

# WHITEHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL

## STUDENT HANDBOOK

2009-2010



**“Wildcats Never Quit”**



Dear Student:

Welcome to Whitehouse High for the 2009-2010 school year. I look forward to the upcoming year with great anticipation. We have several new items to be excited about; a new schedule, some new faculty, some innovative new courses, and much, much more.

I encourage each of you to again look outside yourself and find ways you can contribute to the success of our school and your fellow classmates. The more you give toward our efforts, the more you will receive in return. We have a great school and I hope that each of you will work diligently to continue to make our school the envy of East Texas and beyond.

In an effort to assist you in defining ways in which you can be a worthwhile and contributing member of this community, our campus is providing you with the Whitehouse High School Student Handbook. The handbook outlines the expectations for all students and the guidelines that make it possible for you to have a tremendous high school experience.

I believe everyone of you has something meaningful to contribute to Whitehouse High School. Realize this in yourself and strive this year more than ever before to develop your skills and talents and use them to improve and advance our campus and move you toward meeting your own personal goals. Let us never quit pursuing the education, producing the excellence, or projecting the example that makes us all Wildcats.

**“Wildcats Never Quit”**

Sincerely,

*Duane Barber*

Duane Barber

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# PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to school year 2009-2010! For this new year to be successful for your child, we must all work together: students, parents, teachers, and other school staff members.

The Whitehouse High School Student Handbook is designed to provide a resource for some of the basic information that you and your child will need during the school year. In an effort to make it easier to use, the handbook is divided into three sections:

**Section I—IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**—with information all parents will need about assisting their child and responding to school-related issues;

**Section II—CURRICULUM-RELATED INFORMATION**—to provide information to students and their parents about graduation programs, required courses, class rank, and extracurricular and other activities; and

**Section III—GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**—describing school operations and requirements such as safety procedures, the dress code, and fees that may be charged.

Each section has a Quick Reference component to serve as a guide for day-to-day questions that may arise.

Please be aware that the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

Both students and parents must be familiar with the Whitehouse ISD Student Code of Conduct, required by state law and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere for learning. That document may be found as a separate document sent home to parents, posted at [www.whitehouseisd.org](http://www.whitehouseisd.org), or available in the principal’s office.

The student handbook is designed to be in harmony with Board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect student handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters and other communications.

In case of conflict between Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct and any provisions of student handbooks, the provisions of Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct that were most recently adopted by the Board are to be followed.

We strongly recommend that parents review the entire handbook with their children and keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact a teacher, the counselor, or the principal. Also, please complete and return the parental acknowledgment and consent/opt-out forms so that we have a record of your choices. [See **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights** on page 10.]

Please note that references to alphabetical policy codes are included so that parents can refer to current District policy. A copy of the District's policy manual is available in the school office or online at [www.whitehouseisd.org](http://www.whitehouseisd.org).

# SECTION I

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This section of the Whitehouse High School Student Handbook includes information on topics of particular interest to you as a parent.

### ***QUICK REFERENCE:***

#### **Where to look when you need information about...**

- Parental involvement page 10
- Grading guidelines page 14
- Report cards/progress reports and conferences page 14
- State-mandated assessment testing page 14
- Other standardized testing: College Requirements page 15
- Medicine at school page 15
- Steroids page 16
- Psychotropic drugs page 16
- Student records page 16
- Student or parent complaints and concerns page 18
- Release of students from school page 18

### ***PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT***

#### **Working Together**

Both experience and research tell us that a child's education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. Your involvement in this partnership may include:

- Encouraging your child to put a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides. Ensure that your child completes all homework assignments and special projects. Be sure your child comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in the District. Discuss with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child. If your child is entering ninth grade, review the requirements of the graduation programs with your child. Monitor your child's academic progress and contact teachers as needed. [See **Academic Counseling** on page 21 and **Academic Programs** on page 20.]
- Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please

call the school office at 903/839-5551 for an appointment. The teacher will usually return your call or meet with you during his or her conference period or before or after school. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 13.]

- Becoming a school volunteer. [For further information, see policy GKG and contact the high school office.
- Participating in campus parent organizations. Parent organizations include: Booster Clubs approved by the district, and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA)
- Offering to serve as a parent representative on the District-level or campus-level planning committees assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, see policies at BQA and BQB, and contact the high school principal.
- Offering to serve on the School Health Advisory Council, assisting the District in ensuring local community values are reflected in health education instruction. [See policies BDF and EHAA and **School Health Advisory Council** on page 33.]
- Attending Board meetings to learn more about District operations. [See policies BE and BED for more information.]

## **Obtaining Information and Protecting Student Rights**

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent.

Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family.

Sexual behavior or attitudes.

Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.

Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.

Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.

Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.

Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student’s eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [For further information, see policy EF.]

## **“Opting Out” of Surveys and Activities**

As a parent, you also have a right to receive notice and opt your child out of participating in:

Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.

School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.

Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. See policies EF and FFAA.

**Display of your child’s artwork, projects, and other special work products:**

As a parent, if you choose that your child’s artwork, special projects, photographs and the like not be displayed to the community on the District’s Web site, in printed material, by video, or any other method of communication, you must notify the principal in writing.

**As a parent, you also have a right:**

To request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child’s teachers, including whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; whether the teacher has an emergency permit or other provisional status for which state requirements have been waived; and undergraduate and graduate degree majors, graduate certifications, and the field of study of the certification or degree. You also have the right to request information about the qualifications of any paraprofessional who may provide services to your child.

To review teaching materials, textbooks, and other teaching aids and instructional materials used in the curriculum, and to examine tests that have been administered to your child.

To inspect a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed to your child.

To review your child’s student records when needed. These records include:

- Attendance records,
- Test scores,
- Grades,
- Disciplinary records,
- Counseling records,
- Psychological records,
- Applications for admission,
- Health and immunization information,
- Other medical records,
- Teacher and counselor evaluations,
- Reports of behavioral patterns, and
- State assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

[See **Student Records** on page 15.]

To grant or deny any written request from the District to make a videotape or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a videotape or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a co-curricular or extracurricular activity; or
- When it relates to media coverage of the school.

To remove your child temporarily from the classroom, if an instructional activity in which your child is scheduled to participate conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Further, your child must satisfy grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by the Texas Education Agency.

To request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required moment of silence or silent activity that follows. [See **Pledges of Allegiance and a Minute of Silence** on page 44 and policy EC.]

To request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the District determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK]

To request in writing, if you are a non-custodial parent, that you be provided for the remainder of the school year a copy of any written notice usually provided to a parent related to misconduct that may involve placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) or expulsion. See policies FL(LEGAL) and (LOCAL), FO(LEGAL) and the Student Code of Conduct.

To request a transfer of your child to another classroom if your child has been verified by the High School Administration to have been a victim of bullying as the term is defined by Education Code 25.0341. See the principal for information.

To request a transfer of your child to attend a safe public school in the District if your child attends school at a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous or if your child was a victim of a violent criminal offense while in school or on school grounds. See policy FDD(LOCAL).

## **GRADING GUIDELINES**

In grades 9–12, achievement is reported to parents as:

## **REPORT CARDS / PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES**

Report cards with each student's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued to parents at least once every 3 weeks.

At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents will be given a written unsatisfactory progress report if their child's performance in any course (in English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies) is near or below 70, or is below the expected level of performance. If the student receives a grade lower than 70 in any class or subject during a grading period, the parent will be requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. [See **Working Together** on page 9 for how to schedule a conference.]

Teachers follow grading guidelines approved by the Superintendent that have been designed to reflect each student's academic achievement for the grading period, semester, or course. State law provides that a test or course grade issued by a teacher cannot be changed unless the Board determines that the grade was arbitrary or contains an error, or that the teacher did not follow the District's grading policy. [See policy EIA.]

Questions about grade calculation should first be discussed with the teacher; if the question is not resolved, the student or parent may request a conference with the principal in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).

The report card or unsatisfactory progress report will state whether tutorials are required for a student who receives a grade lower than 70 in a class or subject.

Report cards must be signed by the parent and should be returned to the school within 3 days.

## **STATE-MANDATED ASSESSMENT TESTS**

Students at certain grade levels will take state assessment tests (such as TAKS: the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) in the following subjects, as well as routine testing and other measures of achievement:

- Mathematics, annually in grades 3–7 without the aid of technology and, in grades 8–11, with the aid of technology on any assessment test that includes algebra
- Reading, annually in grades 3–9
- Writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades 4 and 7
- English language arts in grade 10 and 11 Exit Level
- Social studies in grades 8 and 10 and 11 Exit Level
- Science in grades 5, 8, and 10 and 11 Exit Level [See note below.]
- Any other subject and grade required by federal law

[See policy EKB.]

## **OTHER STANDARDIZED TESTING: COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS**

Most colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the counselor early during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; entrance exams are usually taken at the

end of the junior year. (Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take an assessment test, such as the Texas Higher Education Assessment [THEA] test.)

## ***MEDICINE AT SCHOOL***

District employees will not give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, anabolic steroids, or dietary supplements, with the following exceptions:

- Authorized employees, in accordance with policy FFAC, may administer:
  - Prescription medication provided by the parent, along with a written request, and in the original, properly labeled container.
  - Medication from a properly labeled unit dosage container filled by a registered nurse or another qualified District employee from the original, properly labeled container.
  - Nonprescription medication provided by the parent along with a written request, and in the original, properly labeled container.
  - Herbal or dietary supplements provided by the parent if required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.
- In certain emergency situations, the District will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only:
  - In accordance with the guidelines developed with the District's medical advisor and
  - When the parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the District's form.

A student with asthma who has written authorization from his or her parent and physician or other licensed health-care provider may be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma medication at school or school-related events. The student and parents should see the school nurse or principal if the student has been prescribed asthma medication for use during the school day.

In accordance with a student's individual health plan for management of diabetes, a student with diabetes will be permitted to possess and use monitoring and treatment supplies and equipment while at school or at a school-related activity. See the school nurse or principal for information.

## ***STEROIDS***

Parents and students should be aware that state law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use.

Under state law, body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

## **PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS**

Teachers and other District employees may discuss a student's academic progress or behavior with the student's parents or another employee as appropriate; however, they will not recommend use of psychotropic drugs. A District employee who is a registered nurse, an advanced nurse practitioner, a physician, or a certified or credentialed mental health professional can recommend that a student be evaluated by an appropriate medical practitioner, if appropriate.

“Psychotropic drug” means a substance used in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of a disease or as a component of a medication and intended to have an altering effect on perception, emotion, or behavior. It is commonly described as a mood- or behavior-altering substance.

[For further information, see policies at FFAC.]

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

Both federal and state law safeguards student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and “eligible” students certain rights. For purposes of student records, an “eligible” student is one who is 18 or older OR who is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

The law specifies that certain general information about Whitehouse High School students is considered “directory information” and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it.

Release of any or all directory information regarding a student may be prevented by the parent or an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the child's first day of this school year. [See the acknowledgment form attached to this handbook.]

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records. Release is restricted to:

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless parental rights have been legally terminated and if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights. Federal law requires that, as soon as the student becomes 18 or is emancipated by a court, control of the records goes to the student. However, the parents may continue to have access to the records if the student is a dependent for tax purposes.
- District staff members who have what federal law defines as a “legitimate educational interest” in a student's records. Such persons would include school officials (such as Board members, the Superintendent, and principals), school staff members (such as teachers, counselors, and diagnosticians), or an agent of the District (such as a medical consultant).
- Various governmental agencies or in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school to which a student transfers or in which he or she subsequently enrolls.

Release to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission as appropriate.

The District must comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students' names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the District not to release their child's information without prior written consent.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The principal is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. If circumstances prevent inspection during these hours, the District will either provide a copy of the requested records, or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the requested records. The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. The address of the Superintendent's office is: **106 Wildcat Drive, Whitehouse, TX 75791.**

The address of the principals' office is:

**Whitehouse High School, 901 East Main, Whitehouse, TX 75791**

A parent (or the student if he or she is 18 or older or is attending an institution of postsecondary education) may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requestor has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, contesting a student's grade in a course is handled through the general complaint process defined by policy FNG. [See **Report Cards/Progress Reports and Conferences** on page 12, and **Student or Parent Complaints and Concerns** on page 17 for an overview of the process.]

There is no charge for the first three copies of student records. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> copy is requested, there is a \$1.00 fee, payable in advance. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge upon written request of the parent.

**Please note:**

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the District is not in compliance with federal law regarding student records. The District's policy regarding student records is available from the principal's or Superintendent's office.

The parent's or eligible student's right of access to and copies of student records do not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as teachers' personal notes about a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher—do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

## **STUDENT OR PARENT COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS**

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply—by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the District has adopted a standard complaint policy at FNG(LOCAL) in the District's policy

manual. A copy of this policy may be obtained in the principal's or Superintendent's office or on the District's Web site at [www.whitehouseisd.org](http://www.whitehouseisd.org).

In general, the student or parent should first discuss the complaint with the campus principal. If unresolved, a written complaint and a request for a conference should be sent to the Superintendent. If still unresolved, the District provides for the complaint to be presented to the Board of Trustees.

## **RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL**

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from his or her parent that morning. A student who becomes ill during the school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the school nurse. The nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

A student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day except with permission from the principal or designee and according to the campus sign-out procedures. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

## **Late Arrival to School**

A student who is tardy to any class will be assigned to Saturday school after their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> tardy. Repeated instances of tardiness will result in more severe disciplinary action such as in-school suspension (SOS) or additional Saturday school. A tardy is recorded within the first 15 minutes of the class period. Afterwards, it is recorded as an absence.[See **Attendance for Credit** on page 30.]

## **Withdrawing from School**

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school **only** by a parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. A withdrawal form may be obtained by the parent from the counseling office.

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for current grade averages and book clearance; to the librarian to ensure a clear library record; to the clinic for health records; to the counselor for the last report card and course clearance; and finally, to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student and a copy placed in the student's permanent record.

A student who is 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor, may withdraw without parental signature.

## **SECTION II**

### **CURRICULUM-RELATED INFORMATION**

This section of the handbook contains pertinent requirements for academics and activities. Much of this information will also be of interest to your parents and should be reviewed with them—especially if you are entering 9th grade or are a transfer student. The section includes information on graduation programs and requirements; options for earning course credit; extracurricular activities and other school-related organizations; and awards, honors, and scholarships.

#### ***QUICK REFERENCE:***

##### **Where to look when you need help with...**

- Academic Records page 21
- Awards and honors page 21
- Class rank/top ten percent/highest ranking student page 21
- State scholarships and grants page 22
- Class schedules page 22
- Computer resources page 22
- Correspondence courses page 22
- Counseling: academic page 23
- Counseling: personal page 23
- Credit by exam page 23
- Distance Learning page 24
- Dual credit courses/college courses page 24
- Career and technology programs page 24
- Exam Exemptions page 25
- Extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations page 25
- Grade classification page 26
- Promotion and retention page 26
- Graduation page 27
- Nontraditional academic programs page 28
- Special programs page 28
- Summer school page 29
- Textbooks page 29

## **ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

The school counselor provides students and their parents information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices. [For more information, see page 26 of this handbook and policy EIF.]

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

[See **Academic Counseling** on page 21.]

## **CLASS RANK / TOP TEN PERCENT / HIGHEST RANKING STUDENT**

All courses on the student's transcript shall be included in determining a student's class ranking except for credit by examination, correspondence courses, state-mandated assessment and TAKS classes, remediation courses, student aides, and any physical education credit or equivalent beyond the 1 credit mandated by the state. Algebra I and Spanish I taken in the eighth grade shall be included in class ranking.

Courses taken in summer school for remediation shall be awarded credit on a pass/fail basis. The grade earned during the regular school term shall be entered to calculate the student's grade average and ranking in class.

All students whose grade point averages comprise the top ten percent of the graduating class and qualify for automatic admission under Education Code 51.803 shall be recognized. Eligibility standards required for the local procedure for determining valedictorian and salutatorian (or other local honor positions) shall not apply to the procedure for determining the top ten percent. The GPA shall be reported on the student's transcript as required by TEA and made available in accordance with the application deadline when requested by the student. [See EIC(LEGAL)]

The three highest ranking students who have successfully completed a minimum of five honors/Pre-AP credits or five AP credits or any combination of the two shall be valedictorian, salutatorian, and historian, respectively. Students must have been enrolled in the District high school for a minimum of two years immediately preceding graduation to be eligible for the three honors.

Final official ranking for seniors shall be announced after the end of the fifth six-week grading period.

Any student who successfully completes five honors/Pre-AP credits or five advanced placement (AP) credits or any combination of the two and has a 90 or better weighted average shall be an honor graduate at the final graduation ceremony.

For two school years following their graduation, District graduates who ranked in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for admission into four-year public universities and

colleges in Texas. Students and parents should contact the counselor for further information about how to apply and the deadline for application.

[For further information, see policies at EIC.]

## **STATE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- Under the Texas Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program, students who complete the Recommended or Advanced (Distinguished Achievement) High School Program may earn financial credits in varying amounts to apply toward college tuition. The amounts depend on the number of consecutive months in which the student completed graduation requirements and the number of early college credits earned and may be used at public or private Texas higher education institutions within the state. The counselor can provide additional information about meeting the program's eligibility requirements.
- Students who have a financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program may be eligible under the TEXAS Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions. [For further information, see the principal or counselor and policy EJ.]

## **CLASS SCHEDULES**

The school's master schedule is built according to the requests made by students in the spring prior to the school year. In processing any requests to change classes, the administration will consider the request but cannot guarantee that any schedule changes will be made. Students are encouraged to work with their guidance counselor to plan their high school academic plan and follow through with selected courses.

## **COMPUTER RESOURCES**

To prepare students for an increasingly computerized society, the District has made a substantial investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and their parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action.

Students and their parents should be aware that e-mail using District computers is not private and may be monitored by District staff.

[For additional information, see policy CQ.]

## **CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

The District permits high school students to take correspondence courses—courses by mail or via the Internet—for credit toward high school graduation.

A maximum of two credits may be earned through correspondence courses for state-required credits.

[For further information, see policy EEJC.]

## **COUNSELING**

### **Academic Counseling**

Students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn about course offerings, the graduation requirements of various programs, and early graduation procedures. Each spring, students in grades 8 through 11 will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next year and other information that will help to make the most of academic and vocational opportunities.

To plan for the future, including attendance at a college, university, or training school, or pursuit of some other type of advanced education, students should work closely with the counselor in order to take the high school courses that best prepare them. The counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and deadlines for application, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.

### **Personal Counseling**

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. A student who wishes to meet with the counselor should contact the counseling office by calling 903/839-5542.

**Please note:** The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent, unless required by state or federal law for special education purposes or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

[For more information, refer to policy FFE and FFG(EXHIBIT).]

### ***CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Taken the Course***

A student who has received prior instruction in a course or subject—but did not receive credit for it—may, in circumstances determined by the teacher, counselor, principal, or attendance committee, be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam on the essential knowledge and skills defined for the course or subject. To receive credit, a student must score at least 70 on the exam. In other instances, the District administration will determine whether any opportunity for credit by exam will be offered.

The attendance review committee may offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to earn credit for a course by passing an exam. A student may not use this exam, however, to

regain eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. [For further information, see the counselor and policy EEJA.]

### ***CREDIT BY EXAM—If a Student Has Not Taken the Course***

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course for which the student has no prior instruction. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the 2005–2006 school year will be determined according to need. Contact the counseling office with any questions by calling 903/839-5542

The passing score required to earn credit on an exam is 90.

If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the principal no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. The District will not honor a request by a parent to administer a test on a date other than the published dates. The parent will be responsible for paying an appropriate fee to the District or for purchasing the test from a university approved by the State Board of Education. [For further information, see policy EEJB.]

### ***DISTANCE LEARNING***

Credit toward state graduation requirements may be granted for distance learning courses only as follows:

1. Students may earn course credit through distance learning technologies, such as satellite, Internet, two-way videoconferencing, and instructional television.
2. The distance learning courses must include the state-required essential knowledge and skills for such a course.

*19 TAC 74.23*

All requests for such courses shall be made in advance in writing to the high school principal and must receive approval prior to enrollment.

### ***DUAL CREDIT COURSES / COLLEGE COURSES***

Students have opportunity to enroll in dual credit courses with participating colleges and universities but must have approval from their guidance counselor prior to enrollment.

### ***CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS***

The District offers career and technology programs in Health Science Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Diversified Career Preparation, Horticulture, Agriculture, Metal Fabrication, Engineering Graphics, Technology Systems, and Technology. Admission to these programs is based on application, approval from the sponsor or the program or the vocational director, and approval from the student's guidance counselor.

Whitehouse ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

## **SEMESTER EXAMS**

All students are required to take semester exams unless they meet the exam exemption criteria below. Semester exams must be taken at the time scheduled. **Alterations to the exam schedule (i.e. taking exams early) for reasons of personal business are not allowed.** Parents of students with sickness related absences on the day of an exam must call the attendance office at 903-839-5553 to notify the school of the sickness. The student will be allowed to make up exams on the scheduled make up day each semester. All other extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the campus principal and should be submitted in writing.

## **EXAM EXEMPTIONS**

Students may be exempt from semester and final exams according to the following guidelines:

### **FALL Exemptions:**

11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students may be exempt from any semester exam in the fall if the student has:

1. At least an 85 average for the semester in that class;
2. No more than five absences in the class; three tardies will equal one absence;
3. No SOS, suspensions, 2 or more Saturday school assignments, DAEP, or JJAEP assignments.

9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be eligible to be exempt from final exams in English, Math, and Science following the guidelines above.

### **SPRING Exemptions/TAKS Exception:**

12<sup>th</sup> grade students may be exempt from any semester exam in the spring if the student has met the exemption criteria.

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students may be exempt from semester exams, as stated above, in the spring if the student meets the exemption criteria for the fall. The *TAKS exception* states that if a student, grades 9 – 11, passes a TAKS test **and** the class in that subject area for the year, and has no more than five absences, the student can be exempt from the final exam in that class. This exception is designed to encourage students who may have struggled with grades or behavior to do well on the TAKS tests administered in the spring. If you have any questions, please contact the high school office.

Criteria #3 (Discipline) is not considered if the student meets the other 2 criteria and has passed the TAKS test for that subject.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Participation in school and school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law as well as rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than a class identified as honors or advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local Board of Trustees—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions.
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

**Please note:** Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

[For further information, see policies FM and FO.]

## ***GRADE CLASSIFICATION***

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of credits earned toward graduation.

<u>Credits Earned</u>	<u>Classification</u>
5.5	Grade 10 (Sophomore)
11	Grade 11 (Junior)
16.5	Grade 12 (Senior)

## ***PROMOTION AND RETENTION***

A student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level. To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70 based on course-level or grade-level standards.

In addition, at certain grade levels a student—with limited exceptions—will be required to pass the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), if the student is enrolled in a public

Texas school on any day between January 1 and April 15 and is a Texas resident during the week that the TAKS is administered the first time.

- In order to be promoted to grade 9, students enrolled in grade 8 in the 2007–2008 school year must perform satisfactorily on the Mathematics and Reading sections of the grade 8 assessment test in English.

In addition, students in grades 3, 5, and 8 must meet promotion standards established by the District in order to be promoted.

Parents of students in grades 3, 5, and 8 who do not perform satisfactorily on their exams will be notified that their child will participate in special instructional programs designed to improve performance. These students will also have two additional opportunities to take the test. If the student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the District, the decision of the committee must be unanimous. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year. [See policy EIE.]

A Personal Graduation Plan (PGP) will be prepared for any student in a middle school or beyond who did not perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment test or is determined by the District as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year following enrollment in grade 9. The PGP will be designed and implemented by a guidance counselor, teacher, or other staff member designated by the principal. The plan will identify the student's educational goals and include consideration of the parent's educational expectations for the student. [For additional information, see the counselor or principal and policy EIF.]

Certain students—some with disabilities and some with limited English proficiency—may be eligible for exemptions, accommodations, or deferred testing. For more information, see the principal, counselor, or special education director.

## **GRADUATION**

### **Requirements for a Diploma**

To receive a high school diploma from the District, a student must successfully complete the required number of credits and pass a statewide exit-level exam.

The grade 11 exit-level test, required for students in grade 11, covers English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies and requires knowledge of Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Integrated Chemistry and Physics, English III, and early American and United States History. A student who does not pass the exit-level assessment will have additional opportunities to take the test.

The state mandated the current exit-level TAKS test effective for school year 2003–2004; previously students had taken an earlier version of the exit-level test beginning in grade 10 that was known as Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS). Any student who was scheduled to graduate during the administration of the TAAS exit-level exam will be permitted to take it.

## Graduation Programs

The District offers the graduation programs listed below. All students entering grade 9 are required to enroll in the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program. Permission to enroll in the Minimum Graduation Program will be granted only if an agreement is reached among the student, the student’s parent or person standing in parental relation, and the counselor or appropriate administrator. The counselor can help you decide which program is best for you. [See policy EIF.]

### Number of Credits

- |                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| • Minimum Graduation Plan           | 23 |
| • Recommended High School Program   | 26 |
| • Distinguished Achievement Program | 26 |

## Certificates of Coursework Completion

A certificate of coursework completion **will not** be issued to a senior student who successfully completes state and local credit requirements for graduation, but fails to perform satisfactorily on the exit-level tests.

## Students with Disabilities

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal committee, a student with disabilities may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her individualized education program (IEP).

## Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will include:

- Graduation practice
- Graduation ceremony

## Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year. [See **Student Fees** on page 43.]

## ***NONTRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMS***

[See **Requirements for a Diploma** on page 26.]

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

The District provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as programs and services offered in the District or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact the guidance counselor or the principal.

### **Options and Requirements for Providing Assistance to Students Who Have Learning Difficulties or Who Need or May Need Special Education**

If a child is experiencing learning difficulties, the parent may contact the person listed below to learn about the District's overall general education referral or screening system for support services. This system links students to a variety of support options, including referral for a special education evaluation. Students having difficulty in the regular classroom should be considered for tutorial, compensatory, and other support services that are available to all students.

At any time, a parent is entitled to request an evaluation for special education services. Within a reasonable amount of time, the District must decide if the evaluation is needed. If evaluation is needed, the parent will be notified and asked to provide consent for the evaluation. The District must complete the evaluation and the report within 60 calendar days of the date the District receives the written consent. The District must give a copy of the report to the parent.

If the District determines that the evaluation is not needed, the District will provide the parent with a written notice that explains why the child will not be evaluated. This written notice will include a statement that informs the parent of their rights if they disagree with the District. Additionally, the notice must inform the parent how to obtain a copy of the *Notice of Procedural Safeguards—Rights of Parents of Students with Disabilities*.

The designated person to contact regarding options for a child experiencing learning difficulties or a referral for evaluation for special education is Kathy Atherton at 903/839-5542.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

Whitehouse ISD offers a five week summer school program for students grades 6 -12 for remedial credit only. Summer school classes are determined by student demand and some courses are not offered due to the nature of the class. Students are limited to only two classes per summer and must score a grade of 60 or above for the year in the class they do not pass to qualify for admission to summer school. The summer school program is limited to students who reside in the Whitehouse ISD.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

State-approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school loses the right to free textbooks until the book is returned or paid for by the parent. However, a student will be provided textbooks for use at school during the school day.

## **SECTION III**

# **GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information regarding school operations and requirements. Included are provisions such as student welfare; health and safety issues; fees; the school's expectations for student conduct (other than Student Code of Conduct requirements); use of facilities, such as the cafeteria, library, and transportation services; and emergency closings. For additional information or questions you may have, please see the principal.

### ***QUICK REFERENCE:***

#### ***Where to look when you need information about...***

- Attendance page 31
- Driver License Attendance Verification page 32
- Makeup work page 32
- Communicable diseases/Conditions page 33
- Health-related matters page 35
- Freedom from Discrimination page 35
- Conduct page 37
- Disruptions page 38
- Law enforcement agencies page 39
- Distribution of published materials or documents page 40
- Dress and grooming page 41
- Student fees page 43
- Fund-raising page 44
- Immunization page 44
- Pledges of allegiance and a minute of silence page 44
- Prayer page 44
- Safety page 45
- Emergency school-closings information page 46
- School facilities page 46
- Searches page 47
- Transportation page 48
- Videotaping of students page 49

## **ATTENDANCE**

Regular school attendance is essential for the student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day’s learning on the previous day’s, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. Two state laws, one dealing with compulsory attendance, the other with attendance for course credit, are of special interest to students and parents. Each is discussed in the following sections:

### **Compulsory Attendance**

The state compulsory attendance law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend school and District-required tutorial sessions unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused. A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her eighteenth birthday is required to attend each school day. However, if a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the District may revoke the student’s enrollment. The student’s presence on school property thereafter is then unauthorized and may be considered trespass.

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent from school without permission from any class; from required special programs, such as additional special instruction (termed “accelerated instruction” by the state) assigned by the grade placement committee and basic skills for ninth graders; or from required tutorials will be considered in violation of the law and subject to disciplinary action.

A school-aged student’s deliberately not attending school may also result in assessment of penalties by a court of law against both the student and his or her parents. A complaint against the parent may be filed in the appropriate court if the student:

- Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

### **Attendance for Credit**

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit.

In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- All absences will be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days. If makeup work is completed, absences for religious holy days and health-care appointments will be considered days of attendance for this purpose. [See policy FEB.]

- A transfer or migrant student incurs absences only after his or her enrollment in the District. For a student transferring into the District after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
- In reaching consensus about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences.
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.

The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the District's Board of Trustees by filing a written request with the Superintendent in accordance with policy FNG.

The actual number of days a student must attend in order to receive credit will depend on whether the class is for a full semester or for a full year.

When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note, signed by the parent, which describes the reason for the absence. A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older.

### **Verification of Attendance (VOE) Form for student drivers**

To obtain a driver license, a student between the ages of 16 and 18 must annually provide to the Texas Department of Public Safety a VOE form obtained from the school verifying that the student has met the 90 percent attendance requirement for the semester preceding the date of application. The student can obtain this form at the main office of the high school.

## ***MAKEUP WORK***

### **Routine and In-depth Makeup Work Assignments**

A student will be permitted to make up tests and to turn in projects due in any class missed because of absence. Secondary teachers may assign a late penalty to any project in accordance with time lines approved by the principal and previously communicated to students.

For any class missed, the teacher may assign the student makeup work based on the instructional objectives for the subject or course, and the needs of the individual student in mastering the essential knowledge and skills or in meeting subject or course requirements.

A student will be responsible for obtaining and completing the makeup work in a satisfactory manner and within the time specified by the teacher. [For further information, see policy EIAB.]

A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

### **DAEP or In-school Suspension Makeup Work**

A student removed to a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP) during the school year will have an opportunity to complete coursework needed to fulfill the student's high school graduation requirements before the beginning of the next school year. The District may provide the opportunity to complete the coursework through any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. The District will not charge the student for any method of completion provided by the District. [See policy FOCA.]

A student removed from the regular classroom to in-school suspension or another setting, other than a DAEP, will have an opportunity to complete before the beginning of the next school year each course the student was enrolled in at the time of removal from the regular classroom. The District may provide the opportunity by any method available, including a correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. [See policy FEA.]

Students and their parents are encouraged to discuss options with the teacher or counselor to ensure the student completes all work required for the course or grade level.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / CONDITIONS**

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. If a parent suspects that his or her child has a communicable or contagious disease, the parent should contact the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

The school nurse or the principal's office can provide information from the Texas Department of Health regarding these diseases.

### **Bacterial Meningitis**

State law specifically requires the District to provide the following information:

- What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease, but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

- What are the symptoms?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pains, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

- How serious is bacterial meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

- How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing; sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes).

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

- How can bacterial meningitis be prevented?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85–90 percent). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

- What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

- Where can you get more information?

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the Web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Department of State Health Services, <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us>.

## ***HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS***

### **School Health Advisory Council**

Information regarding the District's School Health Advisory Council, including the number of meetings scheduled or held during the year, and information regarding vending machines in

District facilities and student access to the machines is available from the principal. [See also policies BDF and EHAA.]

## **Other Health-Related Matters**

### **Tobacco Prohibited**

The District and its staff strictly enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco products by students and others on school property or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. [See the Student Code of Conduct and policy GKA.]

### **Asbestos Management Plan**

The District's Asbestos Management Plan, designed to be in compliance with state and federal regulations, is available in the central administrative office. If you have any questions, please contact Annette Burch at 903/839-5500.

### **Pest Management Plan**

The District applies only pest control products that comply with state and federal guidelines. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child(ren)'s school assignment area may contact Annette Burch at 903/839-5500.

## ***FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION***

The District believes that all students learn best in an environment free from harassment and that their welfare is best served when they can work free from discrimination. Students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop those behaviors when asked or told to stop. District employees are expected to treat students with courtesy and respect.

The Board has established policies and procedures to prohibit and promptly respond to inappropriate and offensive behaviors that are based on a person's race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, age, or disability. [See policy FFH] Prohibited harassment, in general terms, is conduct so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity; or substantially interferes with the student's academic performance. A copy of the District's policy is available in the principal's office and in the Superintendent's office.

Examples of prohibited discrimination may include, but are not limited to, derogatory language directed at a person's religious beliefs or practices, accent, skin color, or need for accommodation; bullying, threatening or intimidating conduct; name-calling or slurs, taunting, teasing (even when presented as "jokes"), or rumors; aggression or assault; graffiti or printed material promoting racial, ethnic, or other negative stereotypes; or aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property. Examples of prohibited sexual harassment may include touching private body parts or coercing physical contact that is sexual in nature; sexual advances; jokes or conversations of a sexual nature; and other sexually motivated conduct, communications, or contact.

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee or volunteer does not include necessary or permissible physical contact not reasonably construed as sexual in nature. However, all romantic and inappropriate social relationships, as well as all sexual relationships, between students and District employees are prohibited, even if consensual.

Any student (or the student's parent) who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited harassment should immediately report the problem to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee.

To the extent possible, the District will respect the privacy of the student; however, limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation and to comply with law. Allegations will be promptly investigated. The District will notify the parents of any student alleged to have experienced prohibited harassment by an adult associated with the District, or by another student, when the allegations, if proven, would constitute "sexual harassment" or "other prohibited harassment" as defined by District policy.

If the District's investigation indicates that prohibited harassment occurred, appropriate disciplinary or corrective action will be taken to address the harassment. The District may take disciplinary action even if the conduct that is the subject of the complaint did not rise to the level of harassment prohibited by law or policy.

Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report of prohibited harassment is prohibited. However, a person who makes a false claim or offers false statements or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation may be subject to appropriate discipline.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal in accordance with policy FNG.

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, the District makes the following statements:

Whitehouse ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following District staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex:  
Richard Peacock, Executive Director of Student and Support Service  
106 Wildcat Drive, Whitehouse, TX 75791  
903/839-5500
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability:  
Betty Lough, Executive Director of Curriculum  
106 Wildcat Drive, Whitehouse, TX 75791  
903/839-5500
- All other concerns: Contact Central Office at 903/839-5500.

## **Services for the Homeless and for Title I Participants**

Other designated staff you may need to contact include:

- Liaison for Homeless Children and Youths, who coordinates services for homeless students: Executive Director of Special Programs: 903/839-5500
- Parent Involvement Coordinator, who works with parents of students participating in Title I programs: Executive Director of Special Programs: 903/839-5500

## **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Parents of students with learning difficulties or who may need special education services may request an evaluation for special education at any time. For more information, see page 28 and contact Kathy Atherton at 903/839-5542.

## ***CONDUCT***

### **Applicability of School Rules**

As required by law, the District has established a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior—both on and off campus—and consequences for violation of the standards. Students need to be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all students, the Student Code of Conduct and other campus rules of behavior will apply whenever the interest of the District is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities. The District has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment—spanking or paddling the student—may be used as a discipline management technique in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and policy FO(LOCAL) in the District's policy manual.

### **Social Events/Dances**

School rules apply to school social events to which a student brings a guest. Guests are expected to observe the same rules as students attending the event, and the person inviting the guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest.

In addition, any student bringing a guest who is not a Whitehouse High School student to any social event/dance will be required to submit a ***Guest Approval Form*** to their appropriate Assistant Principal for approval prior to tickets being purchased for the event. These forms will be made available at the main office, at the pre-sale ticket tables, and on-line prior to the scheduled event. The age limit for guests who are not Whitehouse High School students is 20 years of age at the time of the event.

## Disruptions

As identified by law, disruptions include the following:

- Interferes with the movement of people at an exit, an entrance, or a hallway of a District building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interferes with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Uses force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in an authorized assembly.
- Uses force, violence, or threats to cause disruption during an assembly.
- Interferes with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to District property.
- Uses force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving District property without authorization from an administrator.
- Disrupts classes or other school activities while on District property or on public property that is within 500 feet of District property. Class disruption includes making loud noises; trying to entice a student away from, or to prevent a student from attending, a required class or activity; and entering a classroom without authorization and disrupting the activity with profane language or any misconduct.
- Interferes with the transportation of students in District vehicles.

## Radios, CD Players, Cell Phones, and Other Electronic Devices and Games

Students are not permitted to possess such items as telecommunications devices with text messaging, pagers, radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, or electronic devices or games at school, unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. Without such permission, teachers will collect the item and turn it in to the principal's office. The principal will determine whether to return the item at the end of the day for the student to take home or whether the parent will be contacted to pick up the item.

The high school recognizes that most students have access to cell phones for a variety of reasons supported by the school. However, students are prohibited from displaying or using cell phones during the school day (**This includes entering an exiting the building before and after school**). Students who display phones, disrupt class, or use phones during the day will be required to surrender the phone to the school immediately. The phone will be held in the high school business office and can be collected by the parent for a fee of \$15 allowable by the Texas Education Code (37.082).

Additionally the following disciplinary plan will be used in handling cell-phone violations:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense**-Student must surrender cell phone. Parent must conference with Assistant Principal and \$15 fine will be imposed. **Cell phone will not be returned until the end of the school day in which the infraction occurred.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**-Student must surrender cell phone. Student will be placed in SOS (in-school suspension) for 3 days, or be assigned to Saturday School. Parent must conference with Assistant Principal and \$15 fine will be imposed. **Cell phone will not be returned until**

**the end of the school day in which the infraction occurred. Any student who has a cell phone violation while in SOS will receive 3 days of suspension.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense**-Student must surrender cell phone. Student will be suspended from school for 3 days. Parent must conference with Assistant Principal. **Cell phone will be held for 30 days. At the end of the 30 days a notice will be sent to the parent that the phone may be picked up or the cell phone will be disposed of on the 45<sup>th</sup> day.**

Any disciplinary action will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. For certain items, such as pagers, in which a third party retains a legal right of ownership, the school may charge for releasing the pager to the third party.

[See policy FNCE.]

## ***LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES***

### **Questioning of Students**

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school:

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school.
- The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

### **Students Taken Into Custody**

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the Superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

## **Notification of Law Violations**

The District is also required by state law to notify:

- All instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- All instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted, received deferred prosecution, received deferred adjudication, or adjudicated of delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

[For further information, see policy GRA.]

## ***DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLISHED MATERIALS OR DOCUMENTS***

### **School Materials**

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with prior approval by the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, murals, etc.

The school newspaper, *Paw Prints*, and the yearbook, *The Wildcat*, are available to students.

All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

### **Non-school Materials ... from students**

Unless a student obtains specific prior approval from the principal, written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials that were not developed under the oversight of the school may not be posted, sold, circulated, or distributed on any school campus. To be considered, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring organization or individual. The decision regarding approval will be made in two school days.

The principal has designated the main bulletin board as the location for approved non-school materials to be placed for voluntary viewing by students. See policy FNAA.

The student may appeal the principal's decision in accordance with policy FNG(LOCAL). Any student who posts material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Materials displayed without this approval will be removed.

## **Non-school Materials ... from others**

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials not sponsored by the District or by a District-affiliated school-support organization will not be sold, circulated, distributed, or posted on any District premises by any District employee or by persons or groups not associated with the District, except as permitted by policy GKDA. To be considered, any non-school material must meet the limitations on content established in the policy, include the name of the sponsoring organization or individual, and be submitted to the principal's office for specific prior review. The principal will approve or reject the materials within two school days of the time the materials are received. The requestor may appeal a rejection in accordance with the appropriate District complaint policy. [See policy DGBA, FNG, or GF.]

Prior review will not be required for:

- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a school-sponsored meeting intended for adults and held after school hours.
- Distribution of materials by an attendee to other attendees of a community group meeting held after school hours in accordance with policy GKD(LOCAL).
- Distribution for electioneering purposes during the time a school facility is being used as a polling place, in accordance with state law.

All non-school materials distributed under these circumstances must be removed from District property immediately following the event at which the materials are distributed.

## ***DRESS AND GROOMING***

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

Student dress reflects the quality of the school and affects students' conduct. Students shall be dressed and groomed in a manner that is clean and neat and that will not be a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. Any article of clothing, jewelry, body decoration or hairstyle extreme enough to create a distraction or disturb the normal routine of school shall be deemed inappropriate. The district prohibits any clothing or grooming that in the principal's judgment may reasonably be expected to cause a disruption of or interference with normal school operations.

Examples of inappropriate and unapproved choices of clothing, jewelry body decorations, or hairstyles include:

Hats, caps, or bandannas.

Tank tops or low cut clothing. (neck or underarm)

Clothing that exposes bare midriffs, i.e., crop tops.

Exposed body piercing jewelry excluding earrings. (i.e. tongue, nose, eyebrow, etc.)

House shoes.

Excessive or distracting makeup/hair color.

Obscene language or symbols, provocative pictures, advertising tobacco or narcotics on clothing, jewelry, or exposed body parts.

Symbols on clothing or jewelry that would distract or cause undue attention.

Racially related symbols, emblems, pictures, words, slogans, or tattoos.

Symbols, words, or slogans cut into hair that are obscene, racially related, provocative, otherwise deemed inappropriate by the campus principal.

Excessively loose clothing that results in “sagging.”

Dark glasses (unless prescribed by a physician)

See-through, provocative, or excessively tight clothing, i.e., spandex tights, shorts or pants and excessively tight dresses or skirts.

Intentionally torn clothing.

Clothing worn in a manner for which it was not intended, i.e., backwards, inside out, off-the-shoulder suspenders.

Any accessory or clothing article deemed gang-related as determined by the school administration.

For grades (5-12) dresses, skirts, all split garments, and shorts must be no more than three inches above the knee while properly worn when standing. (For PK-4, check the campus handbook)

Shirts that were made to be tucked in should be tucked in.

Pants must be worn at the waist of the student. (No sagging or hip-huggers)

Shorts must be hemmed and cuffed garments that are designed for outerwear. Walking shorts, shorts, jams, and culottes are examples of styles that are normally permitted.

Not to be worn are cutoffs, wind shorts, short shorts, flannel sleep ware, and boxer shorts.

Students must wear appropriate undergarments.

Whitehouse ISD discourages the wearing of expensive jewelry and other apparel and is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Teacher/coaches/sponsors may define appropriate dress for school-sponsored trips and extracurricular activities. Students who violate those standards may be removed or excluded from the activity for a period determined by the principal or sponsor and may be subject to disciplinary action.

**Final decisions on the appropriateness of school dress rest with the campus administration.**

Beards, goatees, or other obvious forms of facial hair with the exception of mustaches will not be permitted in grades 7-12. Regardless of the student’s sex, hairstyle, or length of hair, he/she must insure their hair is maintained, neat and in a clean condition. Good health habits will be the priorities when dealing with the student’s grooming. If the principal determines that a student’s

grooming violates the dress code, the student may be given an opportunity to correct the problem at school. If not corrected, the student may be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day or until the problem is corrected.

## ***STUDENT FEES***

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds and are at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities.
- Security deposits.
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the District.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on District premises.
- Summer school for courses that are offered tuition-free during the regular school year.

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the campus finance office. [For further information, see policy FP.]

## ***FUND-RAISING***

Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups occasionally may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the campus principal at least 14 days before the event.

Except as approved by the campus principal, fund-raising is not permitted on school property. [For further information, see policies FJ and GE.]

## **IMMUNIZATION**

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical reasons or reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the student will not be immunized. For exemptions based on reasons of conscience, only official forms issued by the Department of State Health Services, Immunization Division, can be honored by the District. The immunizations required are: diphtheria, rubeola (measles), rubella, mumps, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae type B, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Department of State Health Services. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that, in the doctor's opinion, the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. [For further information, see policy FFAB and the Department of State Health Services Web site:

[http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/school\\_info.htm](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize/school_info.htm)]

## **PLEDGES OF ALLEGIANCE AND A MINUTE OF SILENCE**

Texas law requires students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag each school day. Parents may submit a written request to the principal to excuse their child from reciting a pledge.

A minute of silence will follow recitation of the pledges. The student may choose to reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity so long as the silent activity does not interfere with or distract others. [See policy EC for more information.]

## **PRAYER**

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

## **SAFETY**

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

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal safety hazards, such as intruders on campus and threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.

- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other District employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

## **Accident Insurance**

Soon after school opens, parents will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost accident insurance that will help meet medical expenses, in the event of injury to their child.

## **Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies**

From time to time, students, teachers, and other District employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

### **Fire Drills**

Fire Alarm will sound to indicate that the building should be evacuated immediately.

### **Tornado Drills**

“Bad weather drill” is announced to indicate that everyone should move quickly and quietly to the assigned areas posted in each classroom and area.

### **Shelter in Place**

“Shelter in Place” is announced to indicate that there is a threat to the safety of individuals in the building. Teachers will immediately move students to a safe place in their room or area, lock doors, and turn out the lights. Students who are not in a room will report immediately to the media center or band hall. Access to and from the campus will be controlled more closely during this time and parents are encouraged to stay away from the campus until law enforcement has deemed the campus safe.

## **Emergency Medical Treatment and Information**

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school will need to have written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment, and information about allergies to medications, foods, insect bites, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up-to-date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information that the nurse or the teacher needs to know.

## **Emergency School-Closing Information**

In the event of a school closing due to weather or other emergencies, school officials will inform local radio stations and the three local television stations.

## **SCHOOL FACILITIES**

### **Use By Students Before and After School**

Certain areas of the school will be accessible to students before and after school for specific purposes. Students are required to remain in the area where their activity is scheduled to take place.

The following areas are open to students before school beginning at 7:15 a.m.

- Commons Area
- Cafeteria
- Student Entry main hall

Parents may write a note to allow their child to attend morning tutorials. Unless the teacher or sponsor overseeing the activity gives permission, a student will not be permitted to go to another area of the building or campus.

After dismissal of school in the afternoon, and unless involved in an activity under the supervision of a teacher, students must leave campus immediately.

### **Conduct Before and After School**

Teachers and administrators have full authority over student conduct at before- or after-school activities on District premises and at school-sponsored events off District premises, such as play rehearsal, club meetings, athletic practice, and special study groups or tutorials. Students are subject to the same rules of conduct that apply during the instructional day and will be subject to consequences established by the Student Code of Conduct or any stricter code of conduct for extracurricular participants established by the sponsor in accordance with Board policy.

### **Use of Hallways During Class Time**

Students are encouraged to avoid loitering in the hall between classes to avoid tardies. During class time, a student must have a hall pass to be outside the classroom for any purpose. Failure to obtain a pass will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. Students will not be allowed to leave class, especially during the first 10 and last 10 minutes of instruction time, except for an emergency.

### **Cafeteria Services**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. Free and reduced-price lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. See the Cafeteria Manager to apply or call 903/839-5533.

The District follows the federal and state guidelines regarding foods of minimal nutritional value being served or sold on school premises during the school day. [For more information, see policy CO.]

## **Library**

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The library is open for student use during times approved and posted by the Librarian:

## **Meetings of Non-curriculum-Related Groups**

Students are permitted to meet with non-curriculum-related groups during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements found in policy FNAB.

A list of these groups is available in the principal's office.

## **Vandalism**

The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and in the coming years—littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

## **SEARCHES**

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, District officials may from time to time conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

## **Students' Desks and Lockers**

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student.

Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of the assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that the locker is locked, and that the combination is not available to others.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by District policy, whether or not a student is present.

The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

## **Vehicles on Campus**

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.]

## **Trained Dogs**

Whitehouse ISD shall use specially trained non-aggressive dogs to sniff out and alert to the current presence of concealed prohibited items, illicit substances defined in FNCF (L), and alcohol. Visits to the school shall be unannounced.

Students shall be informed of the district's policy on searches at the beginning of the school year and shall be specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by trained dogs at any time students are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## ***TRANSPORTATION***

### **School-Sponsored**

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception if the parent makes a written request that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent.

### **Buses and Other School Vehicles**

The District makes school bus transportation available to all students living in the district at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school. Further information may be obtained by calling the transportation department at 903/839-5570.

See the Student Code of Conduct for provisions regarding transportation to the Disciplinary Alternative Education Program.

Students are expected to assist District staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding in District vehicles, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus or van in an orderly manner at the designated stop nearest home.
- Keep feet, books, band instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus, van, or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus or van.
- Be seated while the vehicle is moving.

- Wait for the driver's signal upon leaving the bus or van and before crossing in front of the vehicle.

When students ride in a District van or passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times.

Misconduct will be punished in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct; bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

## ***VIDEOTAPING OF STUDENTS***

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment will be used to monitor student behavior on buses (and in common areas on campus). Students will not be told when the equipment is being used.

The principal will review the tapes routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

A parent who wants to view a videotape of the incident leading to the discipline of his or her child may request access in accordance with policy FL.

## ***VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL***

### **General Visitors**

Parents and others are welcome to visit District schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, **all visitors must first report to the main office.**

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

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

Parents and guardians are encouraged to eat lunch with their child at the school. **Other visitors must receive prior approval from the principal's office in order to eat lunch with students.**

### **Visitors Participating in Special Programs for Students**

On High School Career Day in early November, Whitehouse High School invites representatives from colleges and universities and other higher education institutions, prospective employers, and military recruiters to present information to interested students. The High School also invites groups from time to time to present material that will build character, encourage good decision-making, and promote cultural awareness.

## GLOSSARY

**Accelerated instruction** is an intensive supplemental program designed to address the needs of an individual student in acquiring the knowledge and skills required at his or her grade level.

**ACT** refers to one of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the American College Test. The test may be a requirement for admission to certain colleges or universities.

**ARD** is the admission, review, and dismissal committee convened for each student who is identified as needing a full and individual evaluation for special education services. The eligible student's parents are part of the committee.

**Attendance Review Committee** is responsible for reviewing a student's absences when the student's attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered. Under guidelines adopted by the Board, the committee will determine whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences and whether the student needs to complete certain conditions to master the course and regain credit lost because of absences.

**DAEP** stands for a disciplinary alternative education program, a placement for students who have violated certain provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. The DAEP will be separated from students not assigned to the program. It will focus on English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and self-discipline, and provide for students' educational and behavior needs, as well as supervision and counseling.

**FERPA** refers to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act that grants specific privacy protections to student records. The law contains certain exceptions, such as directory information, unless the student's parent or a student 18 or older directs the school not to release directory information.

**IEP** is the written record of the Individualized Education Program prepared by the ARD committee for a student with disabilities who is eligible for special education services. The IEP contains several parts such as a statement of the student's present educational performance; a statement of measurable annual goals, with short-term objectives; the special education and related services and supplemental aids and services, and program modifications or support for school personnel; a statement regarding how the student's progress will be measured and how the parents will be kept informed; modifications to state or districtwide tests, etc.

**ISS** refers to in-school suspension, a disciplinary technique for misconduct found in the Student Code of Conduct. Although different from out-of-school suspension and placement in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), ISS removes the student from the regular classroom.

**NCLBA** is the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 that, along with other requirements for schools, provides information for parents and opportunities for "opting" their students out of certain activities or surveys.

**Personal Graduation Plan (PGP)** is a new state requirement for any student in middle school or higher who fails a section on a state-mandated assessment test or is determined by the District as not likely to earn a high school diploma before the fifth school year after he or she begins grade 9.

**SAT** refers to the second of the two most frequently used college or university admissions exams: the Scholastic Aptitude Test. The test may be a requirement for admissions to certain colleges or universities.

**Section 504** is the federal law that prohibits discrimination against a student with a disability, requiring schools to provide opportunities for equal services, programs, and participation in activities. Unless the student is determined by an ARD committee to be eligible for special education services, appropriate regular educational services will be provided.

**State assessment tests** are required of students at certain grade levels and in specified subjects. Successful performance is a condition of promotion and the grade 11 exit-level test is a condition of graduation. Students have multiple opportunities to take the tests.

**Alternate assessment tests**, developed by the state, may be given to students in special education and students identified as limited English proficient.

**Student Code of Conduct**, developed with the advice of the District-level committee and adopted by the Board, identifies the circumstances, consistent with law, when a student may be removed from the classroom or campus. It also sets out the conditions that authorize or require the principal or another administrator to place the student in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program. It outlines conditions for out-of-school suspension and for expulsion, and states whether self-defense is a consideration in suspension, DAEP placement, or expulsion. The Student Code of Conduct also addresses notice to the parent regarding a student's violation of one of its provisions.

**TAKS** is short for the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, the state's current standardized achievement test given to students in certain grade levels and subjects in grades 3–11.

**UIL** refers to the University Interscholastic League, the statewide voluntary non-profit organization that oversees educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests.

# APPENDIX I

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

Please sign and return to the high school this acknowledgement form.

We understand that The Whitehouse High School Student Handbook for 2009-2010 is available on-line at [www.whitehouseisd.org](http://www.whitehouseisd.org) on the High School campus link; at the school office or library; at the WISD administrative office; or you may request a hard copy in writing from the high school principal . I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year and that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the code.

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Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

---

Student Name

Grade

Student Signature

Date

**APPENDIX II  
CONSENT/OPT-OUT FORM**

Dear Parent:

The District is required by federal law to notify you and obtain your consent or denial (opt-out) for your child to participate in certain school activities. The activities include a student survey, analysis, or evaluation that concerns one or more of the following eight areas, known as "protected information surveys."

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

This requirement also applies to the collection, disclosure, or use of student information for marketing purposes ("marketing surveys"), and certain physical exams and screenings.

Following are activities requiring parental notice and consent or opt-out for the 2004–2005 school year. Please note that this notice and authority to consent transfer from parent to student when the student reaches 18 or is an emancipated minor under state law.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (parent's name), give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) to participate in the following surveys (check those for which you give consent):

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
- Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Parent's signature

Please return this form no later than **September 1, 2006** to:

Whitehouse High School

901 E. Main Street

Whitehouse, TX 75791

**ATTN: OPT OUT**

APPENDIX III

**WHITEHOUSE HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER**

All hail to Whitehouse High School,

All hail to you.

For truth and knowledge,

We will ere be true.

Always in our memories,

Ever in our hearts.

We will remember dear Whitehouse High.

WHS!

APPENDIX IV

# Whitehouse High School

## Bell Schedule

PERIOD	TIME
1	7:50-8:40
2	8:45-9:35
3	9:40-10:30
4	10:35-11:25
A lunch	11:25-11:55
5	12:00-1:35
5	11:30-12:00
B lunch	12:00-12:30
5	12:35-1:35
5	11:30-12:30
C lunch	12:30-1:00
5	1:05-1:35
5	11:30-1:05
D Lunch	1:05-1:35
6	1:40-2:30
7	2:35-3:25

APPENDIX V

**Whitehouse High School  
Pep Rally Schedule  
2009-2010**

<b>PERIOD</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1	7:50-8:35
2	8:40-9:25
3	9:30-10:15
4	10:20-11:05
A lunch	11:05-11:35
5	11:40-1:05
5	11:10-11:35
B lunch	11:35-12:05
5	12:10-1:05
5	11:10-12:05
C lunch	12:05-12:35
5	12:40-1:05
5	11:10-12:35
D Lunch	12:35-1:05
6	1:10-2:00
7	2:05-2:55
Pep Rally	2:55-3:25