

VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK

W
A
R
R
I
O
R
S

2013-2014

405 4TH STREET
KEOSAUQUA,
IOWA 52565

319-293-3183

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2013-2014

	PAGE
MODIFICATIONS OF HANDBOOK	4
INTRODUCTION	
Definitions	5
Accreditation and Affiliations	5
Van Buren School History	5
School Song	5
Equal Educational Opportunity	6
Jurisdictional Statement	6
STUDENT ATTENDANCE	
Attendance Policy	6
Attendance and Semester Tests	7
Truancy	7
Closed Campus	8
College Visits	8
Inclement Weather	8
School Day	8
Guided Studies	8
STUDENT HEALTH, WELL BEING AND SAFETY	
Administration of Medication	9
Asbestos Notification	9
Emergency Drills	9
Health Screening	9
Immunizations	10
Physical Examinations	10
School Nurse	10
Sexual Abuse and Harassment by Employees	10
Physical Restraint of Students	10
Student Illness at School	10
Student Insurance	10
STUDENT ACTIVITIES	
Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities	11
Athletic/Activity Events Pep Bus	11
Activity Ticket	11
Assemblies	11
Dances	11
Extra/Co-Curricular Programs	11
Field Trips	11
Class Dues	12
School Sponsored Student Organizations	12
Student Council	12
Student Funds and Fundraising	12
Use of School District Facilities by Student Organizations	12
Good Conduct Policy	12
STUDENT RECORDS	
Educational Records	16
Directory Information	16
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Book and Lab Fees	16
Care of School Property	16
Cheating	17
Citizenship	17
Public Display of Affection	17
Building Boundaries	17

Dress Code	17
Dual Enrollment Students	17
Fines Schedule	17
Illegal Items Found in School or in Student's Possession	18
Search and Seizure	18
Initiations, Hazing and Harassment	18
Interferences at School	19
Cellular Telephones	19
Posting of Information	19
Student Complaints	19
Student Publications	19
Vehicles at School	20
STUDENT SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT	
Honor Roll	20
Academic Status Reports	20
Academic Eligibility Procedure	20
Class Changes	20
Class Loads	21
Course Descriptions	21
Early Graduation	21
Grade Reports	21
Homework	21
Merit Diplomas	21
Talented and Gifted Program	22
Standardized Tests	22
Study Hall	22
MISCELLANEOUS	
Great Prairie AEA	22
Bus Transportation	22
Bus Conduct and Rules	22
Cafeteria and Lunch Period	23
Discipline Policy	23
Internet Use Agreement	24
Due Process	26
Guidance and Counseling	26
Human Growth and Development	26
Inspection of Educational Materials	26
Lockers	26
Lost and Found	27
Open Enrollment	27
Telephone Use during the School Day	27
Vending Machines	27
Visitors/Guests	27
Parent Request of Staff Qualifications	27
APPENDIX	
Graduation	28
Graduation Requirements	28
Rules for Student Conduct	29
Weapons Policy	30

STUDENT HANDBOOK MODIFICATIONS 2013-2014

1. **Semester Tests** - All students are required to take a semester test in at least one core area (math, science, social studies, or language arts) of their choice. Students must inform the office at least 2 weeks prior to the testing date as to which semester test they will be taking. Foreign Language will no longer be considered a core area for semester tests.
2. **Guided Studies** - Teachers will turn in request for students to participate in Guided Studies by 4:00 each day. Guided Studies lists will be posted each day at 8:15 and at the end of 5th period. Students are responsible to check the list. It is not the responsibility of the teacher or office to inform you of the request. Students may be requested for missing or pending assignments or performing below expectations. Students who are requested will be required to attend Guided Studies until they are off the list. Students will no longer be required to stay for the entire week if they are removed from the list. If students complete assignments during the Guided Studies period, they are still required to stay until school is dismissed that day. Students who receive multiple requests in the same week will report to the classes in the order of the request sheet on alternating days.
3. **Guided Studies-** Students who have 3 or more unexcused Guide Studies absences will be required to take ALL semester tests.
4. **Activity Admission-** Students may purchase a student activity ticket for admission to most school district home athletic events. Students not wishing to purchase an activity ticket must pay regular prices to attend school district activities. Students who choose to attend and not pay for admission will be asked to leave the event. The activity ticket can be purchased in the office and offers considerable cost savings from normal admission prices.
5. **Prom-** To help the junior class with the cost of Prom, all attending, with the exception of Van Buren Seniors, will be charged \$10.00 admission.
6. **Cell Phone Policy-** Students will be allowed to carry cell phones during the school day. During class, students will be asked to place their phones in a designated area of the classroom. Teachers may give permission for students to use their phone for appropriate reasons during class time. Using a phone to call, text, or any other reason during class without permission is prohibited. Students are allowed to use cell phones between classes. Use of a phone will not be considered an excused tardy if the student is late. If students fail to follow these expectations, consequences will result. On the first infraction the student may pick up the phone at the end of the school day and the parent will be notified. On the second infraction a parent or guardian will be contacted and they will need to make arrangements for the phone to be picked up and the student will be assigned a lunch detention. On the third violation a meeting with the parent, student and administration will be set up to discuss the issue and the student will be given one hour after school detention.
7. **Lunch Period-** If time is available prior to the scheduled return to class, students may remain in the cafeteria, outside on the front lawn or on the bottom floor adjacent to the lunch room. All other areas are off limits during the lunch period. Students are not allowed on the 2nd or 3rd floor without permission. Students may not go to classrooms during this time without permission from the office.
8. **Lunch-** Students may not use school refrigerators for storage of their lunch.
9. **Office Referrals-** Students who are removed from class for behavior that is disruptive to the education of other students are subject to the following consequences:
 - 1st removal** – after school detention, parent contacted
 - 2nd removal** – after school detention; meeting with student, parent, principal, teacher, and counselor
 - 3rd removal** – a behavior modification plan will be developed with input from the teacher, administration, student, and parents.
 - Additional removals** – after school detention; meeting with parent, principal, teacher, and counselor; and possible withdrawal from the class and may receive WF (withdraw/fail) grade
10. **Merit Diploma-** 3. Must have an overall GPA (grade point average) at or above 3.25 points on a 4 point scale. Previous GPA requirement was 3.0 or higher. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, 19 core units will be required. The current requirement is 17 core units.
11. **Graduation Requirements-** Beginning with the class of 2017, all students will be required to complete 1 credit of Earth Science.

INTRODUCTION

This handbook is intended to provide, in convenient form, information about Van Buren High School. This handbook is designed to assist new students in adjusting to the school and to be a constant reminder of school ideals, policies and procedures. An attempt has been made not to give you an endless list of rules. In general, the best rule you can follow is self direction in a mature and responsible manner.

An atmosphere is desired where all students can pursue their talents without violation of their rights and responsibilities by another student. Our goal is to establish an atmosphere of learning, responsibility and good citizenship.

While at Van Buren it is expected that you will make the best use of your talents and time. When you can do that within the framework of our school, you will have met the challenge of adolescence -- gaining responsibility. Your duty is to accept the challenge to mature responsibly. Our duty is to guide and promote that growth.

Your years at Van Buren can only be what you make of them. Hopefully they will be enjoyable and rewarding. Welcome to Van Buren Jr/Sr High School.

The Van Buren Community School District does not discriminate based on race, national origin, color, language, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, familial status, physical and mental ability or disability, age, religion, creed, physical attributes, ancestry, socioeconomic status, political party preference and political beliefs.

Respect

Respect is a term you will hear consistently throughout the building. All students are expected to be respectful of all other students and staff in the building. You will, in turn, be treated with respect. Respectful behavior in the classrooms, halls, and at activities will help to promote a positive learning environment where every student can reach their highest potential.

Definitions

In this handbook, the word "parent" also means "guardian" unless otherwise stated. An administrator's title, such as superintendent or principal, also means that individual's designee unless otherwise stated. The term "school grounds" includes the school district facilities, school district property, property within the jurisdiction of the school district or school district premises, school-owned or school-operated buses or vehicles and chartered buses. The term "school facilities" includes school district buildings. The term "school activities" means all school activities in which students are involved whether they are school-sponsored or school-approved, whether they are an event or an activity, or whether they are held on or off school grounds.

Accreditation And Affiliations

The Van Buren High School is fully recognized and accredited by the Department of Education for the State of Iowa. Membership is held in the Iowa High School Athletic and Music Associations, the Girl's Athletic Union and the Southeast Iowa Super Conference. The SEI Super Conference is made up of 21 southeast Iowa high schools with divisional competition created for many of the activities.

Description of Van Buren School's History

The present Van Buren Community Schools are the outgrowth of four different reorganizations. The first of these included the former Keosauqua Independent School District and several rural districts immediately adjacent to it. This reorganization became effective on July 1, 1959. Approximately two years later, the Douds-Leando Consolidated School District and the Van Buren Community School District approved a merger between these two districts. The third reorganization became effective on July 1, 1963. Involved were the former Stockport Independent School District, the Birmingham Independent School District and several rural Independent school districts in addition to the then present Van Buren Community School District. This represents the present district after the reorganizations. The 1963-64 school years were the first year of operation under this newly formed Van Buren Community School District. In 2002 Van Buren and Fox Valley began a whole grade sharing agreement for grades 7-12. In 2003 a reorganization vote was taken by both districts and beginning in the fall of 2004 a new Van Buren district was formed.

School Song

Let's give a cheer for dear old orange and black,
Our motto's forward, forward, never back,
We're sure our team is going to win tonight,
Van Buren's team will always fight, will always fight,
So let us show the world our school is best,
You make the score boys and we'll do the rest,
So let us take our hats off with a cheer, for our dear orange and black.
(Yell)

VBH
VBH

Equal Educational Opportunity

It is the policy of the Van Buren Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status in its programs, activities or employment practices as required by Iowa Code section 216.7. If you have questions or grievances related to compliance with this policy by Van Buren Community School District, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Grimes State Office Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines IA 50319-1004 or phone 515-281-4121.

Jurisdictional Statement

This handbook is an extension of board policy and is a reflection of the goals and objectives of the board. The board, administration and employees expect students to conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students are expected to treat teachers, other employees, students, visitors and guests with respect and courtesy. Students may not use abusive language, profanity or obscene gestures.

This handbook and school district policies, rules and regulations are in effect while students are on school grounds, school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated buses or vehicles or chartered buses; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district or involves students or staff. School district policies, rules and regulations are in effect during the school year and time of extracurricular activity program operation. A violation of a school district policy, rule or regulation may result in disciplinary action and may affect a student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

Students are expected to comply with and abide by the school district's policies, rules and regulations. Students who fail to abide by the school district's policies, rules and regulations may be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with the education program; conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity; conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to obtain their education or to participate in school activities; or conduct which interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, suspension, probation and expulsion. Discipline can also include prohibition from participating in extracurricular activities, including athletics. The discipline imposed is based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident and the student's record.

The school reserves and retains the right to modify, eliminate or establish school district policies, rules and regulations as circumstances warrant, including those contained in this handbook. Students are expected to know the contents of this handbook and are to comply with this handbook. Students or parents with questions or concerns may contact the principal for information about the current enforcement of the policies, rules or regulations of the school district.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a complicated but extremely vital part of the functioning of any school district. Legislation passed now requires attendance until age 16 and makes parents responsible for non-compliance.

Students are expected to be in class and to make attendance a top priority. Only through attendance and class participation do students achieve the benefits of the education program. Participating in class discussion, developing an appreciation for the views and abilities of other students, and forming the habit of regular attendance are legitimate class objectives. Learning lost due to an absence can never be regained. Regular attendance and being well prepared for class help students in school as well as prepare students for adulthood.

Students who need to leave school during the school day must receive permission from the office and have a note signed by the student's parents, have their parents telephone the office or have their parents pick them up. Students who return to class or arrive after the school day has begun must present a signed note from their parents to the office for re-admission. Students are not released to anyone other than their parents during the school day unless the office has received authorization from the student's parents.

Students participating in school activities must be in school at least one-half day (periods 5-8) on the day of the event in order to participate in a school activity. The remaining half-day must receive an excused absence if participation is to be allowed. The principal ONLY under extraordinary circumstances may waive this rule.

Students are responsible for arranging to make up schoolwork and are allowed to make up schoolwork only upon the approval of the principal. Students who know they are going to be absent prior to an absence must make arrangements with the office and their teachers in advance to make up schoolwork. Students, in general, have two days make-up time for each day of excused absence. Lengthy excused absences, four consecutive days or more, may require special make-up arrangements. Students may not receive credit for assignments due to unexcused absences but are still responsible to turn all assignments in.

VAN BUREN JR/SR. HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is a vital part of education and absentees should be minimized.

In order to be re-admitted to school after an absence, the student must present a written excuse signed by a parent, explaining the absence. The student will then be given a class admittance slip marked as excused or unexcused, which is to be presented to the teacher at the beginning of each class period.

If a student forgets or fails to bring a signed note from his/her parents, a temporary admittance slip marked unexcused will be given to the student until such time as a properly signed note is presented. If the absence is changed to an excused absence, it is the responsibility of the student to again present the corrected admit slip to teachers so their records can be corrected.

Excused absences will be granted for the following: personal illness, family death, religious holidays, family vacations and emergency situations. If an emergency situation arises where the student had no advance knowledge of the need to be absent from school, parents of the student must contact the school on the day of the absence if it is to be excused.

If for any reason (other than illness or emergency situations) it is necessary that a student be out of school, it is important that prior notice be given to the principal. Parents are asked to write or call, making the principal aware of the planned absence. Five (5) day prior approval will be granted for medical and dental appointments, court appearances, and driver's license examinations. Other requests for absences may not be granted. Both parents and students need to weigh the importance of the planned absence against class work missed.

Vacation with Parents, Legal Guardian

1. Parents must notify the office at least one week prior to student leaving on vacation.
2. It is the responsibility of the pupil to obtain all assignments from his/her respective teachers and make arrangements ahead of time to complete work.
3. An "F" will be given for work not completed.
4. All days will be counted toward the 10 allowed absence days.

Unexcused absences include all absences not previously mentioned above. Students receive zero credit for work missed during the time of the unexcused absence and have no make-up privileges. Some examples of unexcused absences are: "Got in late, needed to sleep"; "Had to finish my homework"; "Car wouldn't start"; "Had to look for a job"; Leaving school without signing out in the office; Oversleeping; Haircuts; Personal business; Shopping trips, Non-Family vacations. Three (3) tardies will count as one (1) absence for that class(es) and will go towards the 10-Day Absence Policy.

Truancy is defined as being absent without parent and/or office permission. Each child is required to attend school for 148 days, to be met by attendance for at least 37 each school quarter. Truancy is treated as an unexcused absence and results in detention or suspension.

Any absence, excused or unexcused, beyond ten (10) per class during a semester results in any additional absences that semester being recorded as unexcused. Parents may request a conference with the building principal if they believe extenuating circumstances should be considered in determining whether an exemption to the ten (10) day policy should be granted. Days of student absence which will not be counted as a part of this ten (10) day policy are: student subpoena to appear in court; the student is hospitalized; and the student is participating as a representative of the school in school sponsored activities.

Parents are requested to telephone the school (293-3183) in advance of or on the day of a student absence. Please call between 7:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on the date of each absence unless prior arrangements have been made with school officials. Parents failing to call the school by 9:00 a.m. will be, if possible, contacted by the principal's office by noon on the day of an absence to verify the absence and reason for the absence.

Attendance and Semester Tests

We are using a semester test waiver as a positive reinforcement for students who have outstanding attendance. A student who is absent less than 4 periods per class (per semester) may be excused from taking the semester test for that class. Any student may elect to take semester tests without jeopardizing his/her grade.

The following absences will not count toward the policy: school sponsored activities, school sponsored college visits, bereavement, jury duty, or court appearances. Suspensions will count toward the policy.

Any student who is absent 4 or more days in one class period will be required to take the semester test in that class. Three tardies in one period will count as 1 absence for that class. Failure to take the semester test will result in the student receiving an "F" for the exam.

All students are required to take a semester test in at least one core area (math, science, social studies, or language arts) of their choice. Students must inform the office at least 2 weeks prior to the testing date as to which semester test they will be taking.

Students who have missed less than four days and are performing below teacher expectations may be required to take the test if the test score will help them pass the class. Each individual teacher will be responsible for informing any student that needs to take the semester test.

Students will be required to take their semester tests during the period(s) scheduled unless prior approval is granted by the teacher and principal. Students who fail to report to the scheduled testing period will receive an “F” on the test. Students must remain in the testing period until it is finished.

Closed Campus

The High School operates under the closed campus concept. Students are not allowed to leave school grounds once they have arrived at school unless it is a part of their approved educational program or the student has obtained office permission. If leaving during the school day for any reason other than your approved course of study, you must obtain office permission and sign out prior to leaving.

The closed campus concept also applies to time designated as the lunch period. Students will be allowed to go home for lunch if picked up by a parent or the student can walk. Students need to sign out in the office to go home for lunch. Students waiting for buses after school must remain on campus (on the front lawn and sidewalk). Students who leave the campus at dismissal time and then come back on to the campus will be denied bus-riding privileges on that afternoon. You must remain on campus if you are going to ride a bus home. Failure to abide by closed campus rules may result in further disciplinary action (detention/suspension).

College Visits

Seniors are encouraged to visit college campuses on weekends or school holidays. However, if that cannot be arranged, seniors may be excused up to three days to visit college campuses with the prior permission of the guidance counselor and with a note signed by the student’s parents. Juniors should visit campuses during the summer prior to their senior year whenever possible. Juniors will be allowed 1 day with the permission of the guidance counselor and a signed note from the student’s parent.

Inclement Weather

If it is necessary to cancel school due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, attempts will be made to notify the following T.V./radio stations:

KTVO	Channel 3	Kirksville/Ottumwa
KYOU	Channel 15	Ottumwa
KMEM	96.7 FM	Memphis
KMCD	1570 AM	Fairfield
WHO	1040 AM	Des Moines
KBIZ	1240 AM	Ottumwa
KOTM/KLEE	97.7 FM/1480 AM	Ottumwa
KISS/KRKS	101.5 FM/104.3 FM	Ottumwa
KILJ	105.5 FM	

Van Buren has an automated notification system. This system automatically calls telephones and/or cell phones, sends emails or texts, whichever the patron/parent of the district prefers. Sign up is free and is available at registration or at any center. The superintendent determines whether buses will follow the regular routes. If the buses do not follow the regular routes, they follow emergency routes or the parents are responsible for picking up the students at the student’s school.

Extracurricular activities or practices scheduled for the day or evening of a day when school is canceled or dismissed early are generally canceled and re-scheduled. The activities director determines whether to hold after school activities on these days and advises participants of the status of these activities.

School Day

The High School classes operate on the same time schedule with first period classes beginning at 8:20 a.m. and the student day concluding at 3:35 p.m. The school day is made up of eight periods with each being 45 minutes in length. There are three minutes of passing time between classes with all students having a 25 minute lunch period.

Guided Studies

Guided Studies is a scheduled opportunity for students to increase overall achievement and catch up on missing assignments. ALL assignments are required! Guided Studies will be from 3:10 – 3:35 each school day. If a late start or early release schedule is followed, guided studies will not be held.

Students in guided studies must be held to the same expectations as any other class period. Students are expected to be productive and respectful of other students in the room. Talking should be very limited unless group work is occurring. Teachers are expected to make expectations clear to students each week and hold students to a high standard to maximize productivity.

Teachers will turn in request for students to participate in Guided Studies by 4:00 each day. Guided Studies lists will be posted each day at 8:15 and at the end of 5th period. Students are responsible to check the list. It is not the responsibility of the teacher or office to inform you of the request. Students may be requested for missing or pending assignments or performing below expectations. Students who are requested will

be required to attend Guided Studies until they are off the list. Students will no longer be required to stay for the entire week if they are removed from the list. If students complete assignments during the Guided Studies period, they are still required to stay until school is dismissed that day. Students who receive multiple requests in the same week will report to the classes in the order of the request sheet on alternating days.

Students who are not requested may do any of the following from 3:10 – 3:35:

- 1) Report to study hall.
- 2) Report to the announced area for supervised free time.
- 3) Students who are not riding a bus may sign out and walk or drive home. Students who leave campus are not allowed to ride buses if they return.
- 4) Report to a class room for enrichment opportunities with teacher permission.

NO after school activities are allowed to start prior to 3:35. Students are not allowed to go to the locker room area until the 3:35 dismissal bell. Students, who leave campus, may not re-enter for after school activities until the 3:35 dismissal bell. No students are allowed to be in the halls during guided studies without a pass.

Students who have been requested for Guided Studies are expected to attend. If students choose not to attend, they will be considered skipping and appropriate disciplinary procedures will be followed. This may include detention and/or suspension. Students who have 3 or more unexcused Guide Studies absences will be required to take ALL semester tests.

STUDENT HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND SAFETY

Administration of Medication

Students may need to take prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours. The school must know the medications a student is taking in the event the student has a reaction or illness. Students must provide written instructions for administration of the medication as well as parental authorization to administer the medication.

Medication is held in a locked cabinet and distributed by authorized personnel. Medication must be in the original container with the following information either on the container, in the instruction sheet or in the parental authorization: name of the student; name of the medication; directions for use including dosage, times and duration; name, address and telephone number of the physician; and potential side effects of the medication.

Asbestos Notification

Asbestos has been an issue of concern for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA) was designed to determine the extent of asbestos concerns in the schools and to act as a guide in formulating asbestos management policies for the schools.

Asbestos has been used as a building material for many years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa and the U.S.S.R. The properties of asbestos make it an ideal material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fire proofing and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There has been over 3,000 different products manufactured using asbestos. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began action to limit its uses in 1973. Most of the asbestos products used as building materials were banned by 1978.

The school district facilities have been inspected by a certified asbestos inspector as required by AHERA. The inspector located, sampled and determined the condition and hazard potential of all material in the school facilities suspected of containing asbestos. The inspection and laboratory analysis records form the basis of the asbestos management plan.

A certified management planner has developed an asbestos management plan for the school district facilities which includes: notification letters, training for employees, a set of procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos-containing materials, and plans for regular surveillance of the materials. A copy of the management plan is available for inspection in the Superintendent's office.

Emergency Drills

Periodically the school holds emergency fire and tornado drills. At the beginning of each semester, teachers notify students of the procedures to follow in the event of a drill. Emergency procedures and proper exit areas are posted in all rooms.

Students are expected to remain quiet and orderly during a drill or an emergency. Students who pull the fire alarm or call in false alarms, in addition to being disciplined under the school district's policies, rules and regulations, may be reported to law enforcement officials.

Health Screening

Throughout the year, the school district may sponsor health screening for vision, hearing, scoliosis and height/weight measurements. Students are automatically screened unless the parent submits a note asking the student be excused from the screening. Upon a teacher's recommendation and with parental permission, students not scheduled for screening may also be screened.

Immunizations

Prior to starting school or when transferring into the school district, students must present an approved Iowa Department of Public Health immunization certificate signed by a health care provider stating that the student has received the immunizations required by law. Students without the proper certificate are not allowed to attend school until they receive the immunizations or the student makes arrangements with the principal. Only for specific medical or religious purposes are students exempted from the immunization requirements. Parents who have questions in regard to this requirement should contact the attendance center office or school nurse.

Physical Examinations

Students participating in athletics are required to provide a school district physical examination form signed by the student's doctor stating the student is physically fit to participate in athletics prior to the start of the sport. Failure to provide proof of a physical examination makes the student ineligible. Students who cannot afford the cost of the physical examination should contact the coach of their sport.

School Nurse

The district employs a full time school nurse and has responsibilities shared between the two attendance centers. The contracted time runs concurrent with days of student attendance. The nurse's office is located near the main office. The nurse's daily schedule is established on an annual basis. Students in need of these services should advise the attendance center secretary to determine appropriate procedures.

Sexual Abuse and Harassment of Students by Employees

The school district does not tolerate employees physically or sexually abusing or harassing students. Students who are physically or sexually abused or harassed by an employee should notify their parents, teacher, principal or another employee. The Iowa Department of Education has established a two-step procedure for investigating allegations of physical or sexual abuse of students by employees. That procedure requires the school district to designate an independent investigator to look into the allegations. The school district has designated the building principal and school nurse at 293-3183 as its Level I investigators.

Physical abuse is a non-accidental physical injury that leaves a mark at least 24 hours after the incident. While employees cannot use physical force to discipline a student, there are times when the use of physical force is appropriate. The times when physical force is appropriate include, but are not limited to, times when it is necessary to stop a disturbance, to obtain a weapon or other dangerous object, for purposes of self-defense or to protect the safety of others, to remove a disruptive student, to protect others from harm, for the protection of property or to protect a student from self-infliction of harm.

Sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to, sexual acts involving a student and intentional sexual behavior as well as sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of the student's education or benefits; submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that student; or the conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment.

Physical Restraint of Students

Code: 501.5

State law forbids school employees from using corporal punishment against any student. Certain actions by school employees are not considered corporal punishment. Additionally, school employees may use "reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain" to do certain things, such as prevent harm to persons or property.

State law also places limits on school employees' abilities to restrain or confine and detain any student. The law limits why, how, where and or how long a school employee may restrain or confine and detain a child. If a child is restrained or confined and detained, the school must maintain documentation and must provide certain types of notice to the child's parent.

Student Illness or Injury at School

A student who becomes ill or is injured at school must notify his or her teacher or another employee as soon as possible. In the case of a serious illness or injury, the school shall attempt to notify the parents according to office records. If the student is too ill to remain in school, the student is released to the student's parents or, with parental permission, to another person directed by the parents. If the illness or injury is serious enough the school will call the ambulance.

Student Insurance

Student insurance is available to all students. Information relative to insurance and the protection it provides will be available to interested parties at the time of fall registration. Purchase of insurance is optional. Parents of students involved in athletic programs must sign a waiver stating they are covered by adequate insurance if they choose not to purchase insurance available through the school.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities

Under Iowa law students must meet the requirements of “Scholarship Rule,” 36.15 (2) to participate in extracurricular activities. This policy can be viewed at www.ighsau.org or www.iahsaa.org.

Athletic/Activity Events Bus

The school district may sponsor a pep bus to transport students to school activities. A fee may be charged to students riding the pep bus. Riding on the pep bus is a privilege that can be revoked.

Students who ride an activity bus must ride to and from the event on the bus. Students must ride home on the activity bus unless prior arrangements have been made with the principal or the student’s parents personally appear at the event and request to transport the student home.

Activity Tickets

Students may purchase a student activity ticket for admission to most school district home athletic events. Students not wishing to purchase an activity ticket must pay regular prices to attend school district activities. Students who choose to attend and not pay for admission will be asked to leave the event. The activity ticket can be purchased in the office and offers considerable cost savings from normal admission prices.

Assemblies

Throughout the year the school district sponsors school assemblies. Attendance at these assemblies is a privilege. Students must act in an orderly fashion and remain quiet on their way to an assembly, during an assembly and on their way back to the classroom after an assembly. Students attend assemblies unless, for disciplinary reasons, the privilege is taken away. Students who are not attending assemblies shall report to the cafeteria for a study hall while the assembly is being conducted.

Dances

School-sponsored dances must be approved by Administration. Students who leave a dance are not allowed to re-enter the dance. School district policies, rules and regulations apply to students as well as non-students at school dances. Students and non-students violating school district policies, rules or regulations will be asked to leave the dance and school grounds and may be subject to further discipline by the school.

School-sponsored dances are for Van Buren High School students and their dates only. Van Buren students must sign their date up in the office in advance or their date will not be allowed entry to the dance. No one over 20 years old will be allowed to attend school sponsored dances, including prom. Students and non-student dates must dress appropriately. Tattered jeans and tee shirts are not appropriate dress. School dress code is expected to be followed by all who attend dances.

Extra/Co-Curricular Programs

A wide variety of extra/co- curricular programs are offered to Van Buren students. These programs are designed to offer opportunities for exploring, developing, and widening the student’s range of interest and to help the student develop leadership and poise.

Eligibility for participation in the athletic program is governed through use of the state “Scholarship Rule”. Athletes and co-curricular program participants must be in school at least one-half day (periods 5-8) on the day of an activity, or have prior administrator approval, if they are to be eligible for participation in any activity scheduled for that day. The remaining half-day must be recorded as an excused absence if participation is to be allowed.

Students are not allowed to participate in the athletic portion of the activities program until they have completed a physical exam and have purchased insurance or have a parent- signed waiver of insurance coverage. An activity bus schedule and a copy of the Athletic Training Regulations are given to the student/athlete at the start of each sport.

Field Trips

In certain classes field trips and excursions are authorized and may be taken as an extension of the classroom to contribute to the achievement of the educational goals of the school district. If a field trip is required for a course, students are expected to attend the field trip. Absences in other classes or school activities due to attendance on field trips or excursions are considered excused absences.

While on field trips, students are guests and considered ambassadors and representatives of the school district. Students must treat employees, chaperones and guides with respect and courtesy.

State Science/FFA Events/Physics Olympics/IHCC and other school sponsored trips - Students must be academically eligible to attend these events. Students that are over the 10 day attendance policy will not be eligible for trips.

Prior to attending a field trip, students may be required to submit a note signed by the student's parents. Required fees, if applicable, must accompany the permission form. Students unable to afford the cost of the field trip should contact their teacher.

Students will be ineligible for school sponsored trips that take place during the school day if they have failed any course during the last grading period (quarter/semester).

Class Responsibilities

Graduation and prom are costly events. Students are expected to assist in paying the costs of these events by working in the concession stand and raise money for their class. Each grade will be provided three (3) dates to work. If students want to work, but cannot make the dates scheduled, we will make accommodations for these students.

Prom

To help the junior class with the cost of Prom, all attending, with the exception of Van Buren Seniors, will be charged \$10.00 admission.

School-Sponsored Student Organizations

School-sponsored student organizations are those which are recognized by the school district and Board of Education. Participation in these organizations is a privilege. Individual sponsors or coaches may impose rules in addition to those contained in this handbook. The privilege of participation may be suspended or revoked for violating an individual coach's or sponsor's rules as well as for violation of school district policies, rules or regulations.

Student Council

The student council provides for student activities, serves as a training experience for student leaders, gives students a share in the management of the school, develops high ideals of personal conduct, acts as a clearinghouse for student activities, seeks to interest students in school district affairs and helps solve problems that may arise. Members of the council are student representatives elected by their peers.

Student Funds and Fundraising

Students may raise funds for school activities upon approval of the principal at least four weeks prior to the fundraising event or the start of a fundraising campaign. Funds raised remain in the control of the school district and the board. School-sponsored student organizations must have the approval of the principal and/or athletic director prior to spending the money raised. Fundraising for non-school activities by students is not allowed on school grounds.

Use of School District Facilities by Student Organizations

School district facilities are available during non-school hours to school-sponsored and non-school-sponsored student organizations for the purpose of meetings or activities. Students wishing to use the school district facilities should contact their sponsor and the principal to reserve a room. School district policies, rules and regulations are in effect during these meetings.

Good Conduct Policy

Code No. 504.2R

ATHLETIC TRAINING REGULATIONS – GOOD CONDUCT RULE

PHILOSOPHY

It is the philosophy of the Van Buren School Board, administrators and faculty that students represent their school in a positive manner at all times in and out of the school setting. It is reasonable to expect each Van Buren Student to conduct himself or herself at all times in a proper and legal manner as this behavior is reflective of the district. Students also serve as role models for peers and younger students; therefore their attitudes and actions have an impact on others.

We believe that participating in any Extra-Curricular Activity and school event is a privilege. Those who participate are expected to maintain high standards of behavior. It is also our belief that through an educational treatment program and/or community service, students can learn how to change their behavior so as not to repeat violations of the Good Conduct Policy. This policy will afford students with the opportunity to have a positive learning experience as a participant in the activities or program.

CONDUCT RULE

Students who participate in extracurricular activities and school events are representing their school and are therefore expected to conduct themselves in a manner that represents the ideals, principles and standards of the Van Buren Community School District as detailed in the district policy and Iowa Code. Students who fail to represent the school in an acceptable manner will be subject to disciplinary procedures as set forth in the guidelines below. This policy is in effect and applies to student conduct 365 days a year for all students beginning the summer after their 6th grade year through the summer of their 12th grade year.

A student may lose eligibility under the policy for any of the following behaviors:

- Possession, use or purchase of tobacco products, regardless of the students age;
- Possession, use or purchase of alcoholic beverages as defined by Iowa Code 123.3;
- Being in a car or in attendance at a function/gathering/party where alcohol or other drugs are being consumed illegally by minors**;
- Possession, use or purchase of illegal drugs, prescription drugs not prescribed for you, or look-alike drugs (such as, but not limited to, salvia, k2, spice, etc);
- Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses and misdemeanor hunting/fishing violations, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act (stealing, damage to school property or that of school personnel, etc);
- Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct toward others; such as assaulting staff or students, insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authority), hazing, or harassment of others;
- Inappropriate or offensive behaviors that are not conducive to a high quality extra-curricular program or fail to represent the school in a manner acceptable to the coach/sponsor and school administration.
- Electronic communications, including but not limited to, email, internet-based communications, cell phones, and text messages, that either (a) materially and substantially disrupt appropriate school discipline or reasonably can be expected to do so; (b) interferes with the rights of others to participate in the educational process; (c) threatens conduct which would endanger the health, safety or well-being of students, school personnel, or volunteers; or (d) advocates illegal activity. The conduct prohibited by this policy is in addition to the conduct prohibited by the district's anti-bullying policy.
- Maintaining or posting on a website, social network page, blog or other form of communication that disparages the district, its students, or its staff or which depicts illegal or inappropriate behavior will be considered a violation of this code.

**If a student finds him/herself in a situation (vehicle, room, function, gathering, party, etc.) where alcohol or other drugs are being consumed illegally by minors, the student's options are:

1. Leave the situation immediately

Or

2. Stay and risk the loss of eligibility as determined by the Good Conduct Policy

CONSEQUENCES

A student who is found to be in violation of the Good Conduct Policy will be deemed ineligible for a period of time as described below. Ineligibility means that the student who is declared ineligible will be prohibited from making any public appearance on behalf of the school; athletics, any extra-curricular performances, organizations, or honorary offices (including Queen/King candidates and attendants). He/She may not attend any school sponsored dances (including prom and homecoming) or go on any school sponsored trips other than class required field trips.

1 st Offense	20% of contest/performance dates (ie; if a double header or two matches would occur on one day this would count as 1 missed contest/performance) OR 10% of contest/performance dates if the student elects to attend either 1) a 6 hour Substance Abuse Training Course, if the offense is alcohol, tobacco, or drug related or 2) 6 hours of approved education program if the offense is violence, bullying/harassment related.
2 nd Offense	50% of contest/performance dates OR 30% of contest/performance dates if the student elects to participate in either 1) a Substance Abuse evaluation or other approved evaluation service, if the offense is alcohol, tobacco, or drug related or 2) a mental health evaluation if the offense is violence, bullying or harassment related.
3 rd (or subsequent) Offense	12 calendar months of ineligibility

Number of Contest /Events for each activity and ineligibility period: See Activities Table.

PROBATION

For any student transitioning from Middle school (8th grade) to high school (9th grade) with code of conduct violations they will experience a probationary period during their 9th grade year beginning during the summer of their 8th grade year and extending through the end of the school year of their 9th grade year. If the student receives no conduct violations during this probationary year all violations from middle school will be expunged from their record. If they receive ANY violations of the conduct policy during this probationary period ALL middle school violations will transfer to high school.

COMMUNITY SERVICE- For activities only having one performance or trip per year the student may “work-off” their ineligibility by performing 15 hours (1st offense) or 30 hours (2nd offense) of community service. Service must be approved by administration and the proper forms must be completed and signed by a supervisor before eligibility can be regained.

INELIGIBILITY- Ineligibility begins immediately for any student currently engaged in any extracurricular activity in violation of this policy. If a student is not currently in an activity, or if the discipline cannot be completed during the current activity, the discipline will be carried over and completed with the next activity. An ineligible student will attend all practices and rehearsals at the direction of the coach/sponsor, but will not be allowed to participate or wear team uniforms in competitions or performances. However, if a student drops out of an activity prior to completion of the period of ineligibility, the discipline will be applied to the next available activity. Eligibility begins at the completion of 6th grade and extends through the summer after graduation. Ineligibility will continue through any appeals process.

SERVING- If a student is involved in concurrent activities the student will be deemed ineligible from all activities until they have regained eligibility. The student will regain eligibility based on their predominant activity level; ie JV or Varsity.

TRANSFER- If a student transfers in from another school district and the student had not yet completed a period of ineligibility for a violation of a Good Conduct Policy in the previous district, the student shall be ineligible until the full period of ineligibility has been completed. The full period will be based on the previous schools policy with consideration given to the Van Buren School District policy. The administration has the authority to determine the length and severity of ineligibility when the policies do not correspond. The determination shall not be a shorter time period than the shortest time period stated between the two schools.

DUE PROCESS

The following procedure is set up to ensure that all students are afforded due process:

1. The Activities Director and/or Administrator will meet with the student and listen to his/her possible involvement.
2. If a student admits to being involved, the parents will be notified of the appropriate discipline.
 - a. Student will call parent in the presence of the school official and relate the circumstances to the parent, if student refuses then school official will call the parent.
 - b. When the parent cannot be reached by phone, then a notification letter will be sent via email or U.S. Mail for the parent to sign and acknowledge they have seen the letter by signing it and returning it. Parents have the option of calling rather than returning the letter.
 - c. If the letter is not returned or a phone call received from the parents, then the school will consider the notification process complete, discipline enforced, and a notification letter will be sent via email or U.S. Mail.
3. If a student denies involvement, a committee consisting of the coach/sponsor, activities director and the building administrator will meet with the student and the student’s parents, when possible, to further explore the violation. If the committee decides that it can be reasonably determined that the student was involved in behaviors that violate this policy, administration will notify the student and parents of the decision regarding the discipline.

Ineligibility begins immediately for any student currently engaged in any extracurricular activity in violation of this policy and will continue through any appeals process.

APPEALS PROCESS

1. Any student who is found by the committee to have violated the Good Conduct Policy may appeal by contacting the superintendent within 3 business days of being advised of the violation. The discipline will be in effect pending the superintendent’s decision.
2. If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may appeal to the school board by filing a written appeal with the board secretary at least 24 hours prior to the next board meeting. The review by the board will be in closed session. The grounds for appeal to the school board are limited to the following; (a) the student did not violate the policy; (b) the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; (c) the discipline is in violation of the Board Policy. The discipline will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the board.

If the school board reverses the decision of the committee, the student shall be immediately eligible and have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student’s record.

REPORTING VIOLATIONS OF GOOD CONDUCT POLICY

The activities director and/or administrator will make the determination if a student has violated the Good Conduct Policy or deemed to be in violation by any or a combination of the following:

1. Charged by law enforcement
2. Student admits to violating one of the items in the Good Conduct Policy

3. Witness of violating one of the items of the Good Conduct Policy by one or more staff members or numerous credible witnesses on or off campus.
 - a. Staff members will notify the student of the misconduct immediately upon witness.
 - b. Staff member will then notify the athletic director or building administrator of misconduct.

The coach/sponsor of any activity may issue additional requirements for their specific activity. These rules shall be presented to each student participating in the extra-curricular activity at the start of the “season” and a copy filed for approval with the activities director and building administrator.

ACTIVITIES TABLE

Event	Number of Performances	1 st infraction- 20%	2 nd Infraction- 50%
Baseball	25	5	13
Softball	25	5	13
Football	9	2	5
JV Football	8	2	4
Cross Country	9	2	5
Volleyball	14	3	7
Volleyball JV	11	2	6
V. Boys Basketball	21	4	11
V. Girls Basketball	21	4	11
JV Girls Basketball	12	2	6
JV Boys Basketball	13	3	7
Wrestling	14	3	7
Boys Golf	12	2	6
Girls Golf	11	2	6
Boys Track	10	2	5
Girls Track	12	2	6
JH Baseball	12	2	6
JH Softball	12	2	6
JH Cross Country	7	1	4
JH volleyball	8	2	4
JH Football	6	1	3
JH Boys Basketball	10	2	5

JH Girls Basketball	10	2	5
JH Wrestling	7	1	4
JH Boys Track	7	1	4
JH Girls Track	7	1	4
Wrestling Cheerleading	14	3	7
Football Cheerleading	9	2	5
Music/Flags	20	4	10
Dance Team	1- State competition	15 hours of community service	30 hours community service
Clubs/Activities*	Varies	15 hours of community service	30 hours community service

*Including but not limited to: Spanish Club, National Honor Society, YLC, Student Council, Art Club, ETC, Ag Club, FCCLA, Silver Cord Club, Weightlifting Club

Date of Adoption: March 11, 1998

Date of Review: March 16, 2011

Date of Revision: April 20, 2011

STUDENT RECORDS

Educational Records

Student records containing personally identifiable information, except for directory information, are confidential. Only persons, including employees, who have a legitimate educational interest, are allowed to access a student's records without the parent's permission. Parents may access, request amendments to and copy their child's records during regular office hours. Parents may also file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they feel their rights regarding their child's records have been violated. A complete copy of the school district's policy on student records or the procedure for filing a complaint can be accessed by contacting the building principal.

Directory Information

Student directory information is released without parental permission unless the parent asks the school district not to release it. Parents must notify the school district at the beginning of the school year if they do not want the school district to release directory information. Directory information includes name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, degrees and awards received, most recent educational institution attended, year in school, dates of attendance, and heights and weights of athletes.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Book and Lab Fees

Book and lab fees are determined on an annual basis by the Board of Education. Books must be returned at the end of the class. If books are not returned or have been damaged beyond normal wear and tear, students are charged in accordance with the adopted fines schedule.

Care of School Property

Students are expected to take care of school property including desks, chairs, books, lockers and school equipment. Vandalism is not tolerated. Students found to have destroyed or otherwise harmed school property may be disciplined and required to reimburse the school district. In certain circumstances, students may be reported to law enforcement officials.

Cheating

Students are expected to do their own schoolwork. Cheating by looking at another student's schoolwork, copying others' work, copying from other sources, or similar cheating, is not tolerated. Student violations may result in any or all of the following: disciplinary action, found to be in violation of the Good Conduct policy, loss of class credit.

Citizenship

Being a citizen of the United States, of Iowa and of the school district community entitles students to special privileges and protections as well as requiring the students to assume civic, economic and social responsibilities and to participate in their country, state and school district community in a manner that entitles them to keep these rights and privileges.

As part of the education program, students have an opportunity to learn about their rights, privileges and responsibilities as citizens of this country, state and school district community. As part of this learning opportunity, students are instructed in the elements of good citizenship and the role quality citizens play in their country, state and school district community.

Public Display of Affection

Public display of affection is not acceptable while at school. Students are not to hug, kiss, or show other types of affection while on school grounds or at school activities. Consequences will be determined on a case by case basis.

Building Boundaries

High School students are expected to be only in the high school portion of the building. Students are to use only the south staircase. Students are expected to use only the high school restrooms when possible. Students must have permission from a teacher to pass into the middle school portion of the building. Students who violate these boundaries will be subject to disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the building principal.

Dress Code

There is a strong connection between academic performance, students' appearance and students' conduct. Students are expected to adhere to reasonable levels of cleanliness and modesty. Students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate to their age level and that does not disrupt the school or educational environment. Students are prohibited from wearing clothing that shows cleavage. The following are also inappropriate: low-cut tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, strapless tops, tube tops, extremely short (skirts, dresses, shorts). Tank tops are allowed as long as the straps are one inch wide and follow the dress code policy. Blouses, tops, and shirts must cover the waistband of the bottom clothing apparel while in both the standing and sitting position. Students are not to wear head coverings in the building such as hats, caps, dew rags, bandanas or other head coverings.

Students are prohibited from wearing clothing advertising or promoting items illegal for use by minors, including, but not limited to, alcohol or tobacco; from wearing shoes with cleats except for outdoor athletic practices; and from wearing clothing displaying obscenity, profanity, vulgarity, racial or sexual remarks, making reference to prohibited conduct or similar displays.

While the primary responsibility for appearance rests with the students and their parents, the administration and teachers reserve the right to judge what is proper and what is not. When in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety; the student may be required to make modifications.

Dual Enrollment Students

Home school or home school assistance program students enrolled in classes or participating in school activities in the school district are subject to the same policies, rules and regulations as other students and are disciplined in the same manner as other students. Dual enrollment students interested in participating in school activities or enrolling in classes should contact the building principal.

Fines Schedule

The fines schedule for lost and/or damaged school materials is as follows:

Textbook Replacement	Year 1	Replacement Cost
	Years 2-5	Five Year Pro-Rated Cost
	Years 6 and Beyond	Six Year Pro-Rated Cost
Textbook/Library Book Damage	Torn Pages	\$.25 Per Page
	Minor Damage	\$4.00
	Factory Repair Needed	\$6.00
Workbook/Practice Sets	Year 1	Replacement Cost
	Years 2-3	Three Year Pro-Rated Cost
	Year 4 and Beyond	\$2.00

Library Books

Over-Due Books
Over-Due Reference
Lost/Major Damage

Check Out Privileges Lost Until Corrected
Check Out Privileges Lost Until Corrected + \$1.00
Full Replacement Cost As Determined By
Books In Print Reference Guide

Padlocks

\$3.50

Illegal Items Found in School or in Students' Possession

Students are prohibited from distributing, dispensing, manufacturing, possessing, using, and being under the influence of alcohol, drugs or look-a-like substances; tobacco, tobacco products or look-a-like substances. Weapons including knives, bullets, shells, slugs, ammunitions are not allowed on school grounds or at school activities with the exception of weapons in the control of law enforcement officials or those being used for educational purposes and approved by the principal. Parents of students found in violation of this policy will be contacted, the students may be suspended or expelled and may be reported to law enforcement officials.

Search and Seizure

All school property is held in public trust by the Board of Directors. School authorities may conduct a search of students, lockers, desks, automobiles, or work areas if reasonable suspicion warrants such a search. School authorities may seize any illegal contraband found in said search and may report or turn over said contraband to local authorities. Lockers may routinely be inspected as part of the maintenance program. Students will be given prior notice of such inspections whenever possible.

If there is reasonable evidence of dangerous material in the building, local law enforcement officials may be notified and asked to conduct a search of the facility. Contraband found in such a search will be turned over to authorities for further investigation and possible charges.

Initiations, Hazing or Harassment

Code 501.3/501.4

Sexual harassment may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age or marital status includes conduct of a verbal or physical nature that is designed to embarrass, distress, agitate, disturb or trouble persons when:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of the student's participation in school programs or activities;
- submission to or rejection of such conduct by a student is used as the basis for decisions affecting the student; or
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's performance or creating an intimidating or hostile working or learning environment.

Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to:

- verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse;
- pressure for sexual activity;
- repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications; and
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats.

Harassment based upon factors other than sex includes, but is not limited to:

- verbal, physical, or written harassment or abuse;
- repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, job, etc.; and
- demeaning jokes, stories or activities.

Harassment and abuse are violations of school district policies, rules and regulations and, in some cases, may also be a violation of criminal or other laws. The school district has the authority to report students violating this rule to law enforcement officials.

Students who feel that they have been harassed should:

- Communicate to the harasser that the student expects the behavior to stop, if the student is comfortable doing so. If the student needs assistance communicating with the harasser, the student should ask a teacher, counselor or principal to help.
- If the harassment does not stop, or the student does not feel comfortable confronting the harasser, the student should:
 - tell a teacher, counselor or principal; and
 - write down exactly what happened, keep a copy and give another copy to the teacher, counselor or principal including:
 - what, when and where it happened;
 - who was involved;
 - exactly what was said or what the harasser did;
 - witnesses to the harassment;
 - what the student said or did, either at the time or later;
 - how the student felt; and
 - how the harasser responded

Interferences in School

Students may not possess items such as laser lights, noise makers, or other items which may cause a distraction to the educational setting during the school day. Violators are subject to disciplinary action. The items may be taken away from the student and returned to the parent at a later date.

Cellular Telephones/Music Players

While students may bring music players to school, they are not to be used in classrooms, study halls, or hallways during the school day without permission from the teacher. Students will not be allowed to have headphones on during passing time. Students, who do not follow these expectations, may have their music device confiscated. Parents may be required to pick up the device from the office if repeated violations occur.

Students will be allowed to carry cell phones during the school day. During class, students will be asked to place their phones in a designated area of the classroom. Teachers may give permission for students to use their phone for appropriate reasons during class time. Using a phone to call, text, or any other reason during class without permission is prohibited. Students are allowed to use cell phones between classes. Use of a phone will not be considered an excused tardy if the student is late. If students fail to follow these expectations, consequences will result. On the first infraction the student may pick-up the phone at the end of the school day and the parent will be notified. On the second infraction a parent or guardian will be contacted and they will need to make arrangements for the phone to be picked up and the students will be assigned a lunch detention. On the third violation a meeting with the parent, student and administration will be set up to discuss the issue and the student will be given one hour after school detention.

Posting of Information

Students who wish to post or distribute information must receive permission from the principal at least two days before the posting or distribution. This applies whether the information deals with school-sponsored or non-school-sponsored activities. The principal can explain or answer questions regarding the school's rules on posting and distributing materials.

Student Complaints

Students may file a complaint regarding school district policies, rules and regulations or other matters by complying with the following procedure. This procedure is to be followed except in extreme cases.

- If an employee is involved, discuss the complaint with the employee within five days of the incident;
- If unsatisfied with the employee's response or if there is no employee involved, talk to the principal within five school days of the employee's response or the incident;
- If unsatisfied with the principal's response, talk to the superintendent within five days of the principal's response;
- If unsatisfied with the superintendent's response, students may request to speak to the board within five days of the superintendent's response. The board determines whether it will address the complaint.

Student Publications

Students may produce official school district publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and principal. Official school district publications include, but are not limited to, the school newspaper and yearbook. Expression made by students, including student expression in the school district publications, is not an expression of official school district policy. The school district, the board and the employees are not liable in any civil or criminal action for student expression made or published by students unless the employees or board have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression. Copies of the school district publication code can be obtained from the building principal.

A faculty advisor supervises student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. No student shall express, publish or distribute in an official school district publication material which is:

- obscene;
- libelous;
- slanderous; or
- encourages students to:
 - commit unlawful acts;
 - violate school district policies, rules or regulations;
 - cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
 - disrupt or interfere with the education program;
 - interrupt the maintenance of a safe and orderly atmosphere; or
 - infringe on the rights of others.

Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication should follow the complaint procedure outlined in this handbook.

Vehicles at School

Students driving to and from school are to park the vehicle in the student parking lot once they enter onto school property. Extreme caution must be observed when on school property so as not to endanger the safety of others present. Speeding and wreckless driving on or adjacent to school property is prohibited.

Students are required to vacate the vehicle once it is parked and enter the building. Students are not to enter the parking lot area during the school day without office permission.

Parking on school grounds is a privilege and not a guaranteed right. Students are responsible for their vehicle and therefore advised to keep it locked so as to prevent others from moving the vehicle and parking it in an inappropriate manner. **Student violators of safe driving and/or appropriate parking procedures may lose school parking privileges for an indefinite time period.**

The first row of parking adjacent to the music room doors and the east lot are reserved for staff members only. The remainder of the lot may be used by students. Students who park illegally or in reserved places will be given one warning. If further violations occur, parking privileges will be suspended during the school day for one month.

STUDENT SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Honor Roll

High School students meeting established criteria can qualify for the Honor Roll. The requirements for "A" Honor Roll are a grade point average of 3.67 and above. The "B" Honor Roll requires a grade point average of 3.00-3.66. This is determined after each grading period.

Academic Status Reports

Parents of students in danger of failing course work and/or losing activities program participation are advised of the academic deficiency through written notice. The mailings are made at regularly scheduled intervals and are based upon information submitted by teachers.

VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC STATUS REPORTS TO PARENTS REGARDING IMPENDING COURSE FAILURES AND ELIGIBILITY IMPLICATIONS

Eligibility standards for participation in the Van Buren High School extra/co-curricular programs are established as follows.

If a student is in danger of losing eligibility for participation in extra/co-curricular activities, written notice will be given to parents. These notices will occur throughout the grading period of each quarter and will be given at the following approximate time intervals.

Timelines for notices:

Week 4 -- written notice sent to parents by way of academic status report

Week 9 -- written notice given parents by way of grade cards

High School eligibility will be determined primarily on grades received at the end of each quarter and/or semester. A student who fails any course for the semester will lose eligibility for 30 days as mandated by the "State Scholarship Rule". A student who fails any course for the quarter will be ineligible for 10 school days from the reporting date. If the student is passing all classes after 10 school days, they will regain eligibility. If a student fails a course for the 4th quarter and still receives credit for the semester, they will be ineligible for 14 calendar days from the reporting date.

If a student goes out for summer activities, they must complete the summer activity season in good standing with the coach/sponsor or the ineligibility carries over to the fall season.

For eligibility purposes, a grade recorded as incomplete at the end of a grading period will result in loss of eligibility. The loss of eligibility will continue until a passing grade is recorded.

Questions regarding the interpretation and/or application of this administrative policy can be directed to any of the following at 293-3183 or 293-3184: High Principal; Activities Director; High School Counselor.

Class Changes

In the event of withdrawal from a course prior to course completion, the following guidelines shall be observed:

1. If withdrawal is granted at student or parental request during the initial one week period of the course, no grade or notation of the course from which withdrawal occurs shall be entered on the student permanent record.

2. Withdrawal for any reason during weeks two through three shall be entered on the student record indicating WP (withdrew passing) or WF (withdrew failing) with no credit awarded.
3. Withdrawal for any reason, other than administrative scheduling conflict, after week three shall result in the course being entered on the student permanent record and a failing grade recorded for the semester involved. Withdrawal as a result of administrative scheduling conflict shall result in no student record entry.
4. Withdrawal from any year long course may occur at semester break without penalty or student record notation. Credit shall be prorated.

Course changes, once spring registrations are completed, require parental and guidance counselor approval. The form needed for class changes is available through the guidance office.

Class Loads

All students must carry a minimum of three (3) units per semester in addition to fulfilling the physical education requirement. Any variation from these requirements will require prior administrative approval.

Course Descriptions

An explanation of courses offered and course content can be found in the Curriculum Handbook. Copies of the Curriculum Handbook are available in the guidance office upon request.

Early Graduation

Students who meet the graduation requirements set by the board prior to the end of their senior year may apply to the principal for early graduation. Students should apply at least one semester prior to the completion of the graduation requirements. In order to graduate early, students must have the approval of the principal and superintendent.

Students who graduate early become alumni of the school district and are not allowed to participate in school activities except for prom and graduation ceremonies.

Grade Reports

Teachers explain the method used in arriving at student grades at the beginning of each course. Grades are issued to students each nine weeks using the letter grading system of A, B, C, D, or F. Nine week grades give indication of progress made up to that point. Successful course completion and awarding of course credits are arrived at through an entire semester or 18 weeks of satisfactory progress.

Students who receive an incomplete in a class must complete the class within 5 school days after the start of the next quarter. Extensions may be granted by the teacher with the permission of the principal. Failure to finish an incomplete may result in a failing grade and loss of credit.

Homework

Teachers assign homework, extra class activities or assignments as necessary. Homework is an opportunity for students to practice skills and activities, to share and discuss ideas, to review materials, to become acquainted with resources, to organize thoughts, to prepare for classroom activities or to make up incomplete class work. Students are expected to complete homework on time. Failure to complete homework may result in a guided studies request, loss of class credit, or a failing grade in the class. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE REQUIRED.

Merit Diploma

Students wishing to do more than meet minimum graduation requirements may qualify for the Merit Diploma. It is hoped this diploma will serve as an incentive for students to strengthen their academic program while at Van Buren. Criteria for the Merit Diploma are as follows:

1. All requirements for the regular diploma must be met.
 2. Additional credits must be earned from "core" area courses.
 - a. Core area courses are English, Science, Math, Social Studies and Foreign Language.
 - b. The additional core units must be taken from at least three of the five core areas.
 - c. A minimum of 17 core area units of credit are required. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, 19 core area units will be required.
 3. Must have an overall GPA (grade point average) at or above 3.25 points on a 4.0 scale.
 4. Must have a three year average composite score at or above the 60th percentile on the Iowa Assessment based upon National norms.
- Additional information relative to the Merit Diploma can be obtained through the guidance office.

Talented and Gifted Program

A State recognized Talented and Gifted program is available to Van Buren students. Students involved in the High School program complete compacted and accelerated curriculum to allow time for enrichment Talented and Gifted activities.

Additional information regarding Talented and Gifted program operation can be obtained by contacting the program coordinator and/or guidance counselors.

Standardized Tests

Students are given standardized tests annually. The district assessments include the Iowa Assessment and MAP. These assessments are generally administered in the fall and spring of the school year and are used to determine academic progress for individual students, for groups of students, and for the school district. All students in grades 9-11 must participate in standardized testing.

Study Hall

While in study hall, students are expected to conduct themselves as they would in class. Students must bring enough work to occupy them for the entire study hall. Once in study hall, students are only allowed to leave with the permission of the study hall monitor. A complete listing of study hall rules and regulations are posted in the study hall location and can be accessed through the building principal if desired.

Great Prairie AEA

Great Prairie AEA staff will be available to partner with Van Buren School District staff members to provide the best education possible for your child. These Great Prairie AEA staff include, but are not limited to: audiologists, consultants, teachers for hearing impaired and visually impaired, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school psychologists, school social workers, and speech-language pathologists. Your child's teacher may contact AEA staff for consultation, observation or interaction with your child. If you do not want the above services, please notify the school *IN WRITING*.

If you have questions and/or concerns about these services, please contact the Regional Special Education Director at the AEA at 1-800-382-8970, ext. 5403.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bus Transportation

School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior. A student is to ride the bus to which he/she is assigned. Any request to ride a bus or a different bus must be made in writing by the parent, approved by an administrator and submitted to the bus driver upon boarding the bus. Students will be allowed off the bus only at designated sites such as school, home, or other authorized locations. The driver is in charge of the bus and its occupants at all times and therefore riders must comply with driver requests.

The Van Buren School District also provides activity bus transportation for students involved in after school activities. The activity bus generally leaves the Secondary School between 5:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and drops students off in Birmingham, Douds, Mt. Sterling, Milton, and Stockport.

The activity bus is not intended to provide alternate transportation for all students but rather is to be used only by those students involved in school sponsored after school activity programs that are currently in session. Students who leave school grounds will not be allowed to ride the activity bus.

Van Buren Community Schools Bus Conduct Rules

- 1 Pupils are under the authority of the bus driver.
2. Your bus operates on a time schedule. Be ready to board bus at the time of arrival. The bus cannot wait, so please be prompt.
3. Pupils should remain seated while the bus is in motion.
4. Pupils are not to extend hands, arms, or head out the window.
5. Pupils should converse in normal tones -- loud or vulgar language is prohibited.
6. Pupils shall not open windows without permission of bus driver.
7. Pupils shall keep the bus interior clean.
8. Each pupil shall go directly to a seat upon entering bus.
9. Rough-housing in any manner, on the bus, is prohibited.
10. Pupils shall not throw any objects in the bus or out the windows.

11. Pupils shall keep feet off seats.
12. Defacing or vandalism will result in repair costs billed to the student responsible.
13. Students are not to tease, pick on, or harass other riders.
14. Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner.
15. The school bus and driver are important to receiving an education. Please try to make any bus riding experience a happy one for you and pleasant for others.
16. Any student wishing transportation on a school bus other than his/her regularly assigned bus must have written parental or guardian permission to do so. This permission must bear the signature of a parent or guardian and be presented to the bus driver upon boarding the bus. The permission slip must also be signed by a school administrator.

Violation of the bus rules will usually result in the following consequences. Steps may be skipped depending on the severity of the incident.

1 st Violation	Warning, parent contacted
2 nd Violation	3 days off all buses, parent contacted
3 rd Violation	5 days off all buses, parent meeting with student, principal, and transportation director
4 th Violation	10 days off all buses, parent meeting with student, principal, and transportation director
5 th Violation	20 days off all buses, parent meeting with student, principal, and transportation director

Cafeteria and Lunch Period

Student lunches which conform to Federal and State requirements for hot lunch programs are served in the cafeteria. The menus change daily and are planned to give maximum nutrition at minimum cost while utilizing to the fullest extent the government commodities. Menus are posted in the office. Payment for meals may be made in the office before school. Payments will not be accepted in the lunch room at any time.

1. At the beginning of the designated lunch period students are to proceed to the serving line. Orderliness must prevail at all times whether in the serving line or at the tables in the cafeteria.
2. All food and drink must be consumed in the cafeteria and cannot be taken outside or into other parts of the building without permission.
3. After eating, students are to pick up after themselves and return items to the return window while properly disposing of waste materials.
4. If time is available prior to the scheduled return to class, students may remain in the cafeteria, outside on the front lawn, or on the bottom floor adjacent to the lunch room. All other areas are off limits during the lunch period. Students are not allowed on the 2nd or 3rd floor without permission. Students may not go to classrooms during this time without permission from the office.
5. Students bringing lunch from home are to eat it in the cafeteria. Prepared food purchased outside of school (Circle B, Riverbend, etc.) may not be eaten in the cafeteria. Students may not use the FCS room to warm food without permission from the principal. Students may not use school refrigerators for storage of their lunch.
6. Students are not to borrow from another student.
7. Students are expected to be respectful during their lunch period. They are to remain in designated areas of the building and grounds. Noise level is expected to remain low so classes in session are not disturbed.

Discipline Policy

All students have rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution of the United States of America. However, it must be remembered that in society rights are restricted and are not unlimited. The doctrine, *en loco parentis*, does give power to teachers and administrators to exercise reasonable restrictions upon these rights.

One of the most important lessons education can teach is discipline. While it does not appear as a subject taught, it underlies the entire educational structure. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness, and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people.

A detention system makes up a part of the High School Discipline Policy. Detentions may be assigned before school, during lunch or after school. When a student is assigned a detention, he/she is notified they must make arrangements to remain after school. An appropriate notice of the detentions must be given to allow the student to make arrangements to get home. Detentions may be assigned any school day Monday through Friday. The obligation of serving a detention takes precedence over bus transportation, after school activities, student employment or any other activity. Failure to report to detention may result in additional detentions and/or suspension.

It is expected that all students have a clear understanding of proper behavior, but there may be times that some students misbehave. The principal will decide consequences for misconduct which may include: detention, in-school suspension, out of school suspension or expulsion.

The following are examples of misbehaviors:

- Swearing
- Disrespect toward staff member or other student
- Leaving grounds during school day without permission
- Truancy
- Vandalism
- Late to school (excess of 3 per semester)
- Tobacco, alcohol, or controlled substance on grounds or at school event
- Fighting

If a student is found to be in possession of tobacco, alcohol, or other controlled substances, law enforcement and parents will be contacted immediately.

During the time that students are under suspension, they are not permitted to be on school district property or in attendance at any school events, either at home or away.

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE REMOVED FOR MISBEHAVIOR

Students who are removed from class for behavior that is disruptive to the education of other students are subject to the following consequences:

1st removal – after school detention, parent contacted

2nd removal – after school detention, meeting with student, parent, principal, teacher, and counselor

3rd removal – a behavior modification plan will be developed with input from the teacher, administration, student, and parents

Additional removals – after school detention; meeting with parent, principal, teacher, and counselor; and possible withdrawal from the class and may receive WF (withdraw/fail) grade

INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

The computers in the Van Buren School District are operated by students and faculty for the mutual benefit of all concerned and all users are expected to assist in the successful operation of the system. The following guidelines are intended to help students understand appropriate use. The school may restrict or terminate any user's access, without prior notice; if action is deemed necessary to maintain computing availability and security for other users of the system.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

*You will use only school-issued e-mail accounts within the school district.

*Sending e-mail to general audiences is inappropriate.

*While using the school's computers, you will not send, receive, or view objectionable materials. This includes obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, or disrespectful language, pictures, or graphics. This also includes reading or viewing material not acceptable for an educational setting.

*You are responsible for all mail received under your user account. You are responsible for making sure all e-mail received does not contain pornographic material, inappropriate information or text encoded files that are potentially dangerous to the integrity of the system. You are responsible for deleting and reporting inappropriate material to the supervising teacher.

PERSONAL SAFETY:

*You will not provide contact information (e.g., address, phone number) about yourself or any other person.

*You will not agree to meet someone you have met online. Any contact of this nature or the receipt of any message you feel is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable should be reported immediately to school authorities.

EDUCATIONAL USE: The computers in the labs, library and classrooms are intended for educational purposes.

*You will save only school related files in your account. Storing commercial software and/or games or hidden files is not permitted.

*Use of obscene or otherwise objectionable language or images in either public or private files is prohibited.

*Search time on the internet is to be used for educational purposes. You are to follow class assignments and browse at sites given to you by your teachers. You may be given limited amounts of time for high-quality, self-discovery search activities.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS: Respect the rights of others in using the labs and/or network.

*Do not harass another person. Harassment is acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person. If you are asked to stop a behavior or action, you must stop or lose user privileges.

*Do not knowingly or recklessly post false or defamatory information about a person or organization.

*Avoid deliberately attempting to disrupt system performance or interfering with the work of another user.

*Leave equipment and room in good condition for the next user/class.

SECURITY ISSUES: Accounts on the Van Buren system are considered private although absolute security of any data cannot be guaranteed.

- *Use only your account/password. Others should not have access or rights to your account or directory.
- *Reading, modifying or removing files and/or mail owned by other users is not allowed.
- *Do not download files without teacher permission.
- *Do not attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computer systems or files or go beyond your authorized access.
- *Programs from outside this school district will not be loaded on computers without teacher approval.
- *Do not deliberately attempt to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means.

MAIL/INTERNET USAGE: The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, which may be revoked at any time for abusive conduct.

- *Do not post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending an annoying or unnecessary message to a large number of people.

PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT: Plagiarism is taking the idea or writings of others and presenting them as your own. Copyright infringement occurs when you inappropriately reproduce a work that is protected by a copyright.

- *Do not plagiarize work that you find on the internet.
- *Respect the rights of copyright owners and follow appropriate rules for use of a work.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE:

- *Using the school computers provides only limited privacy in the contents of your personal files.
- *Individual account searches may also be conducted if there is reasonable suspicion that there have been violations of this policy, the Van Buren discipline code, or the law.
- *Your parents have the right at any time to request to see the content of your e-mail files.

VIOLATING THE ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY: Violating the Acceptable Use Policy will result in:

- *Restricted network access
- *Loss of network access
- *Disciplinary or legal action
- *In order to ensure smooth system operations, the system operator has the authority to monitor all accounts. Every effort will be made to maintain privacy and security in this process.

When you are using the system, it may feel like you can more easily break a rule and not get caught. This is not true. Electronic footprints are imprinted on the system whenever an action is performed. Therefore, you are likely to be caught if you break the rules.

DUE PROCESS:

Code: 501.1

Suspension:

1. Students must be forewarned of conduct that may result in disciplinary sanctions. This requirement is met through annual distribution to students of the written rules of student conduct (Board Policy No. 501).
2. Students will be given oral or written notice of charges. If the student denies the charges, an explanation of the evidence accumulated must be given and the student given an opportunity to present his/her side of the story. There need be no delay between the time notice is given and the time of the initial student/principal hearing. The principal may informally discuss the alleged misconduct with the student minutes after it has occurred.
3. If at the conclusion of the initial hearing it is deemed necessary to temporarily remove the student from school, procedural guidelines outlined in Board Policy regarding student suspension must be followed.
4. Parents will be given notice of the charges against their son/daughter, the length of the student suspension imposed, and information relative to their rights of appeal. Parents will be given ten days in which to appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent. If parents indicate a desire for a hearing with the superintendent, the superintendent will notify the parent of the time, date, and place for such a hearing. At the conclusion of this hearing, the superintendent may uphold, overrule, or amend the previously imposed disciplinary action.

Expulsion:

Only the board may remove a student from the student environment for a time period of longer than ten (10) school days in duration. The long term removal of a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, is an expulsion from school.

It shall be within the discretion of the board to discipline a student by using an expulsion for a single offense or for a series of offenses depending on the nature of the offense and the circumstances surrounding the offense.

It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to recommend to the board the expulsion of a student for disciplinary purposes. Only the board may take action to expel a student and to readmit the student. The principal shall keep records of expulsions in addition to the board's records.

When a student is recommended for expulsion, the student shall be provided with:

1. Clear notice of the reasons for the proposed expulsion;
2. An oral or written report on the facts to which witnesses have testified;
3. An opportunity to present a defense against the charges and provide either oral testimony or written affidavits of witnesses on the student's behalf;
4. The right to be represented by counsel;
5. The results and finding of the board in writing open to the student's inspection.

In addition to these procedures, a special education student must be provided with the following procedures:

1. Determine whether the student is actually guilty of the misconduct;
2. A staffing team should determine whether the student's behavior is caused by the student's handicap and whether the conduct is the result of inappropriate placement. Discussions and conclusions of this meeting should be recorded;
3. If the handicapped student's conduct is not caused by the handicap, the student may be expelled or suspended for a long-term period following written notice to the parent and pursuant to the district's expulsion hearing procedures;
4. If the misconduct is caused by the handicap and a change in placement is recommended, the change must be made pursuant to the placement procedures used by the school district;
5. If a change in placement is not recommended, a determination must be made as to how to cope with the student in the future.

Guidance and Counseling

The door to the guidance office is always open to students. Parents are also welcome to confer with school counselors at their convenience.

Human Growth and Development

Senate File 2094 mandates each district to provide instruction in human growth and development. Much of the content mandated by Senate File 2094 has been taught in the Van Buren School District for a number of years. This instruction includes materials regarding human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, as required in Section 256.11, in grades seven through twelve.

The Human Growth and Development curriculum and instructional materials are available for public inspection. Parents who object to any content may make a written request to be exempted.

Inspection of Educational Materials

Parents and other members of the school district community may view the instructional materials used by students in the office. Copies may be obtained according to board policy. Tests and assessment materials are only available for inspection with the consent of the superintendent. Persons wishing to view instructional materials or to express concerns about instructional materials should contact the building principal.

Lockers

When assigned a locker anywhere in the building, it is understood you assume all responsibility for its contents and condition. Student lockers are provided for the use and convenience of students but remain under the jurisdiction of the school. School personnel may hold periodic inspection of all lockers and therefore only school issued padlocks are allowed to be used on school owned lockers. Any illegal material can be seized and charges filed with local authorities.

No student is to give his/her locker combination to any other student. The school is not responsible for items taken or lost at school. Damage to the lock or locker will be paid by the student assigned to the locker.

Students are not to share lockers - - one student per locker only!

Lost And Found

All lost and found items should be turned in and/or claimed at the Principal's office. Recovery of lost items can be made in the office upon proper identification. Items unclaimed after a two week time period will be given to a charitable organization.

Open Enrollment

Iowa's open enrollment law allows students residing in one school district to request transfer to another school district upon the parents' request. Students wishing to open enroll to another school district must apply for open enrollment by March 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which they wish to open enroll. Students interested in open enrolling out of the school district must contact the Superintendent of Schools (293-3334) for information and forms.

Telephone Use During the School Day

Students are not to use the office phone for personal telephone calls except in emergency situations and with the secretary's permission. In the event a student receives a call he/she will be called out of class only in the case of emergency. Normal phone calls for students are handled between classes, during lunchtime, or during study hall. Long distance phone calls by students are not permitted on school phones. In the case of an emergency office personnel may place long distance calls for students on a case-by-case basis.

Vending Machines

The vending machines located in the hallway adjacent to the cafeteria are there for student convenience. The machines do not operate during school hours and are available for use only before and at the end of the school day.

Visitors/Guests

Students will no longer be able to bring visitors/guests to school with them.

Parent Request of Staff Qualifications

Parents/Guardians in the Van Buren Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher/paraprofessional: state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of your child's teacher/paraprofessional, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree. You may also request the qualifications of an instructional paraprofessional who serves your student in a Title I program or if your school operates a schoolwide Title I program. Parents/Guardians may request this information from the office of the Superintendent by calling (319) 293-3334 or by sending a letter of request to the Office of the Superintendent, 405 4th Street, Keosauqua, IA 52565

The Van Buren Community School District ensures that parents will be notified in writing if their child has been assigned, or has been taught by a teacher for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not considered highly qualified.

Graduation

Students who are in good standing and who meet the graduation requirements set by the board are allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and in senior activities. It is possible that students who are serving disciplinary consequences at the time of the graduation ceremony or other senior activities will not be allowed to participate. Students are not required to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Van Buren Community High School Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements from Van Buren High School are as follows:

- I. Successful completion of twenty-four (24) units of credit.
 - A. Academic courses meeting daily for a semester are given one-half (1/2) unit of credit. Driver Education is also given one-half (1/2) unit of credit.
 - B. Non-academic courses and credit value are:
 1. Band and Vocal Music -- one-half (1/2) yearly credit.
 2. Physical Education -- one-fourth (1/4) yearly credit.
 - C. All physically able students shall be required to participate in the program during each semester they are enrolled except as otherwise provided. Exemptions may be granted as follows:
 1. The student's parents or guardian files a written statement with the school principal that the course conflicts with the student's religious beliefs.
 2. Students in grade twelve may be excused from physical education by the principal up to one trimester, semester, or equivalent of a semester or trimester, if requested in writing by the parent and if
 - a) the student is enrolled in a cooperative or work study program or other educational program authorized by the school which requires the student to leave the school premises during the school day, or
 - b) the academic course is not otherwise available to the student.
 3. Students in grades nine through eleven may be excused from physical education for up to one trimester, semester or equivalent of a trimester or semester, if requested in writing by the parent and if:
 - a) their involvement in organized and supervised athletic programs occurs during which their excuse is sought, or
 - b) the academic course is not otherwise available to the student if the board (public or nonpublic) determines it to be appropriate.

II. Courses required at each grade level are:

Freshman

English I

Biology

P.E.

Sophomore

English II

Am. History

P.E.

Earth Science (beginning with Class of 2017)

Health I to be taken as a freshman or sophomore

It is recommended that freshmen and sophomores take a Math class each year.

Juniors and Seniors are required to fulfill 4 semesters of English

1 semester Writing Class

1 semester Speech Class

1 semester Literature

1 semester of an English Elective

Health II (Junior or Senior)

P.E. (Both Junior and Senior)

Seniors are required to take Economics (Semester) and Government (Semester)

III. All students must carry at least three (3) units per semester in addition to fulfilling the physical education requirement. Any variation from this requirement will require prior administrative approval.

TOTAL

REQUIRED	ENG	SS	MATH	SCI	HEALTH	PE
24	4	3	3	3	1	1

VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL
RULES FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

The rights of students must be continuously respected and protected. However, our high courts have held that student's rights of expression cannot be exercised to disrupt the normal operation of the school. Nor does the exercise of the rights of expression permit interference with the lawful rights of others.

The ultimate objective of education in the Van Buren Community Schools is effective citizenship. To accomplish this, a learning environment conducive to the educational welfare of all students is needed.

Acts which disrupt the operation of the school, classroom, or which are disruptive to other student activity, or any school activity will not be permitted. No student or group of students may impede another's freedom to properly utilize school facilities and programs, or in any way impede educational or school-sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned activities.

Examples of offenses that constitute a breach of the rules of conduct of Van Buren Community Schools are listed as follows:

1. Use of profane or vulgar language and obscene gestures, or other acts of disrespect to teachers or staff of the schools; acts or statements that intimidate teachers or school staff members.
2. Use of profane or vulgar language and obscene, threatening or intimidating acts or gestures directed to other students.
3. Stealing or intentionally damaging or defacing school property or personal property of others.
4. Use or possession of alcoholic beverages on school property, during school time, or at a school activity.
5. Use or possession of dangerous drugs or chemicals which in the case of drugs, have not been legally prescribed for the users or possessors and, in the case of chemicals, are not being put to safe or normal use.
6. Appearance at school during a normal school day or at school-sponsored activity under the influence of harmful or dangerous drugs or chemicals or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage.
7. Carrying or concealing weapons as described in Board Policy 501.2. A copy of Board Policy 501.2 can be found in this Parent/Student Handbook.
8. Refusal to identify oneself upon request by any member of the school staff.
9. Participating in or sponsoring of any gambling device or game.
10. Leaving the school building or classroom without proper permission, being truant, and being chronically tardy. Walking out of a classroom without teacher permission will be treated in the same manner as when a student is "sent out" of class by the teacher.
11. Use or possession of tobacco on school property, during school time, or at any school sponsored activity, inclusive of activities such as athletic contests or plays or other activities at which the general public is in attendance.

Students are considered "on school time" from the time they arrive on the school grounds until they leave after school is dismissed. If students come back to the school grounds in the evening for a school activity, they are again on "school time" and "on school property." School buses are "school property", wherever they may be.

School activities are considered to be any party, picnic, tour, or related event held at or away from the school grounds and buildings in the name of the school or any of its organizations.

Any infraction of the above-listed rules may result in imposition of one or more of the following penalties:

1. Conference with the Counselor, Administration and/or Superintendent.
2. Detention
3. Conference with the parents and student
4. Suspension from school, and/or
5. Expulsion

On the first infraction of a simple act of use or possession of alcoholic beverages, students may elect to attend a substance abuse screening and/or evaluation in partial lieu of school disciplinary actions.

A school employee's physical contact with the body of a student is justified if it is reasonable and necessary under the circumstances and is not designed or intended to cause pain or if the employee uses reasonable force, as defined under section 704.1, for the protection of the employee, the student, or other students; to obtain the possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control; or for the protection of property.

Code No. 501.2

WEAPONS

The board believes weapons and other dangerous objects in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons or dangerous objects. Weapons and other dangerous objects shall be taken from the students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents of students found to possess a weapon or dangerous objects on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing a firearm to school shall be expelled for not less than twelve months. The superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects for educational purposes. Such a display shall also be exempt from this policy. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Date of Adoption: November 9, 1994

Date of Review August 14, 1996

Date of Revision July 13, 2008