

Dansville Elementary School



STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK 2024-2025

**517-623-6120 Phone
517-623-6719 Fax**

www.dansville.org

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FOREWORD

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal.

This handbook summarizes many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior handbook and other written material on the same subjects.

This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules.

DANSVILLE SCHOOLS' MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Dansville Schools is to inspire creativity, confidence, compassion, and hope in all students. Our students will demonstrate knowledge, critical thinking, communication skills, and collaboration as world-changing members of the Aggie Family.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of this District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin, while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer listed below:

Jennifer Wonnell
Superintendent
517-623-6120 ext. 3416
wonnellj@dansville.org

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2260. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION

Communication:

DANVILLE SCHOOLS' GENERAL NUMBER: 517-623-6120

Elementary School:

Elementary School Attendance Line: Ext. 7230

Elementary School Office –Katherine Johnson: Ext. 4502

Elementary School Principal – Amy Popek: Ext. 4505

Psychologist- Eileen McKee: Ext. 1117

Other Office Numbers:

Superintendent's Office – Shannon Johnson: Ext. 3416

Middle School/High School Office –Cheryl Lewis: Ext. 1105

Food Service Director - Missy Kadluboski: Ext. 7237

Parent Communication

We believe strongly in the power of good communication. We encourage parents to set up their Power School account to send email messages on a regular basis with school announcements and grade/attendance reports. We want to hear from you when you have questions, concerns or any other feedback. We communicate in several ways, including: Parent Square, teacher letters/emails, the district newsletter, the automated calling system, Power School Parent Portal progress/report cards and other mailings. Power School can be access through our district website www.dansvilleschools.org

School Day Elementary School Hours: 8:00-2:52

Arrival: There are two traffic loops available for parents to pull up and drop off their students; one in the fenced in parking lot and another in front of the main office. Students choosing to eat breakfast will be able to enter the building and purchase breakfast from the cafeteria starting at 7:45. There will be supervision in the cafeteria from 7:45-7:55 for students eating breakfast. If students are not finished at 7:55, they can finish their breakfast in their classroom. Students will be able to enter their classrooms starting at 7:53.

The main office door (door 2) and the bus loop door (door 5) will be open from 7:45-8:00. We ask that students not purchasing school breakfast refrain from entering the building until 7:53 when classrooms will be open. All elementary students should enter through either door 2 or door 5.

For students being dropped off, please make sure adults are staying in vehicles and pulling ahead when possible to help keep the line moving. Parents will be allowed to enter the building on the first day of school only. After the first day, only one adult per GSRP family can enter the building to sign their student in. If you would like to exit your vehicle and walk your student to the front door, you will need to park in the parking lot. No adults should leave their vehicle in the drop off line.

Students riding the bus will be able to enter the building starting at 7:45 if they are purchasing breakfast.

If students arrive after 8:00, they will be considered tardy. Students will need to enter the main office and get a pass from the office before going to their classroom.

Early Dismissal: No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by the parent or a person whose signature is on file in the School office or the parent coming to the school office to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Parents need to come to the office and request their children for early dismissal. All students must be signed out by parents. The school secretary will call for students to come to the office. Parents should not go to the classroom to request early dismissal. Please call the secretary in the morning if your child needs to be picked up during the day for an appointment. Any changes in after school routines (bus change, pick up, leaving with friends, etc.) need to be called in to the office **prior to 2:00 p.m.** on the day of the change.

Regular Dismissal: Teachers will dismiss children each day at 2:52 p.m. All parents should wait in their vehicles to pick up children.

Lower elementary students in Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade, without any older siblings, will be in the front of the elementary school for pick up. Parents should remain in their vehicles during pick up and pull forward when possible. For student safety, and to keep the line moving, only four to five cars will load at a time.

Upper elementary students in third, fourth, and fifth grade will pick up any younger siblings from the front of the school and be picked up in the fenced in lot. Parents should remain in their vehicles during pick up and pull forward when possible. For student safety, and to keep the line moving, only three to four cars will load at a time.

Please have a sign with your students' last name in the window of the passenger side of the vehicle to help with identification and to allow the line to move swiftly.

Bicycles: Students may not ride bicycles to school because of the extremely heavy traffic before and after school.

Emergency Closings and Delays

If the school must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the School will notify the following radio and television stations:

WILX TV 10, FOX 47, and TV 6. You can also listen to the following radio stations: WVIC 94.1, WFMK 99.1, Z101.7, Q106, and WJIM 97.5. An automated call will be made when possible to provide families with information about school closings and/or delays as well as a Facebook and Twitter post.

*Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

Advertising Outside Agencies

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the principal. The principal will try to respond to requests for approval within twenty-four (24) hours of their receipt.

The school has a central bulletin board located in the hallway which may be used for posting notices after receiving permission from the principal.

Surveys, Flyers, Posters and Petitions

Dansville Elementary School students will be allowed to pass out materials protected by the First Amendment as long as they do not materially and substantially disrupt the educational process. Such literature must have the principal's prior approval. In most cases, students will be allowed to set up a table at lunch to distribute flyers or get petitions signed. Students who are interested in receiving the information or participating in the survey or petition will approach the table.

Posters and flyers are not to be hung in the building without the principal's prior permission. In most cases, these requests will be denied because of a desire to keep the building clean. Those who wish to publicize events may request to put announcements into our daily announcements.

Medical:

Use of Medications

In those circumstances where a student must take prescribed medication during the school day, the following guidelines are to be observed:

- A. Parents should, with their physician's counsel, determine whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.
- B. The Medication Request and Authorization Form must be filed with the respective building office before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours.
- C. All medications must be registered with the principal's office.
- D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured.
Medication MAY NOT be sent to school in a student's lunch box, pocket, or other means on or about his/her person, except for emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions.
- E. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.

- F. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time, and the child has the responsibility for both presenting himself/herself on time and for taking the prescribed medication.
- G. A log for each prescribed medication shall be maintained which will note the personnel giving the medication, the date, and the time of day. This log will be maintained along with the physician's written instructions and the parent's written permission release.
- H. No staff member will be permitted to dispense non-prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student.

Parents may authorize the school to administer a non-prescribed medication using a form which is available at the school office. A physician does not have to authorize such medication but all of the other conditions described above under prescribed medications will also apply to non-prescribed medications. The student may be authorized on the request form by his/her parent to self-administer the medication in the presence of a school staff member. No other exceptions will be made to these requirements.

Food Allergies

Please send a medical note from a doctor regarding student food allergies to the Food Service Director and to the Elementary Office.

Asthma Inhalers and Epi-pens

Students, with appropriate written permission from the physician and parent, may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms. Epinephrine (Epi-pen) is administered only in accordance with a written medication administration plan developed by the school principal and updated annually.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, s/he will be brought to the school office and the parents will be contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until authorization is received.

Any student who distributes a medication of any kind to another student or is found to possess a medication other than the one authorized is in violation of the school's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

Before any prescribed medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written prescription and instructions from the child's physician accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. Both must also authorize any self-medication by the student. Before any non-prescribed medication or treatment may be administered, the Board shall require the prior written consent of the parent along with a waiver of any liability of the District for the administration of the medication. The parent must also authorize any self-medication by his/her child.

Emergency Medical Authorization

The Board has established a policy that every student must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by his/her parent in order to participate in any activity off school grounds. This includes field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities.

The Emergency Medical Authorization Form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each year. Failure to return the completed form to the school will jeopardize a student's educational program.

Immunizations

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the principal may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the office staff.

Injury and Illness

Students will be successful at school when they are healthy and feeling well. Please do not send your child to school, if he/she has the following symptoms:

- Vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
- If a child is unable to eat anything due to an upset stomach.
- A disruptive cough that is frequent and barky.
- A runny nose that a child cannot manage hygienically.
- Has a fever of 100 degrees or more. Children with fevers are usually multiplying a virus and are extremely contagious.
- Has an undiagnosed rash, untreated strep throat, or red-encrusted eyes. These symptoms need medical attention. If your child has an infection requiring an antibiotic, he/she should stay home until they have been on the antibiotic at least 24 hours or more.
- Head lice with visible nits.
- Parents should call the school to report their child's contagious disease.

Students who have been injured at school will receive immediate medical attention. If there are concerns about the injury or the injury is serious, parents will be called immediately. *Our policy is to call parents for all head, eye, or bone injuries.* We would like parents to make the decision for their treatment. Parents should be able to be notified for emergencies and have a plan to pick up sick or injured children. Emergency personnel will be contacted through 911, if needed, for assistance with a serious injury.

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases and Pests

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific diseases include; diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will only be for the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

Control of Noncasual-Contact Communicable Diseases

In the case of noncasual-contact, communicable-diseases, the school still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. The school will seek to keep students and staff persons in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Building:

Building Use

All organizations or individuals wishing to use the school building for an after school activity must fill out a building request form and submit it to the Superintendent's office for approval (forms are available in the office). Please note that there may be a fee associated with building use. See the form for details. Students must be under the supervision of an adult. No students will be allowed to use the building without a responsible adult present. All students who aren't here for a supervised activity will be asked to leave the building.

Media Center

The Media Center and attached computer lab are designed to provide the students with research materials/tools, recreational reading, and audio-visual aids. The Media Center will be used as an area for study, not for socializing. While fines are not collected for overdue materials, no new books may be checked out until the overdue books have been returned or the cost of a lost book has been paid.

General Rules:

- o Classes must be accompanied by a teacher; individual students must have a pass.
- o No food or drink is allowed in the Media Center.
- o All materials are due in two weeks; reference materials may not be checked out.
- o All general rules of behavior, as found in the student handbook, also apply to the Media Center.

- o Please see the Dansville Schools Computer Use Policy for specific rules regarding the computer lab and computers in the library.

Cafeteria and Recess Expectations

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program. A wide selection of nutritionally analyzed meals are offered at various prices and based on the family's ability to pay. Food and Nutrition Services and your fellow students will appreciate your cooperation and courtesy while in the cafeteria. The cafeteria will be open for breakfast until approximately 8:15 and then will reopen before lunch. Other info:

Sendmoneytoschool.com – online student food account. Account histories, account balances, and payment are possible online. Food Service will send home information upon request.

Lunch Charges: One lunch may be charged. If a student has an unpaid lunch charge, he/she will receive a minimal lunch until the charge has been paid.

Free and Reduced Price Lunch: Federal assistance is available for free and reduced price lunches for qualifying students. Information is available in the elementary office.

All students should follow the guidelines listed below:

- Walk to the lunch line and wait your turn in line
- Follow directions given by adults
- Dispose of all trash and make sure your eating area is clean before you leave, do not throw food
- Students will be allowed to eat in the cafeteria only
- Students will use the school microwave appropriately. Students will use at their own risk.

Lost and Found

Students are responsible for the loss of personal property. The school assumes no responsibility or liability for lost or stolen property. However, as a courtesy, reasonable effort will be made to assist students in locating and recovering lost or stolen personal property. It is expected that students and families will only claim items from the “Lost and Found” that belong to them. These items will be donated at the end of each semester.

Elevator

The elevator is for staff use only. This includes before and after school activities. Students must have special permission from the principal to use the elevator.

Fire, Lockdown, and Tornado Drills

The school complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building. The alarm signal for fire drills consists of continuous bells.

Tornado drills will be conducted during the tornado season using the procedures provided by the State. The alarm signal for tornadoes is different from the alarm signal for fire and lock down drills and consists of a specific PA announcement.

Lock down drills in which the students are restricted to the interior of the school building and the building secured will occur a minimum of two (2) times each school year. The alarm system for a school lock down is different from the alarm system for fires and tornadoes and consists of an announcement made via the PA system.

Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's *Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy* and asbestos management plan will be made available for inspection at the Superintendent's office upon request

Videotapes in School Buildings

The Board of Education has installed video cameras in the school to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the principal may use this as evidence of the misbehavior. Since these tapes are considered part of a student's record, they can be viewed only in accordance with Federal law.

Visitors

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School, in order to schedule a mutually convenient time. Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal. Families are not permitted to join students in the cafeteria for lunch.

Pets

Pets are permitted to visit only on special occasions. The classroom teacher must grant approval and arrangements must be made before the visit. Parents are expected to bring the pet, monitor the pet during the visit, and take the pet home after the visit.

Recess

- All students will go outside for recess unless the weather is rainy or too cold. Students may be excused from outdoor recess for a limited time with a doctor's statement.
- During winter months students should bring to school snow pants, boots, hats and mittens to be dressed properly for outdoor play. Students will stay inside if they do not have appropriate outdoor wear.

- Students will be supervised at all times by teachers or supervisors on the playground. Students will respect their judgment and cooperate with them.
- All playground equipment must be used as it is designed to be used. Playground supervisors will review the usage of specific pieces of playground equipment.
- Baseballs and bats are not permitted.
- Wrestling, “play fighting”, tackle football or any contact sport is prohibited.
- Soccer may be played as long as the rules are followed fairly, and there are minimal disputes.
- Tag is not to be played.
- Snow or ice throwing is not permitted.
- When recess has ended, students will line up promptly and walk into the building in an orderly manner.
- Parents and non-school employees may not observe or interact on the playground during recess times.

Academics:

Enrolling in the School

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides unless enrolling under the District’s open enrollment policy.

New students under the age of eighteen (18) must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. a birth certificate or similar document,
- B. court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate),
- C. proof of residency,
- D. proof of immunizations.

If interested in registering a student, please visit www.dansville.org for more information. Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. Office staff will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the direction of the District Liaison for Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

New students eighteen (18) years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Michigan may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the student may ask for an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

Scheduling and Assignment

The principal will assign each student to the appropriate classroom and program. Any questions or concerns about the assignment should be discussed with the principal.

Homebound Instruction

The District shall arrange for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability.

Parents should contact the school administration regarding procedures for such instruction. Applications must be approved by the principal. The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five consecutive (5) days.

Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician licensed to practice in this State, parent, student, or other caregiver. A physician must: certify the nature and existence of a medical condition; state the probable duration of the confinement; request such instruction; present evidence of the student's ability to participate in an educational program.

Individuals with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact the principal to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

Limited English Proficiency

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extra-curricular programs of the District. It is, therefore, the policy of this District that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular program offered by the

District. Parents should contact the principal to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the District.

Student Records

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Neither the Board nor its employee's shall permit the release of the social security number of a student, or other individual except as authorized by law (see AG 8350). Documents containing social security numbers shall be restricted to those employees who have a need to know that information or a need to access those documents. When documents containing social security numbers are no longer needed, they shall be shredded by an employee who has authorized access to such records.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may wish to consult the Board's annual *Family Education Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) notice which can be found at www.dansville.org.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by (FERPA) and Michigan law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to your building principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.

Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the District has violated FERPA.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
- C. sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, the Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

The Superintendent will provide notice directly to parents of students enrolled in the District of the substantive content of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in this policy. In addition, the Superintendent is directed to notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information for otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- B. the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605
Washington, D.C.
www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:
FERPA@ED.Gov; and PPRA@ED.Gov.

Withdrawal from School

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents.

Transfer out of the District

If a student plans to transfer from Dansville, the parent must notify the principal. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the arrangements, returned all school materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. School records, may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact the principal for specific details.

School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

Parent Involvement:

Parent Teacher Organization

Parents who are interested in sharing their ideas, concerns and other feedback with the DES administration and staff are encouraged to join the PTO. This group meets monthly in the elementary library. The committee consists of interested parents, the elementary principal and a teacher representative. Parents have the opportunity to sign up for this committee on Registration Day and after that can join any time by contacting the elementary school office for information.

Parent Observation Policy

A written policy regarding parents visiting classrooms is available in the school office upon request. This policy is the same in all three buildings.

Parent Volunteers

We would love your help at school if you are interested and available. Please contact your student's teacher if you are interested in volunteering. All adults who volunteer to accompany students on any field trips,

overnight activity trips, or who volunteer in the classroom on a regular basis need to complete the volunteer screening form. This is a precautionary measure to ensure the safety of our students. These forms are available by contacting the elementary school office. Forms should be submitted for screening at least **five working days** prior to the start of the volunteer's participation.

Review of Instructional Materials and Activities

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the principal prior to coming to the School. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

Students:

Student Fundraising

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities will be allowed to solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules will apply to all fundraisers.

Students involved in the fundraiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.

Students must not participate in a fundraising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the principal.

Students may not participate in fundraising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.

Students may not engage in house-to-house canvassing for any fundraising activity.

Students who engage in fundraisers that require them to exert themselves physically beyond their normal pattern of activity, such as "runs for", will be monitored by a staff member in order to prevent a student from overextending himself/herself to the point of potential harm.

Students may not participate in a fundraising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the principal.

Student Sales

No student is permitted to sell any item or service in school without the approval of the principal. Violation of this may lead to disciplinary action.

Student Valuables

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

If a student chooses to bring devices (i.e. phone, mp3 player, iPod), electronic games, etc., they shall not be visible during the school day. These and other valuable items can be at school, at the risk of the owner. If used, without permission from a staff member, these items may be confiscated and kept in the office for the remainder of the day. Further consequences may also apply.

Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies

The District will provide all basic supplies needed to complete the required course curriculum. The student and/or his/her family may choose to purchase their own supplies if they desire to have a greater quantity or quality of supplies, or desire to help conserve the limited resources for use by others. The teacher or appropriate administrator may recommend useful supplies for these purposes.

Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship.

Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. The fine will be used to pay for the damage, not to make a profit.

Late fines can be avoided when students return borrowed materials promptly. Their use may be needed by others.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in suspension from participation in graduation and/or the withholding of grades and credits.

SECTION II – ACADEMICS AND STUDENT SERVICES

Academic Interventions

When a concern arises regarding a student's progress in a class, the following steps are suggested:

1. Contact the teacher directly with concerns.
2. Set up a time to meet with the teacher before or after school.
3. Remain in contact with the teacher to check on progress.
4. If there are concerns after steps 1-3 that continue, contact the principal regarding other services that the student may be eligible to receive, including special education.

Community Resources

The Dansville Public Library (623-6511) is available for students, including access to computers and Internet resources. It is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 - 6 p.m., on Fridays from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Field Trips

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extra-curricular program. No student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent.

Attendance rules apply to all field trips.

- Field trips are scheduled as part of the classroom curriculum. All students are expected to participate in field trips.
- Permission for field trips is given in the yearly registration forms for trips that occur during the school day.
- Teachers will send home field trip information in advance of the trip. A small fee may be requested for field trips to cover the cost of admission and/or transportation. Financial assistance is available for any family that requests it.
- Students are required to ride to the field trip destination with the class. Returning home with their parent may be arranged with the teacher prior to the field trip in writing.
- All adult volunteers must be 21 years old. Preschool children and siblings are not to attend the field trip. Adult volunteers are to assist the teacher in student management and learning activities. Volunteer screening forms must be on file in the office at least five days prior to the field trip.

Grading

Dansville Schools has moved to a standards-based grading approach to ensure that expectations for what a student is supposed to know are very clear, that the assessment of those standards are very clear, and that the output of the grade is then based on their content knowledge.

Classes are scored on a 0-4 rubric scale score, based on the 0-4 rubric that have been developed for each grade level. To answer any questions this might bring up, we wanted to give you a chart to compare how the rubric score correlates with other reporting measures. (Note: More detailed rubric explanations are available online on the class websites that are using this scale AND on PowerSchool in the class content. Also, the GPA is still determined by the percentage.)

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Parents can access grades online via Power School Parent Portal (see that section for more info). Teachers will print weekly progress reports for students upon request. Report cards are provided during each Parent-Teacher Conference and at the end of the school year.

Student Assessment

Each year students in grades 3-5 will participate in the M-STEP state assessment. Students are tested in reading, math, writing, science and social studies. The M-STEP test will be administered in the spring.

All students K-5 are given tests to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests are used to help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests will be used to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess how well the students have achieved specific objectives.

Student Assistance Team

If a parent, teacher, or student has a concern related to academic progress, the principal can be contacted to schedule a SAT meeting. A SAT meeting is a collaborative meeting with participants potentially including the student, parent(s)/guardian, counselor, principal, with input from all the students' teachers. An action plan is developed to identify strategies for student improvement.

Textbooks

Textbooks are provided free of charge for all students requiring textbooks in their classes. All textbooks and other classroom materials remain the property of Dansville Schools. Each student is responsible for the care and return of all textbooks and other classroom materials in a reasonable condition. If a student loses a textbook or other classroom material, or damages it beyond use, a replacement will be made.

All books and other classroom materials will be checked in at the conclusion of the course for which they are issued. Students are responsible to report to their teacher the condition of their books upon issue. The teacher will assess the student with a fine for damage or loss of school-issued books and materials. The fine should be paid at the elementary school office. Fines will be collected at Registration Day in August before school starts. Students with outstanding fines are not permitted to walk at graduation.

SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Extracurricular Attendance Policy

A school and community are frequently known by the action of its members at athletic contests. Everybody wants a winning team; however, good sportsmanship is more important. Inappropriate behavior by attendees may result in ejection from an event. Students are encouraged to attend, watch, and support our athletic teams. Win with Character and Lose with Dignity.

Expectations:

To clarify what is expected of our students and parents, the following will be stressed:

1. Throwing objects at each other or throwing objects onto the playing floor is totally unacceptable.
2. No whistles are allowed.
3. No drums or instruments except for those in the school pep band are allowed.
4. We expect that cheers will be of a positive nature. We expect courteous treatment of our opponents and officials.
5. Students cannot leave an event and return, even if they offer to pay again.
6. No towels are allowed.
7. Dansville Schools will adhere to Central Michigan Athletic Conference (CMAC) standards of sportsmanship.

The CMAC league takes the position that the practice of good sportsmanship is essential and that all league schools adopt a common position. League schools have adopted these standards:

- The school's and league's reputation should not be placed in jeopardy because of unsportsmanlike behavior.
- Fans in attendance at after-school events are expected to have fun by demonstrating positive enthusiasm without causing harm, danger or embarrassment to others or the school.
- Fans are to follow all rules that are in effect during the school day at after-school events.
- Proper language is to be used. No swearing or language that is offensive to others will be tolerated. High School events are a family activity. Individual and group vulgarities are unacceptable, as is verbal harassment and booing of players, coaches and officials.
- Obscene/inflammatory gestures or material (signs, t-shirts, etc.) are unacceptable.
- Dangerous and boisterous behaviors such as pushing, shoving or fighting are not acceptable.

Dansville has the following student organizations/clubs:

Dansville Elementary School provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. The Board authorizes many student groups that are sponsored by a staff member. Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the School curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama, and the like. All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT AND ATTENDANCE

Students Rights and Responsibilities:

The rules and procedures of the school are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those rights for their fellow students and the staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all school rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process (a fair hearing) before a student is removed because of his/her behavior.

Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in school and will be provided information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arise. Many times it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, the mail or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate in the educational program. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the Elementary School main office.

Student Well-Being:

Student safety is a responsibility of the staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire, lock down and tornado drills and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify any staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in the School office. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with proper documentation by a physician, to the School Office.

School Attendance Policy

It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order not to miss a significant portion of their education. Many important learnings result from active participation in the classroom and other school activities which cannot be replaced by individual study.

Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a worker is his/her dependability in coming to work every day and on time. This is a habit the School wants to help students develop as early as possible in their school careers.

Dansville Elementary School recognizes that there are situations that require a student to be absent for a reason other than illness. However, since there is great variance in thinking with respect to this issue, the school must stand in the position of judge in order to maintain uniformity in the handling of non-illness related absences. The final decision regarding "excused" or "unexcused" absences rests with the school.

If it is necessary for a student to be out of school, parents must understand that the student will miss class discussion, which can affect the education process.

Parents are required by State Law to ensure that their children attend school until the age of eighteen. It is the responsibility of the school to enforce this law. Parents will be contacted when there is an attendance concern. An intervention meeting may be requested to discuss the issue and to create a plan. If the problem continues, we may seek help from the Truancy Officer and/or Ingham County Probate Court.

Absences

A student absent from school, except to officially represent the school in a school-sponsored activity, is entered as absent on the school attendance register. A parent will be notified by phone through our school calling system that leaves messages if a student is absent and we have not received notice to consider it excused. Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make-up missed school work and/or tests:

Excused Absences

1. Illness
2. Emergencies
3. Funerals/Bereavement
4. Medical and Dental Appointments-documentation required
5. Religious Observations
6. Participation in Legal or Court Proceedings-documentation required
7. College Visits-documentation required
8. Pre-planned Trip

To excuse an absence, parents/guardians must call the attendance line on the morning of the absence. Parents are also able to email ESattendance@dansville.org to report an absence. Additionally, the student can submit a signed note from their parent/guardian which contains the following: date of note, name of student, date of absence, reason for absence and parent/guardian signature. The school robo-call system will call the home of all unreported absences. Unreported absences will be noted as “excuse pending” for three days. Parents have 48 hours to notify the school the reason for the absence. After two school days, the absence will be recorded as “unexcused”.

A doctor’s excuse is required whenever a student exceeds three consecutive absences. Failure to call or provide a note regarding the absence will cause the absence to remain unexcused. An accumulation of unexcused absences stimulates a sequence of actions from the office (calls, letters, meetings) as needed to help ensure the regular attendance of the student. Students with excessive tardies will also be contacted. All absences and tardies are recorded on the student’s school records and may ultimately be referred to the county Truancy Officer.

Arriving late/Leaving early

Students arriving after 8:00 will be considered tardy and must check in to the elementary office to receive a pass. If students arrive after 9:00, they will be considered absent for the morning. Similarly, if a student leaves before 1:52 and does not return to school, they will be considered absent for the afternoon. Parents should call the elementary office ahead of time if they know their student will be arriving late or leaving early.

District Reporting Procedures

Absences - Full Day/equivalent	District Response
10	Written Notification
15	Written Notification/Parent Meeting Request
20	Referral to Ingham County Truancy Officer

*Extenuating circumstances may be taken into consideration

Vacations During the School Year

Parents are encouraged not to take their child out of school for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents should discuss the matter with the principal and the student's teacher(s) to make necessary arrangements. It may be possible for the student to receive certain assignments that are to be completed during the trip. Family vacation days are counted as student absence days.

Student Attendance at School Events

The school encourages students to attend as many school events held after school as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students who are participating in the event.

However, in order to ensure that students attending evening events as nonparticipants are properly safe-guarded, it is strongly advised that students be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone when they attend the event. The School will not be able to supervise unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

The school will continue to provide adequate supervision for all students who are participants in a School activity. Students must comply with the Code of Conduct at school events, regardless of the location.

Suspension from School

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence, neither excused nor unexcused.

A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work lost due to suspension. It is recommended that a student complete missed assignments during the suspension and turn them in to the teacher upon his/her return from school. Assignments may be obtained from the office beginning with the first day of a suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school.

Care of Property

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school will not be responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. The school may confiscate such items and return them to the student's parents.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student does damage to or loses school property, the student or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or damage. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will also be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

Code of Conduct

A major component of the educational program at Dansville is to prepare students to become responsible workers and citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

The Board of Education has adopted the following Student Discipline Code. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action. The Board has also adopted the list of behaviors and the terms contained in the list.

It is the school staff's responsibility to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. History has shown that certain student actions are not compatible with a "safe" and "orderly" environment. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the School's staff and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

Expected Behaviors

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by national, State, and local laws as well as the rules of the school
- respect the civil rights of others
- act courteously to adults and fellow students
- be prompt to school and attentive in class
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school

Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)

As a staff we have worked together to encourage positive behavior and create a positive school-wide system of support for students to make good choices. We believe that in addition to educating our students academically, we have a responsibility to foster the development of personal traits.

Character Education- 7 Mindsets:

The 7 Mindsets approach relies on the premise that success is based less on what a person knows, and much more significantly on how he or she thinks. A person's mindset provides the foundation for resilience, motivation, and meaning in life. By making small shifts in the way a person views the world and their future in it, we see a positive, immediate and sustainable transformation. For students, improved graduation rates, higher test scores, better behavior, increased confidence and optimism are all proven outcomes of the 7 Mindsets. Dansville schools promotes character education by teaching our students about the 7 Mindsets.

The 7 Mindsets are:

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE: Everything is Possible teaches us that we are all capable of living extraordinary lives. We learn that everything in existence was once just an idea, until someone believed it was possible and turned it into a reality. Embracing this fact allows one to envision a wonderful life, expect greatness, and effectively execute the process of making dreams come true.

PASSION FIRST: Passion First tells us that we are each a unique expression of human life, and that our lives should be focused on finding our unique genius and sharing it with the world to the maximum extent possible.

You will learn to make your dreams authentic, and of such critical importance that you'll find the fuel to overcome any obstacles you face on the way to achieving them.

WE ARE CONNECTED: We Are Connected helps us understand that everyone who comes into our lives can help us live our dreams. Through this mindset, we learn to constantly explore synergies with others, embrace diversity, and relish the competition that will allow us to maximize our potential with and through others.

100% ACCOUNTABLE: 100% Accountable teaches us that we are not victims of our past, that our futures are not predetermined, and that our lives are what we choose them to be at this moment and each moment forward. With a focus on recognizing fears and excuses, this mindset helps us to break down barriers, freeing our minds and focusing our energy on taking critical steps toward our goals.

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: Attitude of Gratitude teaches us that we build our lives on either positive or negative foundations. Choose the positives, and you are on your way toward extraordinary success. Choose the negatives, and you will likely start on a downward spiral.

LIVE TO GIVE: Live to Give describes how abundance in one's life is a cycle. To receive love, respect, and financial security, one must first learn to give those things. This mindset also teaches that the greatest gift you can ever give is finding and leveraging your unique genius to maximize your positive impact on the world, knowing that good things will be returned to you in kind.

THE TIME IS NOW: The Time is Now teaches that all your power exists in the moment. You cannot change the past and the future has not happened, so the only thing to do is take purposeful action in the present to create the ultimate life of your dreams.

Code of Conduct Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to foster an environment that is safe and conducive to learning. Within our school, the administration and all other school personnel are responsible for creating and supporting such an environment. To achieve this goal, faculty, staff, parents, students, and other members of the community must have a clear understanding of the school's expectations for student behavior. The Code of Conduct provides those expectations by:

- Integrating various sources of authority including state law, Board of Education policies, and administration guidelines,
- Identifying expectations and responsibilities of students,
- Defining the conduct that violates those rights and responsibilities,
- Standardizing the procedures that the school will use in responding to conduct violations,
- Assuring the rights and responsibilities of students when disciplinary action is taken.

The Code of Conduct applies to any student who is on school property, traveling on school-affiliated transportation, attending school or any school-affiliated activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school.

Disciplinary consequences are assigned considering (a) prior infractions; (b) intent of the student; (c) actual or risk of harm to student(s); and (d) the severity of the infraction. These consequences may include:

Warning	Student conference
Lunch Detention	Before/After School Detention
Saturday School	Loss of passing time with peers
Parent Conference	Restorative conference
Community Service	Loss of bus riding privileges
In-School suspension	Out-of-School suspension
Referral to law enforcement	Expulsion/separation
Suspension from extracurricular participation and attendance	

Out-Of-School Suspension

On the basis of present law, the principals at Dansville Schools are delegated the authority by the Board of Education to temporarily separate or suspend a student from school and school property. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Suspensions of more than ten days require Board action.

Out-of-School suspension is one or more days during which the student is barred from attending all classes and school sponsored events. Students receive out-of-school suspension due to one major violation of the Student Code of Conduct or a series of violations, which result in a higher level of consequence.

Suspended students may not be on school grounds or attend school activities during suspension (including other Dansville Schools activities such as football games, etc). An out-of-school suspension prevents the student from attending their Career Center and/or classes for which they are dual enrolled. Students are expected to complete all schoolwork. Assignments may be picked up by parents in the main office every two or three days. Students are generally given 2-3 days worth of work and more work will be provided when that work is completed and returned to school. Students are expected to talk with their teachers to make a plan for turning in their work. Students will earn credit for work missed.

Students may be asked to meet with Ms. Popek or Dr. McKee in the morning of the day of return, before returning to classes. One will follow up on academic progress and ensure a smooth transition back to school.

Due Process Procedural Rules and Regulations for the School Community

The constitutional rights of individuals assure the protection of the due process of law; therefore, this system of constitutional and legally sound procedures is developed with regard to the administration of discipline in the schools of Michigan.

I. The hallmark of the exercise of disciplinary authority shall be reasonableness and fairness.

2. An effort shall be made by administration and faculty members to resolve problems through effective utilization of school district resources in cooperation with the students and his/her parent or guardian.
3. A student must be given an opportunity for a meeting with the appropriate school administrator if the student or his/her parents desire one. A meeting shall be held to allow the student and his/her parent or guardian to contest the facts that may lead to a suspension or if the student and his/her parent or guardian alleges prejudice or unfairness.

Suspension Procedures

1. The student shall be informed of the specific charges forming the basis for the disciplinary recommendation, and shall be given a brief explanation of the evidence against him/her.
2. The student will have the right to present to the school administrator any relevant information that will support his/her defense.
3. If the student is suspended by the school administrator, the administrator will:
 - a. Notify the parents as soon as possible of the suspension, the reasons for it, and the steps necessary to effectuate the student's return to school.
 - b. When necessary an administrator will meet with parents and/or the student to plan the satisfactory return of the student to the school setting.
4. A student is expected to make-up missed work for full credit during the time of the suspension.
5. Before suspension the principal will consider seven mandated factors prior to establishing consequences.

Suspension Appeal Process

First Level: A student's parents or guardians may appeal a suspension to the principal, in writing, within two (2) school days of the suspension notification. The written appeal must contain the reason(s) for the appeal. Upon receipt of a written appeal, the principal (or designee) will review the issues and reach a decision as soon as possible. The review may include a parent conference, if appropriate, but this step is optional. If there is no parent conference, the letter of appeal will represent the parent's point of view. The principal (or designee) may uphold, modify, or vacate the suspension and will notify the parent as soon as possible of the decision. There is no further appeal for suspensions of five (5) days or less.

Second Level: If the parent or guardian is not satisfied with the disposition after appealing to the principal, and the suspension is 6-10 days, the parent may file an appeal to the superintendent. The request for an appeal must be submitted in writing within two (2) days of the principal's decision. The superintendent will review the issues and reach a decision as soon as possible. The decision of the superintendent is final.

Long-term suspension or expulsion from school

When a student is being considered for long-term suspension (more than ten (10) days) or expulsion, the student will receive a formal letter of notification addressed to the parents which will contain:

- the charge and related evidence;
- the time and place of the Board meeting;
- the length of the recommended suspension or a recommendation for expulsion;

- a brief description of the hearing procedure;
- a statement that the student may bring parents, guardians, and counsel;
- a statement that the student and/or parent may bring a translator or request a transfer for hearing impaired students or parents;
- a statement that the student may give testimony, present evidence, and provide a defense
- a statement that the student may request attendance of school personnel who were party to the action or accused the student of the infraction
- the ability of the student and/or parent to request, potentially at their own cost, a transcript of the hearing, if Board/hearing officer approved.

A formal hearing is scheduled with the Board during which the student may be represented by his/her parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of his/her choice.

Within two days (as in AG 5610) after notification of long-term suspension or expulsion, the longterm suspension or expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the principal. The appeal will also be formal in nature with sworn testimony before official(s) designated by the Board of Education. The appeal will be heard in an open session unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed session. Again, the right to representation is available. All opportunity to earn grades or credit ends when a student is expelled.

Dansville Schools makes a sincere effort to have disciplinary actions take place that will allow the student to remain in school. If a disciplinary action does not result in removal from school, it is not appealable. Should a student or parent have questions regarding the propriety of an in-school disciplinary action, they should contact the principal.

Explanation of Terms Applying to the Student Discipline Code

Each of the behaviors described below may subject the student to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco/Electronic Cigarettes, or Any Controlled Substance:

The school has a "Drug Free" zone that extends 1000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity, possession, sale, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. If caught, the student could be suspended or expelled and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

The sale, distribution, possession, or use of drugs, tobacco products, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs that have a negative effect on the school environment is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. This includes nonalcoholic beers and wines, and the like. Many drug abuse offenses are also felonies. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student. No student is to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school property.

Use of Breath-Test Instruments: The principal may arrange for a breath test for blood-alcohol to be conducted on a student whenever s/he has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage.

The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property with at least one (1) other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.

The purpose of the test is to determine whether or not the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. The amount of consumption is not relevant, except where the student may need medical attention.

If the result indicates a violation of school rules as described in this handbook, the student will be disciplined in accordance with disciplinary procedures described in this handbook. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial will be considered an admission of alcohol use with the consequent discipline invoked. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

Use of Tobacco: Smoking and other tobacco uses are a danger to a student's health and to the health of others. The school prohibits the sale, distribution, use, or possession of any form of tobacco or electronic cigarettes or similar devices during school time or at any school activity. This prohibition also applies to the use or possession of tobacco product by students in District buildings, on District property (owned or leased), on District buses and at any District-related event when going to and from school and at school bus stops. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

The term "tobacco" includes any product containing, made of, or derived from tobacco or nicotine (including synthetic nicotine) that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether inhaled, absorbed, or ingested by any other means including, but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus; any electronic smoking device and any substances that may be aerosolized or vaporized by such device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine; an e-cigarette (including, but not limited to, "JUUL", "NJOY," "BREEZE," "Puff Bar," etc.), e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen, or e-hookah; but does not include any cessation product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as a medical treatment to reduce or eliminate nicotine or tobacco dependence.

Arson: A false emergency alarm, report or bomb threat endangers the safety forces that are responding, the citizens of the community, and persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

Bomb Threat/False Alarm/False 911 Call: Bomb threats and similar threats, including false alarms, directed at a school building, school property, or a school related event are violations of State Law.

Book Bags, Coats, Purses and Drinks: Book bags, coats, hats and purses are not allowed in classrooms and must be stored in students' lockers during the day. Book bags, purses and coats should be placed in the locker at the start of the day and then can be taken/worn out of the building. Students may be in possession of clear water bottles or clear top water bottles during the school day

Bullying: The District has adopted this definition from the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program to use when handling student conflicts: “Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who as a hard time defending himself or herself. The three key components of bullying behavior are: (1) Involves an imbalance of power and strength; (2) Involves a pattern of behavior over time; and (3) Involves an aggressive behavior.”

Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety

Before any student may take advantage of the School’s computer network and the internet, s/he and his/her parents must sign an agreement which defines the conditions under which the student may participate. Failure to abide by all of the terms of the agreement may lead to termination of the student’s computer account and possible disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct or referral to law enforcement authorities. Copies of the School District’s *Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy* and the requisite student and parent agreement will be distributed annually and can be found [linked here](#).

Students must complete a mandatory training session/program regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified in Policy 7540.03 – Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety before being permitted to access the Network and/or being assigned an e-mail address.

Computers and Acceptable Use Policy

I. General Information

- A. Students’ access to computers is restricted to school hours. Special arrangements must be made for other times (e.g. Saturday School).
- B. Dansville restricts students’ access to their personal email except for those with staff approval.
- C. Dansville reserves the right to block any website.
- D. Students’ storage space on the server is limited, so the use of portable storage devices is strongly encouraged.
- E. The student home directories are emptied out at the end of each school year.
- F. When you are using the computer system at school, it may feel like you can 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, it is likely that you will be caught if you break the rules.

II. General rules for computer use

- A. Food and drink are not allowed in the computer lab or around chromebooks.
- B. Students are not to use proxy servers in order to access blocked websites

III. Reasons for computer use to be restricted or denied

- A. Inappropriate Internet Use: Visiting non-academic sites (use of chat rooms, instant messengers, iTunes, large downloads or executables)
- B. Illegal Internet/Network Use: Visiting pornographic sites or hacking, including using someone else’s user ID without their knowledge. Circumventing our school proxy and web filter by accessing a 3rd party proxy. By doing this, students gain access to all websites on the internet, without any monitoring.

C. Vandalism: Any damage to a computer or computer equipment.

In addition, students/parents/guardians may be required to make full financial restitution to cover the loss of staff time and/or loss of equipment and/or any legal expense that may have been incurred during investigations of student misuse.

Conspiring: Conspiring is considered assisting with another to violate any school rule. A student in conspiracy with another student will also be subject to same disciplinary penalty as other student if rule is violated.

Criminal Acts: A student's commission of, or participation in, any act prohibited by federal or state law or local ordinance, when such act affects the safe and orderly operation of the school. This includes but is not limited to an act committed on school property, on school-related transportation, or otherwise related to any school program, function, or activity. School officials may take appropriate disciplinary action regardless of whether criminal charges result.

Dangerous Weapons and Dangerous Articles: A dangerous weapon is defined as "a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, razors, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, clubs, or brass/metallic knuckles" or other devices designed to or likely to inflict bodily harm, martial arts weapons including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices (whether loaded or unloaded). It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon.

Criminal charges may be filed for this violation. Possession of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion. It makes no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a weapon was brought on District property by a student other than the one who possessed the weapon, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action.

Before expulsion for possession of a gun (including look-alike toy guns or facsimiles of guns) or knife (with a blade of three inches or longer) legislation requires the district to consider seven mandated factors prior to establishing consequences. State law may require that a student be permanently expelled from school, subject to a petition for possible reinstatement if s/he brings onto or has in his/her possession on school property or at a school-related activity any of the following:

- A. any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines, or device that can be converted into such a destructive item
- B. any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade over three (3) inches long fastened to a handle
- C. any similar object that is intended to invoke bodily harm or fear of bodily harm (e.g. air gun, blow-gun, toy gun, etc.)

Disorder/Demonstration: Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression, but the expression may not infringe on the rights of others. Disruption of any school activity will not be allowed. If a student (or students) feels there is need to organize some form of demonstration, s/he is encouraged to contact the Principal to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity.

Disruptive/Inappropriate Behavior: Behavior which substantially interferes with the educational process.

Dress Code: The purpose of the dress code is to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes (Board Policy 5511). While it is recognized that each student's mode of dress and grooming may be a manifestation of personal style and individual taste, any hairstyle or apparel which is disruptive, distracting, unsanitary or unsafe is prohibited.

The guidelines serve to inform students of appropriate as well as unacceptable dress. Such guidelines shall prohibit dress or grooming practices which:

- Present a hazard to the health or safety of the student or to others in the school
- Interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program
- Cause excessive wear or damage to school property
- Prevent the student from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement

The guidelines are not all-inclusive; the absence of any particular form or mode of dress does not indicate the dress is appropriate.

The following are specific expectations on student dress:

- Any dress or appearance that contains profanity, pornography; drug, cigarette, or alcohol messages; double meanings deemed inappropriate or demeaning; derogatory racial and ethnic slogans (including Confederate flags); or is identified as gang affiliated attire will not be tolerated.
- Any dress or appearance that disrupts the learning environment is not allowed.
- Undergarments shall not be displayed at any time, however bra straps may be displayed
- Clothing that is too tight or revealing will not be allowed if it is see through or has revealing holes in the fabric.
- Sunglasses and other tinted lenses will not be worn in the building without a prescription.
- Shoes and/or sandals are to be worn at all times. Slippers are not permitted.
- Hats are not allowed and hoodies must be worn down.
- Costumes are not allowed, unless given approval by the principal ahead of time.

Early Dismissal: No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by the parent, or parent phone call. Text messages or emails will not be permissible. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Explosives: Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, pipe bombs, bottle bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

Extortion: Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law. Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Failure to Follow Rules: The act of not following the classroom/school rules and/or procedures as determined by a staff member.

Fidgets/Toys: In order to minimize disruption to the educational environment, please do not allow your child to bring toys/fidgets with them to school unless they have an IEP or 504 that specifically states they are allowed to use a fidget.

Fighting/Physical Aggression: Engaging or attempting to engage another in physical conflict with the intent to harm. It is only considered a fight if both students engage each other physically with intent to harm.

Forgery/Altering Document: Students who forge, or who have other students forge passes, notes, or other documents, will face disciplinary action. The school requests parents' signature on many forms and will accept only that of the parents or legal guardian. A student who forges a note is considered unexcused for absence he/she was attempting to excuse and will also face consequences for the unexcused absence.

Gambling: Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that activity. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

Gross Insensitivity: This includes the act of intentionally directing slurs or demeaning remarks toward others which reflect on their race, religion, ethnic background, sex, sexual orientation, social-economic status, appearance or abilities.

Hall Pass Misuse: Abusing the privilege of a hall pass; leaving class without permission, and/or not being where a student should be, is considered a major offense.

Harassment: Harassment of students is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate conduct by other students as well as any other person in the school environment, including employees, Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors and volunteers. It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy applies to all activities on school property and to all school sponsored activities whether on or off school property.

Harassment is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well-being. This would include harassment based on any

of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status or disability. This policy, however, is not limited to these legal categories and includes any harassment that would negatively impact students.

Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods (e.g., internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), computer or wireless hand held device), may be subject to District disciplinary procedures. Such behavior is considered harassment whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, or in a school vehicle if it is considered to have a negative impact on the school environment.

Any student that believes s/he has been/or is the victim of harassment should immediately report the situation to the teacher, the principal or assistant principal, or may report it directly to the office. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with AG 5517.

Every student should, and every staff member must report any situation that they believe to be improper harassment of a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

If the investigation finds harassment occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employee, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for Board members.

Retaliation against any person for complaining about harassment, or participating in a harassment investigation, is prohibited. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment. Intentionally false harassment reports, made to get someone in trouble, are also prohibited. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been harassment, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

Harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- submission to such unwelcomed conduct or communication is made either an explicit or implicit condition of utilizing or benefiting from the services, activities, or programs of the School District;
- submission to, or rejection of, the unwelcomed conduct or communication is used as the basis for a decision to exclude, expel or limit the harassed student in the terms, conditions or privileges of the School District;
- the unwelcomed conduct or communication interferes with the student's education, creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. This may include racial slurs, mocking behavior, or other demeaning comments.

Sexual Harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- verbal harassment or abuse;
- pressure for sexual activity;
- remarks with sexual or demeaning implications;
- unwelcome touching;
- sexual jokes, posters, cartoons, etc.;
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, or safety,
- a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;
- remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

Hazing: The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any District-sponsored event.

Hazing shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Hazing – any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:

- A. illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs;
- B. physical punishment or infliction of pain
- C. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
- D. dangerous activity;
- E. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;
- F. forced detention or kidnapping;
- G. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

Inappropriate Display of Affection: Physically demonstrating affection, even when consensual, on school property or during school related activities is not tolerated. Holding hands is the only acceptable public display of affection (PDA).

Insubordination: Refusal to comply in a timely and orderly fashion with the request of a school employee or volunteer.

Intimidation: Intimidating others by the real or implied infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically-transmitted, or emotional abuse, which includes posturing or attacking the property of others for the purpose of intimidation.

Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence: Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

Lying/Dishonesty to a Staff Member: Attempting to make a person believe as true something false, which includes, but is not limited to: failing to disclose information, hiding or covering up information and/or evidence, or giving a false name to a staff member or volunteer.

Minor Physical Incident: Physical incident where there is no imbalance of power and there is no intent to cause harm. Not limited to, but may include: pushing, shoving, slapping, wrestling, and horseplay.

Persistent Misbehavior: Students who accumulate five or more discipline referrals to the office in a given school year.

Physical Assault: Physical assault at school against a student, District employee, volunteer, or contractor which may or may not cause injury may result in charges being filed and subject the student to expulsion. Physical assault is defined as “intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.”

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty:

Philosophy: The integrity of a school depends on the honesty of those involved in the learning process. Students who choose to be academically dishonest cheat not only themselves and their teachers, but also all other students who choose to show academic integrity in their work. Academic dishonesty in any form is a serious offense and will result in penalties including possible failure and expulsion.

Definition: *Plagiarism is the use of and the representation of other people's work and ideas, in whole or in part, as the student's own work. This definition applies to words and ideas taken without proper acknowledgement from any source including the Internet, books or magazines or newspapers or essays from other students. It could possibly include class notes from the student's teacher or another teacher.*

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty may take the following forms:

- Copying word-for-word from a source without proper acknowledgement. Applies to the use of an entire paper, the use of entire sections and “cutting and pasting”, and the use of a few words or phrases.
- Paraphrasing ideas from a source without proper acknowledgement.
- Submitting in whole or part a paper written by another person.
- Allowing one's essay, assignment, or test answers to be copied by another student.
- Submission of a paper from a research service or term paper mill in an effort to earn credit.
- Copying homework.
- Looking on another's test or quiz.

- Permitting another student to look at a test or quiz.
- Using secretive methods of getting test answers or doing class work.
- Taking papers from the Internet, other publications, or another student.
- Taking any part of a test for personal use or to give to others.
- Taking ideas and representing the ideas as the student's own.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated as it undermines the integrity of the academic community at Dansville Schools. While all forms of cheating and plagiarism are wrong and insidious, incidents of cheating and plagiarism will involve the following consequences:

Each year English teachers will present this video to classes to ensure they receive an explanation on plagiarism. <https://edpuzzle.com/media/5c76d3d50487e9408cb09399>

Consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- The teacher will notify the principal and parents of the violation.
- A mandatory “zero” for the assignment or exam until the student arranges to make up or redo the assignment or exam.
- Saturday School.
- Mention in the student's permanent file at the option of the principal. A list of violations will be kept on file so escalation of, or repetition of cheating and plagiarism can be monitored by school personnel.
- Additional assignments at the discretion of the teacher to verify learning

Profanity/Obscenity/Inappropriate Language: School employees will not tolerate profane or inappropriate language at any time. Profanity or inappropriate language directed toward others is particularly offensive and is considered a more serious violation than incidental profanity. The act of using obscene or inappropriate language or demonstrating in verbal or written form or in pictures, caricatures or gestures is prohibited in or on any school property.

Possession of Personal Communication Devices (PCDs):

Reasonable suspicion that a communication device has been used to violate District policies or administrative guidelines shall be subject to disciplinary action and may result in the communication device being confiscated. A student may possess a personal communication devices (PCDs) or other electronic communication devices (ECDs) and electronic storage devices (ESDs) in school, on school property, at after school activities, and at school related functions provided that during school hours, school events, and on a school vehicle its use is not disruptive or distracting to the educational process, the scheduled activity, or other participants, provided that the PCD or other ECD/ESD remains off.

It is expected that such devices are to be used only before school and after school, or at the discretion of a classroom teacher. It is expected cell phones are kept in the student's locker or backpack during any other time mentioned above (before/after school and lunch). If a student has their phone in class, a teacher may request they place it in a designated area, or take the student's phone to be sent to the office.

The use of cellphones may be allowed for health or other unusual reasons when approved in advance by school administration and are to be used only in the case of emergencies.

The school prohibits the use of any video or photographic device from any restroom, locker room or other location where students and staff “have a reasonable expectation of privacy.” A student improperly using any device to take or transmit images will face disciplinary action. Students may not record or take images of other students or staff without their permission at school ever, no matter the location.

“Sexting” is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cellphone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the PCD.

Taking or transmitting images or messages during testing is also prohibited. If a student is caught transmitting images or messages during testing, s/he will fail the exam and will need to retake the assessment.

Surreptitious recording of any kind is prohibited. Cell phone use during a lockdown situation is prohibited.

Searches of Persons and Belongings: During the school day, personal searches are occasionally performed. Understand that any item brought to school (laptop, phone, etc) is subject to search if the administration has reason to suspect that the contents may include evidence of a rule violation. If the administration has reasonable suspicion that a search is necessary, the following guidelines will be in effect:

1. All searches will be conducted by an administrator who will be accompanied by a witness or with the student as the witness.
2. The search will be done as privately and as reasonably as possible.

Theft: Taking property not belonging to the person taking it, whether it is property belonging to the school or to another person, and including the possession of property known by the possessor to be stolen.

Trespassing: Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. If a student has been removed, suspended, or expelled, the student is not allowed on school property without authorization of the Principal. In addition, students may not trespass onto school property at unauthorized times or into areas of the school determined to be inappropriate.

Unauthorized use of school or private property: Students are expected to obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use shall be subject to disciplinary action. This includes use of the internet and communication networks in a manner not sanctioned by policy and administrative guideline. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

Use of an object as a weapon: Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, jewelry and so

on. Intentional injury to another can be a felony and/or a cause for civil action. This violation may subject a student to expulsion.

Vandalism: An act which intentionally harms, destroys, defaces, or renders unusable the property of another or of the school.

Verbally threatening a staff member/student/person associated with the District:

Verbal threat(s) at school against a District employee, volunteer, or contractor or making bomb threats or similar threats directed at a school building, property, or a school-related activity will be considered verbal assault. Verbal threats or assault may result in suspension and expulsion. A verbal threat is a communicated intent to inflict physical or other harm on another person, with a present intent and ability to act on the threat.

Verbal Harassment/Defamation: Persistent use of language to berate or publicly impugn the person (status, race, creed, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) or reputation of another.

Possession of a Firearm, Arson, and Criminal Sexual Conduct: The Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, a school-sponsored event, including athletic events, or in a District vehicle without the permission of the Superintendent.

In compliance with State law, the Board shall permanently expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone or commits either arson or criminal sexual conduct in a District building or on District property, including school buses and other school transportation. Before expulsion for possession of a gun (including look-alike toy guns or facsimiles of guns) or knife (with a blade of three inches or longer) legislation requires the district to consider seven mandated factors prior to establishing consequences.

Bullying Policy:

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students.

This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.

Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.

This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Parents or legal guardians of the alleged victim(s), as well as of the alleged aggressor(s), shall be promptly notified of any complaint or investigation as well as the results of the investigation to the extent consistent with student confidentiality requirements. A record of the time and form of notice or attempts at notice shall be kept in the investigation file.

To the extent appropriate and/or legally permitted, confidentiality will be maintained during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations. Further, the appropriate authorities may be notified, depending on the nature of the complaint and/or the results of the investigation.

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible to implement this policy, and may develop further guidelines, not inconsistent with this policy.

This policy is not intended to and should not be interpreted to interfere with legitimate free speech rights of any individual. However, the District reserves the right and responsibility to maintain a safe environment for students, conducive to learning and other legitimate objectives of the school program.

Procedure

Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit.

If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.

The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.

Non-Retaliation/False Reports

Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Students with disabilities under IDEA or Section 504 shall be expelled only in accordance with Board Policy 2461 and Federal due process rights appropriate to students with disabilities. A student who has been expelled under this policy may apply for reinstatement in accordance with guidelines which are available in the principal's office.

Search and Seizure

Search of a student and the student's possessions, including vehicles, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or school rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.

Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. If student lockers require student-provided locks, each student must provide the lock's combination or key to the principal.

Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. In the course of any search, students' privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.

All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of the District are the District's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The District retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.

Review of such information may be done by the District with or without the student's knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the District retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student's refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

K-9 Searches

In an effort to keep the schools and district premises free of drugs, school authorities may use specially trained dogs to sniff out and alert staff to the presence of illegal substances and contraband at school including vehicles parked on district premises. The entire campus is subject to search. Such inspection by school authorities and trained dogs may be made at any time.

Students Rights of Expression

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, nonsponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following school guidelines:

- A. A material cannot be displayed if it:
1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent and pervasively or vulgar,
 2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
 3. intends to be insulting or harassing,
 4. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event.
 5. Presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.
- B. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

Bus Conduct

Students who are riding to and from school on transportation provided by the school are required to follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation.

The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain that transportation safety. Students must comply with safety rules as explained by the driver.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. The bus will not wait. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring on School Buses

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. Actual videorecording of the students on any particular bus will be done on a random-selection basis.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and the student's actions are recorded, the recording will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of the misbehavior. Since these recordings are considered part of a student's record, they can be viewed only in accordance with Federal law.

Penalties for Infractions

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

Student Concerns, Suggestions, and Grievances

The school is here for the benefit of the students. The staff is here to assist each student in becoming a responsible adult. If a student has suggestions that could improve the school, s/he should feel free to offer them. Written suggestions may be presented directly to the principal or to the student government.

When concerns or grievances arise, the best way to resolve the issue is through communication. No student will be harassed by any staff member or need fear reprisal for the proper expression of a legitimate concern. Any suggestions, concerns, and grievances may be directed to the principal or to the student government.

A student may have the right to a hearing if the student believes s/he has been improperly denied participation in a school activity or has been subjected to an illegal rule or standard. A student may not petition to have a change in grade.

Statement of Non-discrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, employees, sources of referral of applicant and admission and employment, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Dansville Schools are notified that the Dansville Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in any of its programs, activities or policies. Any person having inquiries concerning the Dansville Schools' compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, the ADA, or Section 504 is directed to contact: Jennifer Wonnell, Superintendent, 1264 Adams St., Dansville, MI 48819; 517-623-6120, ext 3416, wonnellj@dansville.org, who has been designated by the Dansville Schools to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Title VI, Title IX, the ADA or Section 504.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT INFORMATION GUIDE

What is Sexual Harassment?

Sexual harassment is unwanted sexual remarks or behaviors. It can be verbal, physical, or visual. Here are a few examples of sexual harassment.

Verbal:

- Making sexual jokes, comments, or spreading rumors targeted at someone (in person or online)
- Making sexual jokes or comments about students' bodies or how they look or act
- Making jokes or comments about students' masculinity or femininity and/or who they are attracted to or love



Physical:

- Pulling at or touching someone's clothing in a sexual manner (like pulling down someone's pants or snapping a bra strap)
- Touching, pinching, or grabbing someone in a sexual way
- Brushing up against someone's body on purpose



Visual:

- Posting or sharing sexual comments, pictures, or videos
- Pressuring someone to take or send sexual pictures or videos ("nudes")



Sexual harassment can make someone feel many emotions



You may feel scared, uncomfortable, upset, embarrassed or angry.

When it comes to sexual harassment, what matters is how the action makes a person think or feel--not the intention of the person who did it.

Sexual harassment can happen anywhere or to anyone. It can take place in person or online. But no matter where sexual harassment happens, it is never OK. It is wrong and it is against the law.






What is Sexual Assault?

Sexual assault is any sexual act that one person chooses to do to another person without consent (permission) through physical force, threats, or pressure (verbal or emotional).

Here are a few examples of sexual assault:

- Touching someone's genitals, breast, or butt without their permission (consent)
- Unwanted behavior or touch over or under clothes
- Unwanted kissing
- Physically forcing someone to perform a sexual act
- Threatening or pressuring a person to do any sexual act
- Unwanted vaginal, oral, or anal penetration with a body part or object (also known as rape)

**Sexually assaulting another person is wrong and it is against the law.
In Michigan statute, this is called "Criminal Sexual Conduct."**



About Consent

- Consent means that each person agrees or gives permission.
- Anyone can change their mind at any time.
- Consent means each person understands what is going on and agrees to all of it.
- Someone needs to get consent every single time.
- Just because someone said "yes" before, does not mean "yes" now.
- It is not OK to use threats, emotional pressure, or the fact that another person is drunk or high to get what you want.

If someone doesn't consent to sexual acts it is sexual assault.



What if This is Happening to Me?

It is not your fault. You are not alone.

- No one has the right to sexually harass or assault anyone else.
- You have the right to feel safe and respected.
- If you feel like you won't be harmed, tell them this is not okay and to stop.
- Consider telling a trusted adult if any of these behaviors happen to you. If the trusted adult is a teacher, coach, or school staff, they may have to tell someone else (like a principal, parents, etc.). If you're not sure if you are ready or want to tell a trusted adult at your school, you can talk to them without saying it happened to you ("I have a friend who...").
- If the first person isn't helpful, keep trying until you find someone who is.
- Speaking up is a brave thing to do. Don't be afraid to seek help from someone you trust.
- Resources listed on page 4 are available 24/7 to support you.

Scientific research tells us that people who experience traumatic events like sexual harassment and sexual assault have many different responses in their brains, bodies, feelings, and behaviors. However YOU respond to trauma is OK and is normal.

What if This is Happening to Someone I Know?

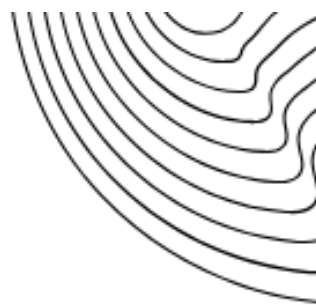
Believe. Listen. Support.



- Believe them! If someone tells you that someone has sexually harassed or assaulted them, know that it is very hard to tell someone about this and that person trusts and respects you enough to share this information. Let them know that what happened is not their fault and you are there to support them.
- Listen without judgment. Give them space and time to tell you what they feel comfortable sharing.
- Ask how you can support them. What you would need might differ from what your friend needs, so always ask. Let your friend decide who else can know.



Resources



There is Help.

You can call or chat with any of the resources below 24/7. People who are trained are there to listen and support you no matter what. **You don't have to tell them your name.** They can connect you with people and organizations nearby who can help you with questions or needs.

Michigan's Sexual Assault Hotline (VOICES4)

Text: 866-238-1454 **Call:** 855-864-2374

Chat: <https://mcedsv.org/sexual-violence-hotline-chat/>



Michigan's Domestic/Dating Violence Hotline (VOICEDV)

Text: 877-861-0222 **Call:** 866-864-2338

Chat: <https://mcedsv.org/hotline-domestic-violence/>



Youth Resources Web Page

<https://mcedsv.org/resources>



School Title IX Coordinator

If someone sexually assaulted or sexually harassed you at school or at a school event, you can choose to talk to your School District's Title IX Coordinator. Part of their responsibilities is to prevent and respond to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and discrimination based on sex and gender. Note: If you report to a Title IX Coordinator, they are required by law to follow up and may conduct an investigation.

If you report a sexual assault or sexual harassment incident, the policies forbid someone from retaliating or doing something to get back at you. See page 5 for your school's Title IX information and other related policies.