the following types of conduct:
  - 1. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to school or private property.
  - **2.** Stealing or attempting to steal school or private property.
  - **3.** Intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person except in self defense.
  - **4.** Unauthorized possession, distribution, sale, or consumption of any alcoholic beverages, drugs, drug paraphernalia, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, painkillers, or controlled substance of any kind, including but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, all narcotic substances, or dangerous drugs, including controlled substances as defined in Connecticut General Statutes section 21a-240.
  - **5.** Violating the Board's use of tobacco policy.
  - **6.** Intentionally or repeatedly defying the valid authority of supervisors, teachers, or administrators.
  - 7. Using obscene or profane language or gestures.
  - 8. Participating in any unauthorized walk-out from or sit-in within a classroom or school building.
  - **9.** Blackmailing, harassing, striking, assaulting, bullying, threatening, or intimidating school staff or other students, or any other persons.
  - 10. Being absent from school and/or class when such absence is unauthorized.

# **DISCIPLINE** (continued)

- 11. Knowingly using or copying the academic work of another and presenting it as his/her own without proper attribution.
- 12. Falsification of school records.
- **13.** Violating the acceptable uses of the Internet and the district's Intranet as delineated in the regulations (IHAJA-R) for the Board policy on "Electronic Information Resources."
- **14.** Exhibiting any conduct deemed detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the students and/or staff as determined by the Board of Education.
- 15. Actions which require the evacuation of the building, such as a false alarm or bomb threat.
- 16. Possession of any kind of weapon such as a pistol, knife, blackjack, etc., or weapon facsimile.
- 17. Making or using audio, video, digital or any other recordings of school activities to mock, harass, embarrass, defame or humiliate others. This prohibition includes but is not restricted to recording devices such as cameras, cell phones, audio and video equipment, electromagnetic, photo electronic, photo optical or other comparable systems.
- **18.** Violation of any other Board policy or administrative rule or regulation dealing with student conduct, and violation of any federal or state law which would indicate that the violation presents a danger to any person in the school community or to school property.
- **D. Modification of Suspension:** For any student who is suspended for the first time pursuant to this policy and who has never been expelled pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the administration may shorten the length of or waive the suspension period if the pupil successfully completes an administration specified program and meets any other conditions required by the administration. Such administration specified program shall not require the pupil or the parent or guardian of the pupil to pay for participation in the program.
- **E. Record of Suspension:** Whenever a student is suspended, notice of the suspension and the conduct for which the student was suspended shall be included on the student's cumulative education record. Such notice shall be expunged from the record if the student graduates from high school or in the case of a suspension of a pupil for which the length of the suspension period is shortened or the suspension period is waived pursuant to subsection D. above, such notice shall be expunged from the cumulative educational record (1) if the student graduates from high school, or (2) if the administration chooses, at the time the student completes the administration specified program and meets any other conditions required by the administration pursuant to said subsection D, whichever is earlier.
- **F. Referral to Planning and Placement Team:** For children who experience multiple in-school or out-of-school suspensions, a referral will be made to the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) to consider whether evaluations should be conducted to determine the child's eligibility for special education.

#### III. Expulsion of student

- **A. Conduct Leading to Expulsion:** The Board of Education may expel for up to one calendar year any student whose conduct on school property, on school transportation vehicles, or at any school-sponsored activity:
  - 1. Endangers persons or property, or
  - 2. Is seriously disruptive of the educational process, or
  - **3.** Violates a publicized policy of the Board of Education.

The Board also may expel a student for up to one calendar year for conduct off school property if such conduct is seriously disruptive of the education process and is violative of a publicized Board policy.

# **DISCIPLINE** (continued)

#### **B.** Mandatory Expulsion

- **1. Weapons On School Grounds:** It shall be a policy of the Board of Education to expel for one calendar year any student found to be in possession of any of the following while on school property, on school transportation vehicles, or at any school-sponsored activity:
  - **a.** A firearm means, (1) any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon, (3) a muffler or silencer, or (4) any destructive device (which means any explosive, incendiary, poisonous gas, bomb, rocket, missile, mine, grenade, or similar device, or any weapon, other than a shotgun or shotgun shell particularly suited for sporting purposes, that will or may be converted to expel a projectile by explosive or other propellant having a barrel with a bore more than ½ inches in diameter. (See, 18 USC 921.)
  - **b.** Martial arts weapons. (See Connecticut General Statutes §53a-3.)
  - **c.** A deadly weapon which according to state statute means any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon, or metal knuckles. (See Connecticut General Statutes §53a-3.)
  - **d.** A dangerous instrument, which according to state statute means any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a vehicle. (See Connecticut General Statutes §53a-3.)

However, the Board of Education or the hearing board may modify the period of expulsion for a pupil on a case by case basis and as provided for in subsection H.

- **2. Weapons Off School Grounds:** It shall be a policy of the Board of Education to expel for one calendar year a student found to be in either of the following:
  - **a.** In possession of a firearm off school grounds for which the student does not have a permit to carry said firearm. (See Connecticut General Statutes §29-35.)
  - **b.** Off school grounds, having possessed and used a firearm, martial arts weapon, deadly weapon, or dangerous instrument in the commission of a crime. (See Connecticut General Statutes §952.)

However, the Board of Education may modify the period of expulsion for a pupil on a case by case basis and as provided for in subsection H.

**3. Selling or Distributing a Controlled Substance, On or Off School Grounds**: It shall be a policy of the Board of Education to expel for one calendar year a student who sells or distributes a controlled substance while on school grounds or off school grounds if the manufacture, distribution, sale, prescription, dispensing, transporting or possessing with intent to sell or dispense, offering, or administering of the controlled substance is subject to criminal penalties under section 21a-277 and 21a-278 of the Connecticut General Statutes. A controlled substance is defined in section 21a-240(a) of the Connecticut General

Statutes and includes drugs, substances, or immediate precursors listed in schedules 1 to V, inclusive of the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations. However, the Board of Education may modify the period of expulsion for a pupil on a case by case basis and as provided for in subsection H.

- **C. Other Grounds for Expulsion:** If occurring on or off school property, on school transportation vehicles, or at any school-sponsored activities, the Board may consider, but is not limited to, the following conduct as grounds for expulsion:
  - 1. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause damage to school or private property.
  - 2. Stealing or attempting to steal school or private property.
  - 3. Intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person except in self-defense.

# **DISCIPLINE** (continued)

- **4.** Unauthorized possession, distribution, sale, or consumption of any alcoholic beverages, drugs, drug paraphernalia, hallucinogens, stimulants, depressants, painkillers, or controlled substance of any kind, including but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, all narcotic substances, or dangerous drugs, or a facsimile of any such drugs, including controlled substances as defined in Connecticut General Statutes section 21a-240.
- **5.** Repeatedly or intentionally defying the valid authority of teachers, administrators, or other adult supervisors.
- **6.** Using obscene or profane language or gestures.
- 7. Participating in any unauthorized walk-out from or a sit-in within a classroom or school building.
- **8.** Blackmailing, harassing, striking, assaulting, bullying, threatening, or intimidating school staff or other students, or any other person.
- **9.** Exhibiting any conduct deemed detrimental to the health, safety, and welfare of the students and/or staff as determined by the Board of Education.
- 10. Intentionally disrupting the district computer network or intentionally introducing viruses into a school computer and/or the network.
- 11. Knowingly using or copying the academic work of another and presenting it as his/her own without proper attribution.
- 12. Falsification of school records.
- **13.** Violating the acceptable uses of the Internet and the district's Intranet as delineated in the Board policy on "Responsible Use for Students (6141.321)."
- **14.** Actions which require the evacuation of the building, such as a fire alarm or a bomb threat.
- 15. Possession of any kind of weapon such as a pistol, knife, blackjack, etc. or weapon facsimile.
- **16.** Making or using audio, video, digital or any other recordings of school activities to mock, harass, embarrass, defame or humiliate others. This prohibition includes but is not restricted to recording devices such as cameras, cell phones, audio and video equipment, electromagnetic, photo electronic, photo optical or other comparable systems.
- 17. Violation of any other Board policy or administrative rule or regulation dealing with student conduct, and violation of any federal or state law which would indicate that the violation presents a danger to any person in the school community or to school property.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

# **ELECTRONIC DEVICES, TRADING CARDS AND GAMES**

Students are not permitted to possess such items as radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, or electronic devices, trading cards and games unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. Without such permission, the items will be collected by teachers and turned into the principal. The principal will determine whether to return the item at the end of the day to be taken home by the student or whether the parent will be contacted to pick up the item. Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. The use of electronic devices, such as but not limited to video games, iPods and cell phones are prohibited during the regular school day. These items must be stored in lockers or backpacks upon entering the building.

# **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION**

In the event of inclement weather or other emergencies, the Superintendent of Schools is responsible for broadcasting any change in schedule. Official notification will be provided via local radio stations as follows:

WTIC, 1080 FM/AM WELI, 960 AM WAVZ, 1300 AM WRCH, WRCQ 100.5 FM/910 AM

# **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

Should there be an early dismissal the new mass telephone notification system will be used to notify you. Please make sure that the school has your current phone number at all times. A recorded announcement may also be seen on WPS/TV – Channel 19. Please rehearse with your child what to do in the event he or she arrives home and no one is there. Please **DO NOT** call the school to inquire about early dismissal or cancellation as the phone must be clear for emergencies.

#### STORM RELATED TWO HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES:

GRADES 3–5 1:20 P.M.

# 90-MINUTE DELAYED OPENING

Grades 3 – 5 10:25 A.M. – 3:20 P.M.

# **EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION**

A student will be exempted from instruction on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Bilingual Education, or Family Life and Sex Education upon receipt of a written request for such exemption from his/her parent or guardian.

# **FIELD TRIPS**

Field trips may be scheduled for educational, cultural, or extracurricular purposes. Any student whose behavior is considered detrimental to the well-being of other students may be barred from participation by the principal. While on a trip, all students are considered to be "in" school. This means that conduct and dress standards will be appropriate for the field trip activity.

# **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Any student who needs financial assistance for school activities should contact the school social worker or the principal to request confidential help.

# FIRE DRILLS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Fire drills are held at regular intervals as required by state law. Students must follow the exit directions posted in each classroom. A crisis response drill will be substituted for one of the required monthly school fire drills every three months.

Students are expected to follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly and in an orderly manner.

The signal for a fire drill is a constant blast on a special horn. When the alarm sounds, students are to proceed along the posted exit routes in a quick, quiet and calm manner. Students should not return to the building until the return signal is given.

#### **FOOD ALLERGIES**

The school is committed to providing a safe environment for students with food allergies and to support parents regarding food allergy management.

An Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and an Emergency Care Plan (ECP) shall be developed and implemented for students identified with food allergies. Such students may also be eligible for accommodations and services under Section 504 and special education law.

The District's specific plan for managing students with life-threatening food allergies will be posted on the District website.

# **GRADING SYSTEM**

Report cards for Grades 3 - 5 are issued three times a year in December, March and June. Parent conferences are offered prior to the first report card and in conjunction with the spring report card. Parents will be informed of the date and time well in advance of the conference.

# **GREEN CLEANING PROGRAMS**

A green cleaning program to clean and maintain the school was implemented by July 1, 2011. It is the policy of the Wallingford Public Schools to achieve the maintenance of clean, safe, and healthy schools through the elimination of contaminants that affect children and adult health, performance and attendance and the implementation of cleaning processes and products that protect health without harming the environment. This policy requires the use of cleaning products in the schools that meet the guidelines or standards set by a national or international certification program approved by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in consultation with the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Parents/Guardians may request a written copy of the district's policy pertaining to the green cleaning program and a written statement which includes the names and types of environmentally preferable cleaning products used in the school and where in the building they are applied; the schedule for applying the products; and the names of the school administrator or designee whom the parent/guardian or student may contact for more information. Note: No parent, guardian, teacher, or staff member may bring into the school facility any consumer product which is intended to clean, deodorize, sanitize or disinfect.

# HARASSMENT STATEMENT

Every child has the right to feel safe, valued and comfortable in school. No one else's behavior should ever make children feel afraid or embarrassed because of their race, color, religion, national origin, sex, or any disability they may have. Parker Farms has zero tolerance for harassment of any kind. Students are expected to treat other students and school employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop.

Parents are urged to reinforce with their child(ren) that if he/she is harassed or sees harassment happening to someone else that he/she should report the behavior to a teacher or the principal. To maintain a productive and positive learning environment, the Board of Education will make every attempt to halt any harassment of which they become aware by calling attention to this policy or by direct disciplinary action, if necessary.

A student who believes he/she has been harassed is encouraged to report the incident to the principal or his/her designee. The allegations will be investigated and addressed and the appropriate disciplinary action taken, where necessary.

# **HEALTH SERVICES**

The school health office is designed to provide care to students who become ill or are injured while in school. Parents are notified of any deviation from the normal pattern of health and suggestions are given for follow-up. It is likewise important that parents notify Lauren Young, the school nurse, in case of a student's illness. If a student is to be excused or limited for an extended period from participation in school activities, he/she is required to bring a statement signed by a physician. The school nurse is available to parents and students for conferences regarding health issues.

# **Administration of Medication**

Parents of students requiring medication during school should contact the school nurse. Special forms are required to permit the administration of medicine in school. They are available from the school nurse. All medication must be in original container with proper labels.

In cases in which a student is able to self-administer medication, the parents or guardians must submit a signed statement that the medication must be taken during the school day and the student is capable of administering the medication. The statement must be accompanied by a physician's, dentist's or advanced practice registered nurse's statement indicating the necessity and naming the medication, the strength, and the prescribed dosage. It

must specify the schedule on which it is to be taken and the details of administration. Such statements must be renewed at the beginning of each school year.

A student with asthma or an allergic condition may carry an inhaler or an epipen or similar device in school at all times if he/she is under the care of a physician, physician assistant or advanced practical nurse and such practitioner certifies in writing that the child needs to keep an asthmatic inhaler or epipen at all times to ensure prompt treatment of the child's asthma or allergic condition and to protect the child against serious harm or death. A written authorization of the parent/guardian is required.

A student with diabetes may test his/her own blood glucose levels if the student has written permission from his/her parent/guardian and a written order from a CT licensed physician. The time or place of such testing will not be restricted.

# Communicable/Infectious Diseases

Students with any medical condition which within the school setting may expose others to disease or contagious and infectious conditions may be excluded from school and referred for medical diagnosis and treatment. Additional information concerning this may be obtained from the school nurse.

Before a child may return to school after an absence due to such condition, parents and students may be required to submit medical evidence that their child has recovered sufficiently to prevent exposing others.

#### **Disabilities**

School district will not discriminate on the basis of disability as required under ADA, IDEA and Section 504 and C.G.S. 10-76a and any similar law or provision.

# **Emergency Medical Treatment**

The Power School Parent Portal <a href="http://powerschool.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://powerschool.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a> is now open for you to update emergency information. It is crucial to make these updates as soon as possible so that emergency information is current for your children. The Parent Portal will close at the end of September and you will no longer have access.

#### **Health Records**

There shall be a health record for each student enrolled in the school district which will be maintained in the school nurse's room. For the purposes of confidentiality, records will be treated in the same manner as the student's cumulative academic record.

Student health records are covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and are exempt from the Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy rule. However, it is recognized that obtaining medical information from health care providers will require schools to have proper authorization and to inform parents that such information once released by health care providers is no longer protected under HIPAA but is covered under FERPA.

#### Homebound

Home instruction is available to students who are unable to attend school for medical and/or mental health reasons for a period of two weeks or longer as diagnosed by a physician, psychiatrist or the Planning and Placement Team.

#### **Homeless Students**

The Board of Education shall make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children within the district, encourage their enrollment in school, and eliminate existing barriers to their education, which may exist in district policies or practices, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws. Further, it is the policy of

the Board of Education that no child or youth shall be discriminated against or stigmatized in this school district because of homelessness. Homeless students, as defined by federal and state statutes, residing within the district or residing in temporary shelters in the district are entitled to all school privileges provided other students in the district.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

# Illness

The following health policies assist us in providing a safe environment for everyone:

- 1. If your child is ill in the morning, he/she should remain home.
- 2. If your child has been ill with a fever, he/she should be kept home until the temperature has been normal for 24 hours.
- 3. Children are excluded from school with temperatures in excess of 100 degrees.
- 4. When a child returns from 5 or more days of illness, the nurse will certify readmission.
- 5. Some childhood diseases necessitate exclusion from school:
  - a. Chicken pox -7 days from appearance of rash
  - b. Scarlet Fever Permission of physician to return
  - c. Impetigo and ringworm keep home unless the area can be completely covered.
  - d. Strep Throat Until on medication for 24 hours
- 6. Children with head lice must be excluded until treated with a pediculocide and all eggs are removed. The school district has a no nit policy. The nurse must screen for reentry.
- 7. Changes in health information should be communicated to the school nurse immediately. The nurse will be responsible for sharing the information with appropriate staff.

#### **Immunizations**

All students must be immunized against certain diseases and must present a certificate from a physical or local health agency. If the student should not be immunized due to medical or religious reasons, a statement from a physician or the parent/guardian (both signed by the parent/guardian) must be provided to the Superintendent of School along with a request for the exemption. The required immunizations are: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Pertussis, Measles, Mumps, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Varcicella (Chickenpox), Meningococcal, Pneumococcal, Rubella and Hemophilus Influenza Type B.

# **Physical Examinations**

All students must present evidence of a physical examination upon enrollment to the district. (C.G.S. 10-204a) All students in grades 3-5 will undergo vision screening by the school nurse or school health aide. Hearing screening will be conducted for all students in grades 3 and 5. Postural screening will be conducted for all students in grades 5. The results are included in the student's permanent school medical record. If a homeless student, as defined by federal statute, lacks immunization/medical records, the school will enroll the child and refer the parent/guardian to the district's homeless liaison.

# **Tuberculosis Testing for Students Traveling Overseas**

If your child travels overseas for any reason **for two weeks or more** to an area that has been designated as high risk by the Connecticut Department of Health, the Wallingford Public Schools require that your child/children be tested for tuberculosis **prior to returning to school following the absence**. These high risk areas include all countries in Africa, Asia (including the former Soviet Union), Eastern Europe, Central and South America, the Dominican Republic, and Haiti. The test that should be used is the single injection Mantoux test. Contact the school nurse, Lauren Young, at 203-294-6200.

# **HOMEWORK**

The purpose of homework is to help students become self-directed, independent learners and is related to the educational progress of the student. It serves to help all students reach their instructional goals. Students in

# **HEALTH SERVICES (continued)**

grades 3-5 should expect homework in one or more of the core subjects on a daily basis that lasts an average of 20-50 minutes.

Specific homework assignments may strengthen basic skills; extend classroom learning; stimulate and further interests; reinforce independent study skills; develop initiative, responsibility, and self-direction; stimulate worthwhile use of leisure time; and acquaint parents with the student's work in school.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

#### **INSURANCE**

School insurance is made available to families through a specific program. Brochures are distributed to all students at the beginning of each academic year. While the program is not mandatory, it is suggested that parents take advantage of the opportunity to provide adequate protection for their children while in school. Any such arrangement is contractual between the parent and insurance carriers and the Wallingford Public School assumes no liability from disputes arising from such contract.

# LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT (LEP) STUDENTS

The Board shall provide Programs for English Language Learners and/or Bilingual programs of instruction for students who do not speak English and need instruction toward mastery of the English language or for students who speak a language other than English and are more capable of performing schoolwork in that language, and need their basic instructional program taught in that language.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall develop procedures in accordance with Federal and State statutes to determine which students would benefit from ELL and/or bilingual programs and to involve school staff, parents/guardians/and community members in reviewing programs to determine which would best meet the needs for these students.

The goal of the ELL program is to assist students to achieve fluency, including listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing, in English. The goal of the bilingual program is to permit students to learn subject matter in their primary language while developing English language skills.

Parents/guardians of students of limited English speaking ability shall be notified by mail that their child is eligible for enrollment in a bilingual, ELL or English language learner's education program. The written notice shall include the information that the parents may choose to enroll their child into the program.

Communications with parents/guardians of students in these programs shall be in both English and their primary speaking language.

# **LOST AND FOUND**

A lost and found is located in the computer/library hallway. Small lost and found items are in an office drawer. Children and parents are encouraged to look through it when an item is missing. Access can be obtained by asking the secretary or custodian. Valuable items are kept in the main office and students should check with the secretary. Unclaimed articles are donated to a charitable organization.

#### LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

Students are invited to use the books, magazines, newspapers, and other materials, including computers, located in the library. Students are responsible for any material they sign out. Materials must be returned to the librarian or the assistant at the circulation desk. Students must pay for any materials they lose or damage.

# **MIGRANT STUDENTS**

The Superintendent will develop and implement a program to address the needs of migrant children in the District. This program will include a means to:

- 1. Identify migrant students and assess their educational and related health and social needs.
- 2. Provide a full range of services to migrant students including applicable Title I programs, special education, gifted education, vocational education, language programs, counseling programs and elective classes.
- 3. Provide migrant children with the opportunity to meet the same statewide assessment standards that all children are expected to meet.
- 4. Provide advocacy and outreach programs to migrant children and their families and professional development for District staff.
- 5. Provide parents/guardians and opportunity for meaningful participation in the program.

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/

#### PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to become partners in their child's educational successes. Parent Teacher Conferences are held in the fall and the spring. However; conferences with teachers may be held at any time during the school year. Parents and students, as well as teachers, counselors or administrators may initiate a conference.

A parent or student may arrange a conference with an individual member of the school staff or a group conference with school staff members. Conferences are held during school hours but every effort will be made to accommodate parent schedules.

# PARENT INVOLVEMENT/COMMUNICATIONS

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school based on communications and interactions. Parents/guardians are urged to encourage their children to put a high priority on education and to make the most of their educational opportunities available. Parents/guardians should become familiar with all of the child's school activities and with the District's academic programs, including special programs. Attendance at parent-teacher conferences, participation in school parent organizations (PTO and PTAC), attendance at board of education meetings and being a school volunteer are strongly encouraged.

#### PARENT PORTAL ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY

# I. <u>User Expectations</u>

The Wallingford Public Schools manages student information electronically and uses a secure internet site to enable electronic access to student information. The district will make certain student education records are available for viewing only to authorized parents/guardians (and students) via the secure internet connection. All parents/guardians will comply with the internet use regulations and all technology regulations/procedures, as well as all other applicable district policies. The Board of Education supports access by students,

# PARENT PORTAL ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY POLICY (continued)

parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators to informational resources that will improve participation in a child's education and improve communication between students, parents/guardians and the student's teachers.

#### II. Rights and Responsibilities

Portal access is a free service offered to all current parents/guardians of the district. Access to student information from the internet is a privilege, not a right. Parents/guardians, students and staff must understand and practice proper and ethical use. Only after a parent/guardian has enrolled their child(ren) in the district will the parent/guardian (and/or student) be authorized to activate a portal account. Once a student withdraws, or graduates from the district, portal access will be inactivated for the parent/guardian (and/or student).

For a full description of Wallingford's BOE Policy please go to the district website <a href="http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/">http://www.wallingford.k12.ct.us/</a>

# PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION

PTO is a vital link between the school, community and the parents it serves. Thus, parents are urged to join and take an active part in the PTO. The PTO strives to help teachers, students and the Parker Farms staff in many ways. The PTO helps to provide many things which the regular school budget cannot accommodate and enriches our children's education with these not-so-small extras.

#### PESTICIDE APPLICATION

Only certified pesticide applicators shall be used in schools for any non-emergency pesticide use in school buildings or on school grounds. Pesticide applications are limited to non-school hours and when activities are not taking place. Areas to receive pesticide application will be posted and a written record of all pesticide applications will be maintained for five years. Parents/guardians and staff who want to receive advance notice of all pesticide use will be listed on a registry and such notice will be provided as required by law. Parents/guardians who want to be notified prior to pesticide applications inside their child(ren)'s school assignment area may contact the main office.

# PROMOTION AND RETENTION

In the Wallingford Public Schools, the education program of students shall provide for continuous progress from grade level to grade level; however, progress does not necessarily imply nor result in continuous promotion.

Efficient learning takes place only if students build on what they have mastered, and mastery can only be achieved with ample readiness. Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade or level to level. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgment of the certified staff, such exceptions are in the best educational interests of the students involved. An exception will be made only after the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) is informed of the planned retention and the reasons for the decision.

The final decision as to whether a student is retained will rest with the school principal.

#### PROPERTY, LOCKERS, AND EQUIPMENT

It is the policy of the Board to hold students responsible for any loss of or damage to the property of the school under the jurisdiction of the Board when the loss or damage occurs through fault of the student.

Any student damaging or defacing school property will be financially liable for restoring the property regardless of the condition of the property at the time of the destructive act, in addition to any other discipline up to and including arrest or civil prosecution as deemed appropriate.

In addition, anyone who witnesses such an act and fails to report it to the proper authorities will be considered as having contributed to the action. Such charges for damaged property will be exactly those which the school must incur to repair the damage.

# PROPERTY, LOCKERS, AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

Each student is assigned a desk, locker and/or other equipment. These items are the property of the school, loaned to students for their convenience during the school year, and should be kept in order and not abused. Searches of desks/lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by district policy. Parents will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk/locker.

Students should not attempt to repair school equipment, but should notify the main office immediately if it isn't functioning properly. Any damage done will be the responsibility of the person whom it was loaned for the current year. Students may not bring locks from home and attach them to the assigned locker. Students are warned not to bring large sums of money or valuables to school, liability for these items remains with the student.

# **PSYCHOTROPIC DRUG USE**

In conformity with state statute, the Board of Education prohibits all school personnel from recommending the use of psychotropic drugs for any student enrolled within the school system. However, members of the school medical staff, including school nurses and the district's medical advisor, may recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner. Further the district is prohibited from requiring a child to get a prescription before he/she may attend school, be evaluated to determine eligibility for special education or receive special education services.

# **PUBLIC COMPLAINTS**

The right of the community members to register individual or group concerns about the district instruction, programs, and materials, operations and/or staff members is recognized. Complaints and grievances will be handled and resolved as close to their origin as possible. Complaints will be referred back through the proper administrative channels before investigation or action by the Board unless the complaint concerns Board actions or operations only.

# RESPONSIBLE USE FOR ELECTRONICS

# Instruction – Responsible Use for Students Policy 6141.321

Computers, computer networks, electronic devices, Internet access and email are effective and important technological resources. The Board of Education provides computers, a computer network, including Internet access and an email system, as well as any electronic devices that access the network, including but not limited to, PDAs, Smartphones, mobile or handheld electronic devices (referred to collectively as "the computer systems"), in order to enhance both the educational opportunities for our students and the business operations of the district.

# I. Appropriate Use

These computer systems are business and educational tools. As such, they are made available to students for education related uses. The Administration shall develop regulations setting forth procedures to be used by the Administration in an effort to ensure that such computer systems are used for appropriate education related purposes.

#### II. Monitoring Computer Activity

It is important that students and parents understand that the district, as the owner of the computer systems, reserves the right to monitor and review the use of these computer systems. The district intends to monitor and review in a limited fashion, but will do so as needed to ensure that the systems are being used for district-related educational purposes. Typical examples include when there is reason to suspect inappropriate conduct or there is a problem with the computer systems needing correction. Further, the system administrator and others managing the computer systems can access or monitor activity on the systems despite the use of passwords by individual users, and can bypass such passwords. In addition, review of emails, messages or information stored on the computer systems, which can be forensically retrieved, includes those messages and/or electronic data sent, posted and/or retrieved using social networking sites, including but not limited to, Twitter, Facebook, Linked In, YouTube and MySpace.

# III. Incidental Personal Use

Incidental personal use of the computer systems may be permitted solely for the purpose of email transmissions and access to the Internet on a limited, occasional basis. Such incidental personal use of the computer systems, however, is subject to all rules, including monitoring of all such use, as the Superintendent may establish through regulation. Moreover, any such incidental personal use shall not interfere in any manner with school responsibilities.

Students should not have any expectation of personal privacy in the use of the computer system or other electronic devices that access the computer system. Use of the computer system represents a student's acknowledgement that the student has read and understands this policy and any applicable regulations in their entirety, including the provisions regarding monitoring and review of computer activity.

# **RESPONSIBLE USE FOR ELECTRONICS (continued)**

#### IV. Internet Safety

The Board will educate minor students about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response. Additionally, the Board will implement a technology protection measure to block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that contain obscene material, contain child pornography, or are harmful to minors and ensure that such filtering technology is operative during computer use by minor students.

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#### SAFETY/ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Student safety on campus and at school related events is a high priority of the District. Although the District has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensure school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- Follow the school's code of conduct
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of staff who are overseeing the welfare of students.

# SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The school district recognizes the value of certain ceremonies and observances in promoting patriotism and good citizenship among the students. Therefore, activities in schools commemorating national holidays such as Memorial Day, Thanksgiving and President's Day are encouraged. Wallingford Public Schools reminds students, faculty and administration of the variety of religious beliefs, and all are urged to be conscious of and respect the sensitivities of others.

Activities related to a religious holiday or theme will be planned to ensure that the activity is not devotional, and that students of all faiths can join without feeling that they are betraying their own beliefs. Therefore, school and class plays shall not be overly religious, and church-like scenery will be avoided; religious music shall not entirely dominate the selection of music; and program notes and illustrations shall not be religious or sectarian.

Students shall be given the option to be excused from participating in those parts of a program or curriculum involving a religious theme which conflicts with their own religious beliefs. If a parent or student has any questions regarding the use of religious music, artwork and/or symbols in a particular course/activity, the building principal should be contacted.

# **SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCE (continued)**

An opportunity will be provided, at the beginning of each school day, for students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Participation in these activities is voluntary. Non-participants are expected to maintain order and decorum appropriate to the school environment.

# **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

The right to inspect desks, lockers and other equipment assigned to students may be exercised by school officials to safeguard students, their property and school property.

#### I. Lockers and Desks

School administrators are charged with the responsibility of operating the schools in a manner which will safeguard the health, welfare, and safety of students and school personnel. Thus, the school administration may search a locker or desk if the administrator has reasonable grounds to suspect that a search will turn up evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

School lockers and desks are the property of the schools and are provided to students for their convenience. Students are therefore warned not to store items in lockers which they do not want to bring to the attention of

school authorities. Students cannot expect their lockers or desks to be free from inspection if the administration considers a search necessary to maintain the integrity of the school environment and to protect other students. The exercise of the right to inspect also requires protection of each student's personal privacy and protection from coercion.

An authorized school administrator may search a student's locker or desk under the following conditions:

- 1. There is reason to believe that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school and that the student's desk or locker may contain weapons, contraband material, or evidence of the commission of a crime.
- 2. The probable presence of contraband material poses a serious threat to the maintenance of discipline, order, safety, or health in the school.
- 3. The student has been notified in advance that school board policy allows desks and lockers to be inspected if the administration has reason to believe that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school and that the student's desk or locker may contain weapons, contraband material, or evidence of the commission of a crime.
- 4. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the infraction.

A search may be made by a police officer with a valid warrant or in connection with a valid arrest. If police are involved, parents should be notified and the principal or other school officials should be present at the time of the search.

# II. Student Search

School authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students or their property when reasonable suspicion indicates that a particular student is in possession of an item or a substance that is prohibited by school board regulations or by law. Student property shall include, but not be limited to, purses, book bags, gym bags, and cars.

The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

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#### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated among students of the school district. Any form of sexual harassment of students by other students or staff members or by students directed to other students or staff members is forbidden. Therefore, the Board condemns all unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature where:

- 1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's educational development or environment, including, but not limited to, grades, course admission, performance evaluations, or academic recommendations;
- **2.** Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for educational decisions affecting such individual; and/or;
- **3.** Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's education performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

#### **Definition of Harassment**

- **A.** Sexual harassment is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, and/or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may be overt or subtle.
- **B.** Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - **1. Verbal:** suggestive or obscene comments, including, but not limited to, sexual innuendos or slurs, obscene letters or notes, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions or invitations, threats;

- **2. Nonverbal:** sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or cartoons, graphic commentaries, suggestive or insulting sounds, leering, whistling, obscene gestures;
- **3. Physical:** unwanted physical contact, including, but not limited to, touching, pinching, brushing the body, impeding or blocking movement, assault.

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# **SOCIAL MEDIA FOR STUDENTS**

The Board of Education (the "Board") recognizes the importance of social media for its students and acknowledges that its students have certain rights under the First Amendment. However, these rights must be balanced against the school's need to maintain order at school and to prevent disruption of the educational process. Accordingly, the Board will regulate students' use of social media on school property or at a school sponsored event, when:

- 1. school officials reasonably forecast that such use shall interfere or disrupt the effective operation of the school district or school sponsored activities/events; or
- 2. such use is used to engage in libelous, defamatory, obscene, profane, vulgar or similarly inappropriate communications or bullying; or
- 3. such use advocates or encourages illegal activity or endangers the health or safety of students, staff or others: or
- 4. such use infringes upon the rights of others; or
- 5. such use violates the law, board policies and/or other school rules or regulations.

The Board may also regulate students' use of social media off school grounds when such use meets the criteria described above and is seriously disruptive of the educational process. Students who violate this policy will be subject to school discipline up to and including expulsion according to Wallingford Public Schools Board policy.

# STUDENT COMPLAINTS

Student complaints or grievances should normally be discussed and given proper consideration through the chain of authority and counsel in the order as follows:

- 1. The teacher
- 2. A building administrator
- 3. The Superintendent of Schools
- 4. The Board of Education

Parents will be granted the identical chain of authority and counsel.

Students with complaints or grievances are also encouraged to seek counsel from support staff (e.g. guidance counselors, social workers); however, support staff is not a part of the formal chain of authority.

# STUDENT RECORDS

Educational records, defined as records directly related to a student, will be kept for each student and will reflect the physical, emotional, social and academic aspects of a student's development in the educational process.

The Wallingford Board of Education recognizes the need to comply with the legal state and federal requirements regarding the confidentiality, access to and amendment of student records. The procedures for the confidentiality of student records shall be consistent with federal statutes, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), as amended, and its implementing and revised regulations, The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and the Connecticut General Statutes.

Safeguards shall be established by the school administration to protect the student and the student's family from invasion of privacy in the collection, maintenance and dissemination of information, and to provide accessibility to recorded information by those legally entitled thereto. Access to inspect or review a student's educational record or any part thereof may include the right to receive copies under limited circumstances.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that all requirements under federal and state statutes shall be carried out by the district. He will develop procedures (administrative regulations) providing for the following:

- 1. Annually informing parents of their rights.
- **2.** Permitting parents to inspect and review educational records, including, at least, a statement of the procedure to be followed by a parent or eligible student who requests to inspect and review the educational records, with an understanding that the procedure may not deny access to educational records; a description of the circumstances in which the district feels it has a legitimate cause to deny a request for a copy of such records; a schedule of fees for copies; and a listing of the types and locations of education records maintained by the school and the titles and addresses of school officials responsible for those records.
- **3.** Not disclosing personally identifiable information from a student's education records without the prior written consent of the student's parent, except as otherwise permitted by administrative regulations; including at least a statement of whether the school will disclose personally identifiable information from the records to other school officials within the school who have been determined by the school to have legitimate educational interests, and, if so, a specification of the criteria for determining which parties are "school officials" and what the school considers to be a "legitimate educational interest"; and a specification of the personally identifiable information to be designated as directory information.
- **4.** Maintaining the record of disclosures of personally identifiable information from a student's education records and permitting a parent to inspect that record.
- **5.** Providing a parent with an opportunity to seek the correction of the student's education records through a request to amend the records or a hearing, and permitting a parent to inspect that record.
- **6.** Guaranteeing access to student records to authorized persons within five days following the date of request.
- **7.** Assuring security of student records.
- **8.** Enumerating and describing the student records maintained by the school system.
- **9.** Annually informing parents under what conditions that their prior consent is not required to disclose information.
- **10.** Ensuring the orderly retention and disposition, per applicable state statutes, of the districts student records.
- 11. Notifying parents of secondary school students that it is required to release the student's name, address and telephone listing to military recruiters and institutions or higher learning upon request. Parents or eligible students may request that the District not release this information, and the District will comply with the request.
- 12. Notifying parents annually of the District's policy on the collection or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose, including arrangements to protect student privacy that are provided by the agency in the event of such collection, disclosure or use.

# TEACHER AND PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Parents have the right to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). The response will indicate whether the teacher is certified for the subject matter and grade taught; the teacher's undergraduate major and any graduate degrees or certifications a teacher may have. Parents will also be advised, if requested as to whether the child is provided service by paraprofessionals and their qualifications.

#### **TESTING**

All students in grades 3 through 5 will participate in state-mandated testing. Special education students participate in this testing except in the rare case when participation in an alternate assessment is designated on the student's IEP.

# TEXTBOOK CARE AND OBLIGATIONS

Students are responsible for the care of books and supplies entrusted to their use. They will be assessed damage to textbooks, equipment or materials. The school reserves the right to withhold privileges until the student pays for or returns textbooks, library books, or other educational materials.

# TRANSFERS AND WITHDRAWALS

Students withdrawing from school must notify the office one week in advance of their last day. At that time, they will be given forms for their parents to complete. Included will be a formal written statement of withdrawal and release of records form.

# **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation of children to and from school is a privilege which is extended to students conditional upon their satisfactory behavior on the bus. Good behavior on a school bus is important particularly from a safety standpoint.

A student, on a school bus or while awaiting transportation who violates the regulations for student behavior or any Board policy or who endangers persons or property, may be subject to suspension or expulsion from transportation privileges and may be subject to further discipline according to the provisions of Board policy.

Bus drivers are required to enforce all rules and regulations adopted by school authorities for the conduct of the pupils who ride the bus. Students should be informed of bus policy annually.

# **Bus Regulations**

- 1. All bus students will be picked up and dropped off only at officially designated stops.
- 2. Students shall board buses promptly.
- 3. Buses will not wait for tardy students who are not at their designated stops at required times.
- 4. Bus passes must be carried by students to be presented to the driver upon request.
- 5. Pupils must take their seats when they enter the bus and remain seated while the bus is in motion.
- 6. Pupils should get on and off the bus only when the bus is fully stopped.
- 7. Upon entering and leaving the bus, pupils shall avoid crowding or in any way disturbing others.
- 8. No pupil shall leave or board the bus without permission of the driver or proper school authorities. Buses will stop only at designated stops.
- 9. Windows will not be opened except with the permission of the bus driver.
- 10. Students who are required to cross a street when boarding or leaving the bus shall cross only in front of the bus after all vehicles traveling the street have come to a full stop.
- 11. The rear door of the bus shall not be used except in an emergency and only when the bus has completely stopped. The signal in an emergency for use of the rear door must be given by the driver.
- 12. Students may not eat or drink on the bus.
- 13. Students will not push or trip another student and may not fight.
- 14. Students will not engage in loud and boisterous conduct.
- 15. Students will not use profanity.
- 16. Throwing articles in or around the bus or out windows of the bus is prohibited.
- 17. Smoking is prohibited.

#### TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMPLAINTS

All complaints concerning school transportation safety are to be made to the bus company – Durham School Services at 203-269-4171.

# **VISITORS**

Parents and other visitors are welcome to visit Parker Farms. All visitors must state their business and present photo identification before being buzzed into the building. They must report directly to the main office to sign in and receive a visitor's badge. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time shall be permitted only with the principal's approval, and such visits shall not be permitted if their duration or frequency interferes with the delivery of instruction or disrupts the normal school environment.

All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct. Disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

# **WELLNESS**

# I. Purpose

Healthy eating patterns and regular physical activity are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and well-being. Healthy eating and regular physical activity can reduce the risk of developing many chronic diseases as adults. Schools have the responsibility, to help students and staff, establish and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Well-planned and well-implemented school nutrition and physical education programs have been shown to positively influence students' health.

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