

**FIRELANDS  
LOCAL SCHOOLS  
STUDENT- PARENT  
HANDBOOK**

**2022-2023**

112 N. Lake Street  
South Amherst, OH 44001

**This school agenda belongs to:**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE OF HANDBOOK**

This handbook should be carried at all times. It serves as notification of students' and parents' rights and responsibilities. It should be used as a pass by students when they are going anywhere within the building. Replacement cost for a lost handbook is \$5.00.

Board Approved April 2022

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

<b>Building</b>	<b>Main Office</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Fax</b>
Firelands Elementary (K-5)	440-965-5381	ext. 2500	440-965-8849
Firelands Middle (6-8)	440-965-4255	ext. 3500	440-965-5296
Firelands High School (9-12)	440-965-4255	ext. 4515	440-965-5296
Joint Vocational School	440-774-1051		

## ADMINISTRATION

**Board of Education:** 440-965-5821

Superintendent	Michael Von Gunten	<a href="mailto:mvongunten@firelandsschools.org">mvongunten@firelandsschools.org</a>	x1010
Treasurer	Keri Angney	<a href="mailto:kangney@firelandsschools.org">kangney@firelandsschools.org</a>	x1013
Educ. Services	Lori Roemer	<a href="mailto:lroemer@firelandsschools.org">lroemer@firelandsschools.org</a>	x1019
Food Services	Judy Baumann	<a href="mailto:jbaumann@firelandsschools.org">jbaumann@firelandsschools.org</a>	x1011
Public Relations	Jennifer Butchko	<a href="mailto:jbutchko@firelandsschools.org">jbutchko@firelandsschools.org</a>	x1015
Student Registration	Lisa Maver	<a href="mailto:lmaver@firelandsschools.org">lmaver@firelandsschools.org</a>	x1024
Special Education	Cristin Cicco	<a href="mailto:ccicco@firelandsschools.org">ccicco@firelandsschools.org</a>	x4301
Principal FES	Sun Choe	<a href="mailto:schoe@firelandsschools.org">schoe@firelandsschools.org</a>	x2502
AP FES	Laura Groboske	<a href="mailto:lgroboske@firelandsschools.org">lgroboske@firelandsschools.org</a>	x2501
Principal FMS	Cara Hutchinson	<a href="mailto:chutchinson@firelandsschools.org">chutchinson@firelandsschools.org</a>	x3501
Principal FHS	Cathy Keener	<a href="mailto:ckeener@firelandsschools.org">ckeener@firelandsschools.org</a>	x4501
AP FHS	Rob Clarico	<a href="mailto:rclarico@firelandsschools.org">rclarico@firelandsschools.org</a>	x4502
Athletics	Ty Stillman	<a href="mailto:tstillman@firelandsschools.org">tstillman@firelandsschools.org</a>	x4097

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	7
CHANGE OF INFORMATION	7
ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS	7
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT	8
CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK	8
CONTACTING TEACHERS	9
FIRELANDS LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY	9
GUIDANCE/ACADEMIC INFORMATION	10
SCHOOL COUNSELORS	10
SPECIAL NEEDS	10
GIFTED	11
BUILDING RULES & REGULATIONS	12
DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS	12
FOOD AND DRINK	12
FEES	12
TEXTBOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES	12
CAFETERIA	12
LOCKERS AND LOCKS	13
BULLYING AND HARASSMENT	14
ELECTRONIC DEVICES	15
ACCEPTABLE USE & INTERNET SAFETY POLICY	16
BUS TRANSPORTATION	19
VISITORS	20
CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY	20
SCHOOL FEES	20
TELEPHONE USAGE	21
CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES	21
FUND RAISING	21
SAFETY DRILLS	21

BUILDING AND GROUNDS SECURITY	21
CAMERAS	21
EMERGENCY WEATHER PLAN / SCHOOL CLOSINGS	22
TWO-HOUR DELAY	22
POWER FAILURE	22
DRESS AND GROOMING	22
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	23
ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE	23
DRUG TESTING	24
ATTENDANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS	25
ATTENDANCE	26
HOUSE BILL 410	26
EARLY DISMISSALS	27
REQUESTING SCHOOL WORK FOR ABSENT STUDENT	27
VACATION PROCEDURE	27
PROCEDURES FOR EARLY DISMISSAL	28
LEGAL NOTIFICATIONS	28
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE	28
MEDICAID PROGRAM	28
NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION	29
STUDENT RECORDS	29
RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION, PHOTOS, & VIDEOS	30
TITLE I	30
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT	31
SEARCH AND SEIZURE	32
DETENTION	32
LOSS OF BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES	32
SUSPENSION	32
EXPULSION	34
EMERGENCY REMOVAL	35
INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY & CONDUCT	43

I. ELIGIBILITY POLICIES	44
IV. ATTENDANCE	44
V. TOBACCO	45
VI. NARCOTICS, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND COUNTERFEIT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES	45
VII. STUDENT BEHAVIOR	45
VIII. STEALING OF EQUIPMENT	45
IX. QUITTING SPORT DURING THE SEASON	46
XI. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE	47
XIII. OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS	47
XIV. ACADEMIC COUNSELING	47
XV. INELIGIBLE PLAYER STATUS	47
XVI. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS	47
XVII. INSURANCE	47
XVIII. PARTICIPATING ON MORE THAN ONE ATHLETIC TEAM PER SEASON	47
XIX. EQUIPMENT	48
XX. TRANSPORTATION /OVERNIGHT TRIPS/ OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL	48
XXI. OUT OF SEASON CONDITIONING/LIFTING/OPEN GYMS	48
XXII. STUDENT’S, SPORTS FAN CONDUCT	48
FIRELANDS MIDDLE SCHOOL	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>



This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other prior written material provided on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available on the District's website.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **BE INFORMED:**

- Check out the District website: [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org), with news, calendar dates, a staff directory, and links to resources
- The District e-newsletter; subscribe at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org)
- The District Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheFirelandsFalcons/>
- Twitter-Athletics: @FirelandsFalcon
- Twitter-District Info: @FLSDSuper
- School newsletters (both paper and electronic)
- Direct communication with teachers and administrators via phone, e-mail, note, or in person by appointment. A staff directory is available at [www.firelandsschools.org](http://www.firelandsschools.org). Select the Staff Directory tab.
- The Firelands Express, a free publication available to all district residents. Contact Susan Schaefer at the Board of Education for subscription-related questions.

In order to receive news from the schools and PTG, parents should provide current phone numbers and email addresses through Final Forms. The link can be found on the school website under Forms and Links. These addresses will be used only for school and PTG communications.

### **CHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Student records are maintained via an electronic portal known as PowerSchool. Firelands teachers in grades K-12 use PowerSchool to report grades. PowerSchool is not extensively used by K-2 for grades, however, it is used as a secure location to post information and does serve as our emergency information database. Please update any change in your phone number or email address in Final Forms, and report any changes in your home address to the main office of your child's school.

### **ASSESSMENTS AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS**

Firelands Schools use a variety of assessment measures to get an accurate and complete profile of each student's progress, strengths, and weaknesses. The following terms will be utilized to ensure clear communication related to assessments. A customized letter for each grade level with dates will be provided to parents and guardians at the beginning of the year.

**Summative Assessments** – Summative assessments are teacher created assessments that judge student mastery on the standards and the Firelands Curriculum. These assessments are graded and serve as a final check on student learning.

**Formative Assessments** – Any classroom assessment, graded and/or ungraded, that a teacher utilizes to make instructional adjustments during the learning process and to provide feedback to students.

**Screeners** – These are required assessments by the State of Ohio to diagnose student learning needs.

**State Achievement Tests** – Assessments used by teachers, the district, and the state of Ohio to check college and career readiness as well as local curriculum alignment to state standards.

In grades K-12, online report cards are issued four times per year.

Parents of students in grades K-12 will receive interim grades online using PowerSchool. In addition, report cards are available via request from your student's building.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

We understand that parents share in the responsibility to promote the academic achievement and social development of our students. Therefore, we encourage parents to:

- Share responsibility for the improved academic achievement of your child
- Check and assist your child in completing homework tasks, when necessary
- Encourage your child to read at home for a minimum of 30 minutes each day
- Encourage your child to follow school rules and regulations
- Promote positive use of extracurricular time, such as extended day learning opportunities, clubs, team sports and/or quality family time
- Attend Curriculum Night/Open House and parent-teacher conferences
- Communicate with your child's teachers about educational needs and stay informed about their education by reading and responding to all notices received from the school or district
- Be a positive role model so that your student can best understand the behaviors necessary to succeed academically
- Monitor your child's attendance and ensure that your child arrives to school on time as well as follow the appropriate procedures to inform the school when your child is absent
- Ensure that your child comes to school well rested by setting a schedule for bedtime based on the needs of your child and his/her age
- Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to your child's education
- Set limits to the amount of time your child watches television, plays video games, and uses social media.
- Respond to surveys, feedback forms and notices when requested
- Take part in the school's Parent Teacher Group and volunteer in school or assist from your home as time permits.

## **CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK**

The Board shall request from the Superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) criminal records checks of all candidates under final consideration for employment or appointment in the District. The BCI criminal records checks include information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), unless the individual can demonstrate that he/she has been a resident of the state for the preceding five years and has previously been subject to a background check.



## **Volunteers**

The District notifies current and prospective volunteers who have or will have unsupervised access to students on a regular basis including but not limited to volunteer coaches, advisors, and field trip chaperones that a criminal records check is required.

## **INTERVIEWING STUDENTS**

Caseworkers of Lorain County/Erie County Children Services, any Probation Officer of Family Court, and Custody Investigator of Family Court shall, with proper identification, have the right to contact and interview any child at any school privately and without consent of parent. This is pursuant to the responsibility given Lorain County/Erie County Children Services for the investigation of abuse and neglect charges under the authority of the juvenile laws of the State of Ohio. Other law enforcement officers may talk with a child at school or take other necessary measures regulated by the judicial laws of the local, county, state, and federal government agencies. The principal shall exercise appropriate "duty of care" and act in place of the parent where necessary.

## **CONTACTING TEACHERS**

Teachers can be reached via e-mail, a note, or voicemail. The teacher may not be able to answer the classroom phone, so the call will be returned as soon as possible. If your student is having difficulties or you have concerns, start by making an appointment to talk with the classroom teacher. Share specific information about the problem.

Most problems can be resolved through a candid discussion that results in a mutually agreed upon plan of action between the parent and teacher. Occasionally this may include assistance from the school support team (e.g., nurses, psychologist, counselor, building administrator).

Problems that cannot be resolved through discussion with the classroom teacher should be discussed with the principal. Only after all attempts to resolve the problem at the school level have been exhausted, does the central administration become involved in a problem relating to an individual student.

## **FIRELANDS LOCAL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

Firelands is committed to providing a sound educational program that reflects the needs of our society and the local communities it serves. Firelands School's responsibility to the community is to provide an education which is consistent with the following tenets:

1. Education shall contribute to the continuous improvement of our democratic society and the cultures which exist through the development of concerned, contributing and patriotic citizens.
2. The dignity and worth of the individual will be respected and each individual should be given the opportunity to participate in our society to the best of his/her ability.
3. The educational program should be conducive to the maximum intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of all youth.
4. The educational programs offered should help prepare students for their successful entry into the world of work.
5. Basic knowledge, skills, understandings and appreciations are necessary for full life functioning.
6. All youth shall be introduced to the humanities and the arts and provided the opportunity to pursue further studies in these areas.

7. The continuous appraisal of the immediate and projected personal and societal needs of our youth shall be carried on to provide the basis for program changes needed to prepare them for a life of continuous growth and recognize that education is a lifelong process.
8. The development of self-appraisal skills, decision-making techniques and self-discipline by our youth should help them in assuming the responsibility for setting realistic immediate and long-range personal, academic and career goals.
9. The development of moral and ethical values on the part of youth is an important aspect of personal maturity, for which the parents should assume the primary responsibility; however, the schools will strive to reinforce their efforts.
10. Continuous physical, mental and emotional growth and development should be promoted through the maintenance of a personalized and appropriate educational program for our youth.
11. Self-realization and self-expression will be encouraged.
12. The educational program shall meet or exceed State Board of Education standards.
13. The development and implementation of a program of continuous evaluation based upon stated goals and objectives is necessary for effective program revision and improvement.

## **GUIDANCE/ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **SCHOOL COUNSELORS**

A full-time counselor is available to serve the educational, vocational, social, and personal needs of students. If you wish to see a counselor, please arrange an appointment. The counselor will then send for you at the appointed time. Please see the guidance website for your student's school for up-to-date information.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS**

A range of services is available for students aged 3-21 who have been identified with disabilities in compliance with ORC 3323.05 and 3323.08. These services are tailored to the student's individual needs after a thorough assessment and collaborative planning with parent involvement. If you suspect that your child may have a disability that is affecting his or her learning, contact the teacher, school counselor, or school psychologist. The Firelands School District further assures disabled students and their parent's procedural safeguards with respect to the identification, evaluation, educational placement or program of a disabled child.

For children birth through age two, a disability means that a child has a delay in one or more of the following areas: adaptive behavior, cognition, communication, physical development, and/or social or emotional development. For children ages three through five, a disability means that a child has a documented deficit in one or more of the following areas: communication skills, hearing abilities, motor functions, social-emotional behavior functioning, or vision abilities. School age children can be referred for assessment by teachers, administrators, professional school personnel, and through cooperative efforts with parents.

Following proper identification and assessment, parents will be contacted to meet collectively with school personnel to review the test results. If the student qualifies for

services, parents will be directly involved in all stages of developing the student's 'individualized education program' (IEP). The needs of the student are met through various services while attempting to keep the student in the general education curriculum to the extent possible.

## **GIFTED**

The Firelands Local Schools screens all students for giftedness in Grade 2 and Grade 4 in compliance with ORC 3324.07. Additional referrals may be sent to the child's building principal for testing during the school year. The Firelands Local Schools utilizes recommended cut scores via the Ohio Department of Education to screen in content areas, specialized areas, as well as superior cognition. If a child is identified as gifted, a team will convene to identify appropriate supports for the child. A written plan will be created that may include the following options: a differentiated curriculum, cluster grouping, mentorships, accelerated coursework, post-secondary course options, advanced placement, and pull-out programs.

## **HEALTH RESOURCES**

*A comprehensive list is also posted on the district website.*

### **General Resources:**

Ohio Guidestone	440-234-2006
Psych & Psych	440-323-5121
Deluca & Associates	440-327-1800
Stein Hospice	419-625-5269
Catholic Charity	440-366-1106
Applewood Center	440-324-1300

### **Crisis / Emotional Problems:**

National Suicide Prevention Line	800-273-8255
Lorain County Rape Crisis	440-204-4359
Nord Center Crisis Hotline	800-888-6161
Rape Abuse National Network	800-656-4673
Firelands Counseling	440-984-3882

### **Substance Abuse:**

Lorain County Alcohol & Drug	440-282-4777
Lorain County Board of Health	<a href="http://mharsloraincounty.org">mharsloraincounty.org</a>

### **Family Conflict and Parenting:**

Pathways Counseling	440-323-5707
Genesis House Domestic Violence Shelter	440-244-1853 (Lorain County)
Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Counties)	419-626-2200 (Erie/Ottawa/Huron)

### **Medical:**

Family Planning Services of Lorain County	440-322-7526
Birthright of Elyria	440-324-9566
Cornerstone Pregnancy Center	440-284-1010
Lorain County Health Dept.	440-322-6367

### **Poison:**

Poison Control	800-222-1222
----------------	--------------

# **BUILDING RULES & REGULATIONS**

## **DELIVERIES TO STUDENTS**

Flowers or gifts sent to school are discouraged. Please do not have such items delivered to the school. Students will be notified at the end of the school day that they may pick up items in the office after school. Food deliveries (pizza, DoorDash, etc.) are not permitted.

## **FOOD AND DRINK**

Students are to eat and drink only in the school cafeteria. No food or drink is allowed in other parts of the school building without prior approval.

## **FEES**

Fees are collected at the start of each school year (or upon registration for new students.) An up-to-date fee list can be found on the district website. This fee may be waived for students who qualify for free/reduced meals. This fee is due annually.

- There may be additional fees associated with field trips.
- An additional fee may be assessed if a student damages or destroys personal or school property.
- Fees may be paid online at [payschoolscentral](https://payschoolscentral.com)

## **TEXTBOOKS AND ONLINE RESOURCES**

School textbooks are property of the Firelands Local Schools. Items that are lost or damaged will be billed to each student according to Board Policy. It is recommended that students keep books covered, write their names in all books, and do not loan their textbooks to other individuals. Online access is provided for some materials. These accounts are confidential and should not be shared with other students. Contact your child's classroom teacher or building principal in cases of lost user accounts and passwords.

CCP Books – Students assigned books through College Credit Plus courses taken at a college must obtain their books through that college's bookstore. At the conclusion of the course, students are REQUIRED to return their books to the FHS Main Office. Failure to return your books will result in a fee.

## **CAFETERIA**

**Student I.D numbers:** This number is what each student enters into a pin pad so their profile can be pulled up on the café computers to receive their meals. This number follows each student through high school.

**Breakfast:** Breakfast is available to all students. Those that qualify for a free/reduced lunch also qualify for a free/reduced breakfast. Your child will have an account on our point of sale system in which money can be deposited to use for breakfast or lunch.

**Lunch Money:** Pre-payment can be made to the account for as many meals as you wish. Each time a purchase is made it is deducted from your child's account. A la carte purchases are available as well at all schools.

**Pay for it program (online payment) & account activity report:** This program allows you to put money on your child's account with a credit card w/ a small convenience fee attached. The program has many features by providing you with your child's lunch account balance and also a short report of what has been purchased on their

account. This part of the program can be used even if you choose not to make an online payment. There is no fee to use the reporting system but you still have to enter a credit card number. If you are hesitant to use your regular credit card, you can use a prepaid card w/ a small balance (i.e. \$20.00 card). You can sign up for [payschoolscentral.com](http://payschoolscentral.com) by going to that website, then follow the instructions listed. You will need your student's ID number

\*\*The program will be turned off for a short time during the summer months, but will be up and running the beginning of August. Positive balances will be carried over to the next school year.

**Lunch Assistance Forms / 1 form per family:** Lunch assistance forms are completed online through FinalForms. Paper copies are available in the office upon request. Lunch assistance forms can be filled out at any time throughout the school year. For existing students receiving assistance, the form must be filled out within the first month of school to avoid the meal status changing to denied. We work as quickly as possible to process all forms. Please plan on at least 1 week to have your form processed. All families that apply for meal assistance will receive an acknowledgement letter stating if your child qualifies or is denied.

**Updated meal application needed every year:** The previous meal status rolls over for the first month of the following school year for existing students or until a new form is received. **If you have a new kindergarten student, a new form must be turned in ASAP to receive benefits. Younger siblings are not automatically approved. Meal status does not transfer from a previous school.**

**DIRECT CERTIFICATION:** If you receive a letter in August stating that your child qualifies for free meals through "direct certification", you do not need to fill out a meal application.

**YOU MUST: fill out the fee waiver portion on the bottom of the notification letter that is mailed to your home and return to your child's school.**

**Foodservice Information:** Go to the Foodservice tab on school website to see all foodservice information and menus for all buildings

**RULES FOR THE CAFETERIA:** The cafeteria, besides being a lunchroom, is also a place where good human relations can be developed. Here each student is expected to practice the general rules of good manners, which one should find in the home. Some simple rules of courteous behavior which would make the lunch period pleasant and relaxed are:

1. Observe good dining room standards at the table.
2. Speak in a normal tone
3. Leave the table and the surrounding area clean and orderly.
4. Place trash in proper containers.
5. Do not leave the cafeteria while eating or carrying food.
6. Food deliveries (pizza, DoorDash, etc.) are not permitted.

## **LOCKERS AND LOCKS**

Lockers are assigned at the beginning of the school year and should be kept locked at all times (Grades 6-12). Lockers at FES are **not** permitted to be locked. Lockers are the property of the Board of Education and are subject to inspection at any time by authorized school personnel, law enforcement personnel, and/or K-9 unit drug alert dogs. Students

will be assigned a locker and given the combination at the beginning of the school year (Grades 6-12). Lockers should be kept clean and neat. The office is not responsible for stolen items. No decals or writing of any kind is permitted on lockers. Any damages to the locker must be reported immediately to school administration. Students will be expected to pay for any writing, scratches, or damages to their lockers.

## **BULLYING AND HARASSMENT**

**Commitment:** The Firelands Local Schools are committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all students. Harassment, intimidation or bullying on the basis of gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, ethnic/national origin, or religion in all school environments (academic, extracurricular, school-sponsored activities and school buses) is strictly prohibited. The prohibition includes both student-on-student and staff-on-student. Retaliation against a person reporting alleged harassment, person participating in the investigation or in related proceedings is also prohibited.

The fact that the alleged harasser and the victim are members of the same protected class will not preclude the District from investigating an incident in order to determine whether harassment has occurred.

The District requires that all staff promptly report incidents of harassment using the established procedure. Staff are also required to intervene to stop the harassment unless circumstances are of a dangerous nature.

Students are encouraged to immediately report incidents of harassment/bullying. However, intentional false reports of harassment/bullying will result in disciplinary action. Inappropriate behavior can be verbal, physical, or written. Examples of inappropriate behaviors include aggressive behavior, racial slurs, offensive written communication or graffiti, electronic acts (cyberbullying), teasing based on religion, race or disability, violence in a dating relationship, etc. These prohibited behaviors extend to both peer-to-peer and staff-to-student conduct on school grounds (hallways, classrooms, common areas, etc.), at school-sponsored academic and extracurricular activities (sports events, clubs, field trips, etc.) and on school buses.

**Definition of Harassment/Bullying:** As defined in Ohio Revised Code, harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional, written, verbal or physical act that is student-on-student or staff-on-student (on school grounds, at school sponsored academic and extracurricular activities and on school buses) more than once, and the behavior causes mental or physical harm and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This includes cyberbullying (electronic acts) and violence in a dating relationship. However, inappropriate behavior does not have to include intent to harm, be directed at a specific target or involve repeated incidents to be considered harassment and prohibited by district policy. The District will investigate formal complaints.

**Complaint Procedure:** Students, support staff, parents/guardians or community members can make a formal complaint of alleged incidents using a Student Incident Form that is available in all building offices. Staff who become aware of incidents need to report incidents to the assigned school administrator as soon as possible. Administrators will complete the Investigation Form if the situation warrants additional attention.

If there are concerns related to bullying and harassment, the first step for all is to contact the building principal. If additional resolution is sought, please contact the Director of Educational Services.

**Reporting Procedure:** Each building will establish a designated location in the assigned administrator's office for collections of reports of alleged harassment or bullying. All staff will be made aware of this location.

All school personnel must report alleged student-on-student or staff-on-students bullying/harassment based on sex, gender, disability, race, ethnic/national origin and religion using this established procedure and specifying if the incidents are verbal, physical, cyber, etc.

Students are encouraged to report alleged incidents immediately to a staff member. School personnel that receive or witness reports or information about harassment or bullying must report the information to their building principal immediately.

Please note, persons reporting an anonymous complaint or requesting confidentially or no action to be taken on the part of the District, will be informed that the ability of the District to respond may be limited. Reasonable action that is consistent with due process rights will still be taken.

**Investigation Procedure:** Administrators will review all complaint forms within 24 hours of receipt. Administrators receiving a complaint will begin investigation into the situation within 48 hours. A collaborative team will investigate the situation, complete documentation forms, file by student's last name in a confidential file, and promptly send copies to Central Office.

The investigation will include: establishment of an investigations team, interview of alleged victim, alleged perpetrator and witnesses, summary of allegation, outcome of investigation, disciplinary action, plan to prevent recurrence or new harassment, referral to law enforcement (if applicable) and written notification to custodial parents of students involved. Written reports will be distributed to parents of alleged victims and alleged perpetrators within two weeks.

A preponderance of evidence will be used to substantiate harassment/bullying.

The results of all investigations are kept at both the building and Central Office. Records will be retained at the building level as long as the student is within the building (records are forwarded upon transfer to a new building). Records of graduates will be retained for six years after graduation. Central office records are retained via the records retention schedule as set forth by the Treasurer's Office.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Cell phones/iPads and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away during school unless otherwise instructed by a staff member. The school is not responsible for loss or theft of cell phones or other personal property.

No electronic devices are to be used or accessible in a testing situation unless instructed by the teacher or proctor. If a student does have a device in a test situation, it may be confiscated and the test score may be negatively affected.

When using any technology device at school, students must:

- Be responsible in the use of all technology tools.
- Use technology as directed by teachers and for learning purposes.
- Students are not permitted to take pictures or video in an educational setting.
- Be responsible for the security of the device at all times.

- Keep themselves and fellow students safe by:
  - Not giving out personal information online.
  - Protecting passwords and access information.
  - Guarding against cyberbullying.
- Credit the intellectual property of others when used in school work. Seek permission from individuals involved PRIOR to taking photos/videos or recording audio.
- Seek written permission from individuals involved PRIOR to publishing or sending photos, audio or video to anyone else or to any online space.
- Think critically about the information found online to determine the reliability of that information.
- Talk to a teacher or another adult if:
  - Help is needed online.
  - The student comes across sites that are not suitable.
  - Someone writes something that causes discomfort or asks for private information.
  - The welfare of other students at school is being threatened.
- Texting, answering, or placing calls and messages during the school day, unless specified for learning purposes is never allowed.

## **ACCEPTABLE USE & INTERNET SAFETY POLICY**

### **Source: Board Policy EDE & EDE-R**

Technology can greatly enhance the instructional program, as well as the efficiency of the District. The Board recognizes that careful planning is essential to ensure the successful, equitable and cost-effective implementation of technology-based materials, equipment, systems and networks.

Computers and use of the District network or online services support learning and enhance instruction, as well as assist in administration. For purposes of this policy computers include District-owned desktop computers, laptops, tablets and other mobile computing devices.

All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user's access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. violating the conditions of State and Federal law dealing with students' and employees' rights to privacy, including unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information;
2. using profanity, obscenity or other language that may be offensive to another user or intended to harass, intimidate or bully other users;
3. accessing personal social networking websites for noneducational purposes;
4. reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author's prior consent;
5. copying commercial software and/or other material in violation of copyright law;
6. using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
7. "hacking" or gaining unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or attempting to gain such unauthorized access;
8. accessing and/or viewing inappropriate material and



9. downloading of freeware or shareware programs.

The Superintendent/designee shall develop a plan to address the short- and long-term technology needs and provide for compatibility of resources among school sites, offices and other operations. As a basis for this plan, he/she shall examine and compare the costs and benefits of various resources and shall identify the blend of technologies and level of service necessary to support the instructional program.

Because access to online services provides connections to other computer systems located all over the world, users (and parents of users who are under 18 years old) must understand that neither the school nor the District can control the content of the information available on these systems. Some of the information available is controversial and sometimes offensive.

The Board does not condone the use of such materials. Employees, students and parents of students must be aware that the privileges to access online services are withdrawn from users who do not respect the rights of others or who do not follow the rules and regulations established. A user's agreement is signed to indicate the user's acknowledgment of the risks and regulations for computer/online services use. The District has implemented technology-blocking measures that protect against access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or, with respect to the use of computers by minors, harmful to minors. The District has also purchased monitoring devices, which maintain a running log of Internet activity, recording which sites a particular user has visited.

"Harmful to minors" is defined as any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:

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

The District will educate minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. The Superintendent/designee will develop a program to educate students on these issues.

Annually, a student who wishes to have computer network and internet access during the school year must read the acceptable use and internet safety policy and submit a properly signed agreement form. Students and staff are asked to sign a new agreement each year after reviewing the policies and regulations of the District. The District reserves the right to amend policies and regulations as necessary throughout the school year. Users are notified of the updated policies and regulations and must comply with the updated requirements. These policies and regulations also apply to use of District-owned devices, or accessing of District intranet and software programs off District property. All users using platforms established for e-learning regardless of whether the student or employee is using a personal or District provided device must be used in accordance with the standards for conduct outlined in this policy and the accompanying regulation. Users in violation of this policy or the accompanying regulation may be subject to discipline.

The following guidelines and procedures shall be complied with by staff, students or community members who are specifically authorized to use the District's computers or online services.

1. Use appropriate language. Do not use profanity, obscenity or other language that may be offensive to other users. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
2. Do not reveal your personal home address or phone number or those of other students or colleagues.
3. Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. Technology coordinators have access to all messages relating to or in support of illegal activities and such activities may be reported to the authorities.
4. Use of the computer and/or network is not for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity.
5. The network should not be used in such a way that it disrupts the use of the network by others.
6. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be property of the District.
7. Rules and regulations of online etiquette are subject to change by the administration.
8. The user in whose name an online service account is issued is responsible for its proper use at all times. Users shall keep personal account numbers and passwords private. They shall use this system only under the account numbers issued by the District.
9. The system shall be used only for purposes related to education or administration. Commercial, political and/or personal use of the system is strictly prohibited. The administration reserves the right to monitor any computer activity and online communications for improper use.
10. Users shall not use the system to encourage the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco nor shall they promote unethical practices or any activity prohibited by law or Board policy.
11. Users shall not view, download or transmit material that is threatening, obscene, disruptive or sexually explicit or that could be construed as harassment, intimidation, bullying or disparagement of others based on their race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, economic status, military status, political beliefs or any other personal or physical characteristics.
12. Copyrighted material may not be placed on the system without the author's permission.
13. Vandalism results in the cancellation of user privileges. Vandalism includes uploading/downloading any inappropriate material, creating computer viruses and/or any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment or materials or the data of any other user.
14. Users shall not read other users' mail or files; they shall not attempt to interfere with other users' ability to send or receive electronic mail, nor shall they attempt to read, delete, copy, modify or forge other users' mail.
15. Users are expected to keep messages brief and use appropriate language.
16. Users shall report any security problem or misuse of the network to the teacher, his/her immediate supervisor or building administrator.

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

Printed below are the major rules and regulations relating to school bus safety developed by the Ohio Department of Highway Safety. They are provided for your information and we encourage you to discuss them with your children. By working together, we can insure safe and efficient student transportation for our children.

1. All school rules are in place while students are at the bus stop and riding on the bus. Students that disrupt the safe operation of the vehicle or safety of others while at the bus stop may have school consequences, such as detention, WDA (weekday disciplinary assignment), suspension from school, or removal from the bus.
2. The driver is in charge of the bus and is responsible for orderly conduct.
3. Students should conduct themselves as they would in a classroom, except that reasonable conversation is permissible. Horseplay, switching seats, throwing things and similar misconduct is not allowed.
4. Students must use school appropriate language.
5. Students must sit in their assigned seats as determined by the driver.
6. Students are required to keep the bus clean and sanitary by refraining from eating or drinking on the bus at any time.
7. Students may only bring items needed for school on the bus. Students must obtain permission from the driver before bringing anything unusual aboard. The following items are prohibited from being brought on the bus:
  - a. Animals
  - b. Weapons
  - c. Glass
  - d. Aerosol cans
  - e. Alcohol, Drugs, or Tobacco (including electronic smoking devices)
  - f. Medication (unless the student has permission from the office to self-carry)
  - g. Any item that is too large to fit in the students lap
  - h. Any item that is potentially harmful to other students
8. Wherever possible, group pick-up points will be established. A group pick-up is a central place where children from several homes can meet safely for getting on or off the bus.
9. Students shall ride the bus to which they are assigned, including shuttle buses.
10. Students are required to be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to the pick-up time and wait in a location clear of traffic, 10 feet from the road. To ensure safety, students are encouraged to wear light colored or reflective clothing when going to and from the bus stop.
11. Students shall cross the road 10 feet in front of the bus. The driver will signal students when it is safe to cross by dropping their hand. At that signal, students shall walk to the center of the road and look both ways before continuing to cross the road, then report to a designated place of safety on their residential side of the

road.

12. If the bus driver sounds the horn that indicates DANGER. At this signal, students should immediately look to the driver for a safe course of action.
13. Students must keep their heads, hands, arms, and objects inside the bus and inside of their seat area.
14. Students shall ride the bus facing the front of the bus with their back on the seat back and feet on the floor for their protection.
15. Only the students that are assigned to the bus may ride the bus route. On non-routine trips, only the pre-approved chaperones and student participants may ride the bus.
16. Teachers, coaches, chaperones are responsible for maintaining acceptable student behavior when school buses are transporting students to and from activities. The driver will make the final decision in regards to the safety of their bus when the bus is moving.
17. Students may use the rear door of the bus only in an emergency.
18. Students must keep their hands, feet, and bodily fluids to themselves at all times.
19. While at a bus stop, turn-around, or railroad crossing, students must remain quiet.
20. Students must remain seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.

### **VISITORS**

- All visitors, including parents and volunteers, must report to the school office or security desk immediately upon entering the school to sign in and obtain a visitor's pass. This procedure is strictly enforced by the Firelands Schools for the safety and security of our students.
- Visitors will be required to provide a photo ID and scan in through the RAPTOR system.
- Students from other schools are not permitted to visit classes during the school day. Exceptions may be made, at the principal's discretion, for families who are considering sending their children to the school or in other special situations.

### **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. Students, who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the items. Students may not tamper with the fire alarms, fire extinguishers, or any electrical systems. Anyone who willfully destroys school property through vandalism, arson, larceny, or who creates a hazard to the safety of our students will be referred to the proper law enforcement agency in addition to school discipline.

### **SCHOOL FEES**

Fees or deposits required of students will be held to a minimum as stipulated by the Board of Education. All fees will be due at designated times. Failure to pay fees may result in loss of privileges, credits being withheld, and denial of participation at graduation.

## **TELEPHONE USAGE**

Students will not be called to the phone. Only messages of an urgent nature from a parent/guardian will be delivered to a student. Calls from the Main office may be made with permission from the administration. Students may not use their cell phones to call home unless they have obtained permission. Students may not use their cell phones to take pictures or video while in school.

## **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

School activities enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Each student also has the opportunity to join the many clubs open every year. It is possible for students to request any new club or activity if enough students are interested in it, a faculty sponsor is available, and if space and facilities can be provided. The process to start a new club is as follows:

1. Find a potential faculty advisor for your club
2. State the name and purpose of the club
3. Identify what office positions will be held within the club
4. Identify the philosophy and goals of the club
5. Identify community service projects in which the club can participate
6. Submit to the Principal for approval

## **FUND RAISING**

The principal must approve all fundraising projects. Projects which involve selling merchandise to residents of our community should be limited. Tickets or articles of any kind, other than those associated with school-sponsored activities, are not to be sold on school property by students or outside organizations.

## **SAFETY DRILLS**

Throughout the year, fire, tornado, and other safety drills are conducted on a regular basis. The procedures are posted in each classroom and reviewed regularly. Safety procedures must be followed without exception.

- Students must be orderly and silent, such that they can follow all directions given by teachers, administrators, or other school personnel.
- Students and staff members MUST silence cell phones and refrain from talking during drills.

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS SECURITY**

The School Board recognizes the value of electronic surveillance systems in monitoring activity on school property and in school vehicles in protecting the health, welfare, and safety of its students and staff. Carefully weighing the rights of privacy of students and staff against the district's duty to maintain order and discipline, the Board authorizes the use of electronic surveillance systems in all school buildings.

## **CAMERAS**

1. The administration notifies its students and staff that camera surveillance may occur on school property and in school vehicles. Notices are placed in student and staff handbooks.

2. The use of cameras in transportation vehicles is supervised by the building principals and the transportation supervisor.
3. The use of cameras is subject to district policies concerning the confidentiality of student and staff records.
4. Surveillance cameras are used only to promote order, safety, and security of students, staff, and property.

### **EMERGENCY WEATHER PLAN / SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

In the event of severe inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed or starting time delayed. Should weather conditions merit the implementation of a “severe weather option”, families will receive an automated call with information regarding a delay or cancellation. It will also be posted on the Firelands website, Firelands Facebook page, Twitter, and local TV news stations: **(3, 5, 8)**

Every effort will be made to have the automated call as early as possible. We ask that you do not call the schools nor staff members during severe weather periods as their telephones will need to be kept available for emergency communications. If no report is heard, it can be assumed that school will be in session. Please do not call the school.

### **TWO-HOUR DELAY**

In the event that dangerous weather occurs prior to the start of school, the district may opt to delay the start of school for two (2) hours. This delay will allow road crews, salt, and sunlight to dissipate the hazard.

***If we announce a delay, school will start two hours later than usual. The dismissal time will remain the same. At the high school only, for two hour delay on Wednesday and Thursday classes start at 9:30am and follow the Two-Hour Delay schedule, not a block schedule.***

See [BELL SCHEDULES](#) in the high school section for the delay schedule and adjustments for the different days of the week. Delays will only be announced when circumstances dictate extra caution; they will not be used to “buy” time on a school closing.

### **POWER FAILURE**

In the event of a power failure, remain in your classroom. Please be quiet and wait for further instructions. Information will be given to you as it becomes available.

### **DRESS AND GROOMING**

- Appropriate dress and grooming enhance school safety, improve the academic environment, promote good behavior, and eliminate unnecessary distractions from learning.
  - Students are expected to dress comfortably so that they feel free to enjoy physical education, recess, and art classes without worrying about their clothing.
  - Students should come to school dressed for the weather, including boots, gloves, hat, and coat when appropriate.
  - All students need a suitable pair of gym shoes for physical education classes and some kind of covering (e.g., an adult’s old T-shirt) for art classes.
  - Clothing must be appropriate to the activities for which it is to be worn.

- Clothing, shoes, and accessories may not create unusual safety or health hazards to the wearer or others.
- Students are not permitted to wear coats in school.
- Students are not permitted to wear bare midriff tops. Tops that cannot stay tucked in when the student reaches up should not be worn.
- Shorts and skirts are not to be above a finger-tip length. Any rips or tears in pants must also not be above finger-tip length.
- Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times. Flip-flop shoes and slide shoes or shoes with wheels are prohibited. All shoes MUST have backs on them.
- **NO bags** are permitted to transport books and/or materials to and from class except for physical education and/or prior administrative approval.
- Clothing and accessories may not distract from the educational process.
- Clothing may not cause damage to school property or cause damage to personal property.
- No “sagging” pants will be permitted.
- No clothing that exposes undergarments and/or private body parts is permitted.
- Hats, scarves, bandanas, sweatbands, or other headwear may not be worn in the building, except for approved religious reasons.
- No clothing and/or accessories that promote drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, or that violate the school harassment policy is permitted.
- Students may not wear hoods, sunglasses or other accessories that limit identification.

The school administration reserves the right to determine what is appropriate appearance and dress. Students whose dress or grooming is inappropriate will be asked to make the necessary adjustments to their dress and return immediately to class. If a student refuses to cooperate and/or has repeated dress code violations, a parent contact will be made and disciplinary action may be taken.

### **COMMUNICABLE DISEASE**

Concern of any school is the spread of a disease throughout the entire school population. Communicable disease can spread rapidly if not controlled immediately (ex. Chicken pox, measles, pink eye, mumps, impetigo, scabies, and head lice). Any child coming to school with symptoms resembling a communicable disease will be seen by our school nurse or sent home immediately as a precautionary measure. Once determination is made, the child will need to receive the appropriate treatment, either by seeing a doctor or following a prescribed treatment monitored by the school nurse. Students must comply with State of Ohio immunization requirements as outlined in the Ohio Revised Code.

### **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE**

State law, effective January 1985, outlines the school’s authority and/or responsibility for the administration of medication to students within very specific regulations. Many students are able to attend school regularly through effective use of medication in the treatment of disabilities or illnesses that will not hinder the health or welfare of others. If possible, all medication should be given by the parent at home. Students may not have medication of any kind in their possession unless they have a prescription on file for self-carry. If this is not possible, it will be done in accordance with the following:

1. Prescription and/or over-the-counter medication may be dispensed to students by a school employee only after the office has received a Physician's Request for the Administration of Medication in School. These forms are available in the Main office.
2. All medications must be in their original containers.
3. Any medication to be administered at school must be delivered to the school by a parent/guardian.

## **DRUG TESTING**

Firelands Local Schools has implemented a policy which will attempt to provide the district with a safe and healthful student program. This policy reflects the schools' and the community's strong commitment to establish a truly drug, alcohol, and nicotine free school environment. This policy applies to all athletes and student parking pass holders from grades 9-12, and via written request from parent(s) /guardian(s). The program does not affect the current policies, practices, or rights of the District regarding student drug and / or alcohol possession or use, where reasonable suspicion is established by means other than drug testing through this policy. Students involved in extracurricular activities need to be exemplary in the eyes of the community and other students. The drug testing and education policy is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and assist them in getting help when needed. Although students risk the loss of continued participation in extracurricular activities, no student shall be suspended or expelled from school as a result of any verified "positive" test conducted by his / her school under this program. No student will be penalized academically for testing positive for banned substances. Note: The use or possession of materials and / or substances to alter drug testing results or tampering with the process of drug testing is a violation of the student and the athletic handbooks. These actions carry the same consequences of a violation of the drug testing. The results of drug tests will not be documented in any student's academic record.

If a positive test occurs **or** if a student refuses to take part in the random drug testing:

In either case, under IGDJA, your student is required to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health and Human Services and/or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for a chemical dependency assessment, and then will follow the recommendations of the drug and alcohol counselor. The student and/or parent/guardian/custodian are responsible for all expenses and for providing the building principal with documentation that the student has completed all assessments and recommendations of the counselor. Listed below are the consequences associated with this positive drug test/ refusal to test.

- ❑ **First Violation:** The student will be refused parking privileges or the privilege of participating on an athletic team until the student has completed and provided written documentation of the alcohol and drug assessment and the recommendations from this assessment. If the student and/or parent/guardian/custodian does not follow through on the recommendations, and



continue to provide documentation of the follow through of the recommendations, the student will lose immediately the privilege of parking on the campus of Firelands High School and/or will not be permitted to participate in any manner with their sport team. The student is also subject to five random drug tests over the next six months, regardless of whether they are still in season (if related to a sport).

- ❑ **Second Violation:** The student will be denied participation for 50% of the entire amount of contests of that athletic season and denied parking privileges for 90 school days. The student is also required to subject to random drug tests for the remainder of the regular season and to five random drug tests over the next six months, regardless of whether they are still in season (if related to a sport). The student is also responsible for further drug/alcohol assessments and to follow through on the recommendations of these assessments, as stated in the First Violation standard of the FLS Drug Testing Protocol. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a permanent denial of participation in athletics and/or a permanent denial of parking privileges.
- ❑ **Third Violation:** The student shall be denied participation in athletics and District driving and/or parking privileges immediately for one calendar year. The student will have the opportunity to request a re-instatement to participate in athletics and/or parking privileges after one calendar year from the third positive test if they follow the below protocol. A student may only apply for re-instatement ONCE during their secondary career. Below are the steps required to apply for reinstatement: The student shall be drug tested EACH time a random drug test occurs:
  - Have consistent negative drug tests prior to the application for re-instatement for one calendar year
  - Have documentation that a licensed drug/alcohol counselor has completed a drug/alcohol assessment on the student and that the student has followed through on the recommendations of the counselor. This assessment is required to be completed AFTER the third positive test
  - The student maintains a GPA of over 2.0 and has no disciplinary referrals. If a student at any time produces a positive drug test while under the third violation, they will automatically proceed to the fourth violation under the policy. Violations are cumulative throughout the student's secondary school career.
- ❑ **Fourth Violation:** The student is permanently denied participation in athletics and FLS driving privileges immediately. **Please note that violations are cumulative throughout the student's secondary school career at FHS (Grades 9-12)**

## **ATTENDANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **ATTENDANCE**

When a student is absent from school, we ask the parents to take the following steps:

1. Notify the school when your student is absent. If you do not notify the school then you will receive an automated phone call from the school notifying you that your student is not in school.
2. Submit a note with the student name, date(s) of absence, and reason for absence upon the student's return to school. The Firelands Board of Education approves absences as excused for the following reasons: student illness; illness in the student's family necessitating the presence of the student; needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians for a limited period of time when approved by the Superintendent (applies to students over 14 years of age only); death in the family; quarantine for contagious disease; observance of religious holidays; traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity; college visitation; absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care placement or any court proceedings related to their foster care status; absences due to a student being homeless. Absences due to court or medical appointment will only be excused by a note from the court or medical facility.
3. If it is necessary for a student to leave school before the end of the school day (or before after school obligations are completed), a written request must be supplied from parents or guardians. The written request should be brought to the school/attendance office before the start of school on the day the student is to be excused. If the reason for the absence is due to a court or medical appointment, the student must still bring a note from the court or medical facility upon their return to school.
4. If a student becomes ill during school, he/she must report to the main office to contact home for arrangements to leave school. The student is NOT to call or text parents directly. A signed note from the parent stating the dates and reason for the absence is still required to be brought in upon the student's return to school.
5. Students who are tardy to school must report directly to the school office. To be excused, a student must have a written note or phone call from a parent stating the reason for the tardiness. Legitimate excuses are doctor's appointments or unavoidable schedule conflicts. Excuses such as oversleeping or missing the bus are not acceptable even if accompanied by a note from a parent. Unexcused tardy students will be subject to school discipline as outlined in the handbook.

## **HOUSE BILL 410**

House Bill 410 defines "excessive absences" to be 38 or more hours in a school month; or 65 or more hours in a school year. This includes all absences, excused or unexcused, but not absences accompanied by a medical excuse. Students that have "excessive absences" as defined by HB 410 will receive written notification of the absences. Students that meet the definition of "excessive absences" shall be required to provide medical excuses for all future absences.

House Bill 410 defines "habitual truancy" to be absences without legitimate excuse that consist of 30 or more consecutive hours of absence; or 42 or more hours in a month; or 72 hours or more in a school year. For students that meet the criteria defined as "habitual truant," an intervention plan will be developed by a team consisting of, at minimum, two

school employees, the parent(s)/guardian, and the student. The administration will file a complaint with the juvenile court on or before the 61<sup>st</sup> day of implementation of the plan if the student does not show improvement in school attendance while under the intervention plan.

### **EARLY DISMISSALS**

On any given school day a student asking permission for an Early Dismissal must present to the main office a parent/guardian handwritten note upon arrival to school. Any Early Dismissal note which is written by a person(s) other than a parent/guardian may result in disciplinary action.

**MAKE-UP WORK DURING AN EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Students are responsible for all work missed during an absence. It is the student's responsibility to work with his/her teacher to make up all work. Students have one day plus the number of days absent to complete the work they missed during an absence. Long-term assignments and/or unit tests with clearly communicated deadlines may be given lower grades if not completed in accordance with the deadline.

**MAKE-UP WORK DURING AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE:** Students receiving unexcused absences must make up their work. All missed tests or quizzes will be given the next day following return and will be scheduled by the teacher. Each case will be considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s).

**ABSENCES AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/EXTRA-CURRICULAR:** Students who are absent from school (other than school-approved absences) are not allowed to attend after-school activities that day. This includes extracurricular activities, athletic practices/events, and after-school programs. Students who leave school early may not be permitted to participate in after school activities without administrative approval.

### **REQUESTING SCHOOL WORK FOR ABSENT STUDENT**

Students who will be absent from school for an extended period of time can have school work picked up for them. Parents/guardians should contact the office prior to make arrangements for schoolwork 24 hours in advance of picking the work up. **Parents and students are encouraged to check their PowerSchool account, Google classroom, or email individual teachers for assignments.** Please note, unless there are extenuating circumstances, all pre-arranged school work must be turned in the day the student returns to school.

### **VACATION PROCEDURE**

Parents wishing to take their student on vacation must submit a written note prior to the vacation. The board does not believe that students should be excused from school for vacations or other nonemergency trips out of the school district. The responsibility for such absences resides with the parent(s) and they must not expect any work missed by their student to be retaught by the teacher. Parents may request work for the student prior to the first day of absence. This request will be honored to the best of the teacher's ability taking into consideration the amount of notice and length of absence. Students will have the same number of days absent to make up missed work.

## **PROCEDURES FOR EARLY DISMISSAL**

Students are not permitted to leave the school building and/or grounds at any time during the school day without permission from the main office. Failure to follow this procedure may result in disciplinary action.

## **LEGAL NOTIFICATIONS**

### **HOMELESS ASSISTANCE**

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act McKinney-Vento is the federal legislation dealing with the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness in U.S. public schools. It was reauthorized as Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act. The McKinney-Vento program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, state educational agencies (SEAs) must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. Homeless children and youth should have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment. States and districts are required to review and undertake steps to revise laws, regulations, practices, or policies that may act as a barrier to the enrollment, attendance, or success in school of homeless children and youth. Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children in homeless situations have the right to:

- Attend school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.
- Enroll either the local school or the school of origin (the school of origin is the school the child attended when he/she was permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled), if this is in their best interest.
- Enroll, attend classes and participate fully in all school activities while the school arranges for the transfer of records.
- Have the same rights and access to programs/ services that are available to all other students including supplemental services.

### **MEDICAID PROGRAM**

We are pleased to inform you that the Medicaid Program now allows Ohio School Districts, including the Firelands Local School District, to receive Medicaid funding for eligible services provided to students with disabilities. The eligible services covered in school districts include: occupational and physical therapy, speech/language therapy, audiology, nursing, school psychology, and counselor and social work services. This program is known as the Ohio Medicaid School Program (OMSP) and the Firelands Local School District is a designated healthcare provider under this program.

If your child is covered by Medicaid health insurance through Ohio Healthy Start, the Medicaid Assistance Program, Healthy Families, or the WIC Program, this letter applies to your family. However, no action is required on your part, and your Medicaid insurance benefits are NOT reduced or affected by this program (per Ohio Administrative Code 5101:3-34-01.2).

Under Federal Education law, we must inform you of two things:

1. In order to be paid for the services we provide to your child, we must send the Ohio Medicaid Agency the following information:
  - a. Your child's name, Medicaid number, and Birth date
  - b. Service code (numerical code that identifies the service(s) provided)
  - c. Service time spent with your child (number of minutes)
2. We need your permission to send this information to the Ohio Medicaid agency. However, no action is needed by you now because when you signed your Medicaid application, you gave permission to any Medicaid Healthcare provider to send information to the Medicaid Agency regarding services your child received. Since this school district is now considered a Medicaid Healthcare provider, we want you to know that we plan to use your Medicaid application signature as your approval to send the necessary information.

Please be assured that your child's Medicaid benefits and limits are NOT reduced or affected in any way by the Ohio School Medicaid Program. Your consent for the Firelands Local School District to obtain payment for the Medicaid services provided to your child is voluntary and can be discontinued at any time. If you do withdraw consent, the district is still obligated to provide your child with the services authorized by his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP).

If you do not want the district to bill the Medicaid program for your child's services, or if you have any questions about the information in this letter, please contact your school district. They will be pleased to assist you in any way. We very much appreciate your support as we continue to provide your child with the services he/she needs.

### **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Firelands Local School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, or veteran status in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Keri Angney, Title IX Coordinator, 112 N. Lake Street, S. Amherst, OH 44001, 440-965-5821

### **STUDENT RECORDS**

The student's permanent record contains the birth certificate, registration form, medical form, attendance record, standardized testing data, copies of the reporting forms and certain other information pertinent to the child's education (e.g., data from transferring school).

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or

misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the School District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

### **RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION, PHOTOS, & VIDEOS**

Reporters, photographers, and videographers occasionally visit the schools to report on news and events, either for the District's own publications and website, or for newspapers, magazines, or television. All media visits to classrooms must be approved by the school principal. A School District staff member is always present. Children with special needs are never identified without express permission from the parent or guardian.

Release of Student Information to Military Recruiters: Under federal law, the District is required to provide military recruiters with contact information for secondary school students, unless the parent or student (if 18 or older) denies permission.

If you do not want your student to appear in photos or videos, or if you do not want his/her information released to military recruiters, please contact the school principal.

### **TITLE I**

Part of the Elementary and Secondary Act, currently known as ESSA, Title I is a federal entitlement program that provides the district and schools serving low-income families with funds to improve student achievement. District and school allocations are based on the number and percentage of students who are eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. The numbers vary each year. There are four guiding principles in ESSA:

1. Schools are expected to teach students using standards-based curriculum and scientifically based methods proven to be successful.

2. Schools and districts are accountable for demonstrating that all students are meeting academic goals each year. Schools not making adequate progress for two or more consecutive years in reading or math are in “school improvement” status.
3. Teachers and instructional paraprofessionals must be highly qualified. School districts must develop plans to ensure highly qualified teachers and instructional paraprofessionals in Title I funded programs.
4. Parents must be given information, rights and choices concerning their child's education. ESSA states parents have a right:
  - to have access to their child's individual performance levels on the statewide assessments;
  - to know if their child’s school is making adequate yearly progress (links to Ohio Department of Education Local Report Cards) [ilrc.ode.state.oh.us](http://ilrc.ode.state.oh.us);
  - to know the qualifications of their child’s teachers;
  - to be informed if their child is being taught by a substitute or a non-highly qualified teacher for longer than four consecutive weeks; and
  - to know about school choice and supplemental educational services.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

H.B. 421 requires each Board of Education to adopt a set of rules and regulations designed to maintain order and discipline necessary for effective learning. The Board of Education’s primary concern is that students who wish to learn can do so in an environment conducive to learning and that every available disciplinary and prescriptive mean are employed on behalf of those who would deny such an environment. The sole objective of this Code is to insure fair and equitable handling of disciplinary problems. A student’s main goal in school is to get an education. It is the responsibility of the school to provide that education and to prevent anyone from interfering with the achievement of that goal. Most discipline problems in school center around students disrupting others. Teachers will handle disciplinary offenses through a variety of methods. These include conferences with students, contacting parents, assigning detentions, referral to the office, or any other suitable method they deem appropriate to the situation. Any student who is intentionally unwilling to respond to reasonable control and authority may be suspended from school or expelled. The disciplinary measure to be used will be left to the discretion of the school administration. See Suspension/Expulsion Board Policy. This code of conduct is in effect while students are under the authority of school personnel or involved in any school activity. This includes but is not limited to school buses and property under the control of school authorities, and while at interscholastic competitions, extracurricular events, or other school activities or programs as well as to and from school. In addition, the Code of Conduct includes:

1. misconduct by a student that occurs off school district property but is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school district property; and
2. misconduct by a student that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a district official or employee or the property of an official or employee.

Violation of the Code of Conduct may result in verbal or written warning or reprimand, referral to guidance counselor, parental contact or conference, detention, in-school suspension (if available), Wednesday Disciplinary Assignment (WDA), community service, emergency removal, referral to law enforcement agencies, suspension or expulsion.

The Joint Vocational School (JVS) is an extension of our school program; therefore, students who elect to attend the career center are subject to disciplinary action based upon the Student Code of Conduct of either Firelands High School and/or the JVS. Consequently, conduct and/or involvement in any activity that may or does result in disciplinary action by one school may be grounds for similar disciplinary action by the other school.

Whenever self-discipline fails, it is necessary for adult staff members to enforce good order and discipline. Therefore, the Firelands Local Board of Education shall:

1. Recognize the teacher as the person in authority to maintain the decorum of the classroom and building.
2. Delegate to the school official and teachers the authority to enforce regulations regarding conduct of students.
3. Not participate in any disciplinary problems until they have been fully investigated by the school administration.
4. Support teachers and administrators to the fullest in their efforts to maintain proper decorum among students.
5. Authorize principals to use such discipline or punitive measures within the limits of the law necessary to ensure a properly functioning school organization.

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

School authorities are charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of a law or school rule. School authorities may also conduct random searches of lockers and student vehicles at any time and without notice. Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated.

### **DETENTION**

Detention is a consequence that requires a student to report to a designated area of the school during a specified time on a school day (typically either recess or after school) and remain there for a specified period of time, but also may require a pupil to report to that part of school at a certain time outside of regular school hours, e.g. "Weekday Disciplinary Assignment." All consequences are at the discretion of the school administrator.

### **LOSS OF BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES**

Loss of bus riding privileges is the temporary removal of a student from school transportation. This consequence and its duration is imposed by the principal or his/her designee. If loss of bus riding privileges is imposed, students may not use school transportation for the purposes of getting to or from school for the time period it is assigned. Students may still have permission to participate in field trips or extra-curricular events that require the use of school transportation if special permission is obtained from the principal.

### **SUSPENSION**



A suspension is the temporary removal of a child from school for a violation of school policies or rules. Suspensions are generally imposed by the principal of the school or his/her designee and can last up to 10 school days.

In order to maintain effective learning conditions, it may be necessary to deny certain students participation in the educational program for varying periods of time. A student may be suspended from school:

1. By any district administrator
2. For a period of time not to exceed ten school days.
3. For violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

Students suspended from school:

1. May not attend any school or school function during the suspension period.
2. May not be on school grounds or at any event off school grounds where FLSD is a participant during the suspension period.
3. Shall remain under supervision during school hours during the suspension period.
4. May receive assignments for work missed.

Make-up Work during Suspension:

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain work from teachers upon notice of suspension. All work must be completed and returned the first day the student returns to school after the suspension. Any missed tests or quizzes must be made up the first day the student returns to school or at the earliest convenience of the teacher.

Whenever an incident occurs that may lead to a suspension:

1. The student may be removed from the premises, curricular or extracurricular activity.
2. The Superintendent, principal, or designee shall give to the student written notice of the intention to suspend which shall include the reasons for which the student may be suspended. Parents will be contacted after discipline has been issued.
3. The student shall have an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the Superintendent, principal, or designee and shall have the right to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain his actions. The hearing may take place immediately. Such hearing, which is informal and is not a judicial proceeding, shall:
  - a. Provide statements in support of the charge(s) against the student upon which the hearing is conducted.
  - b. Provide statements by the student and others in defense of the charge(s) or explanations of the student's conduct.
  - c. Make no provision for the presence of legal counsel or any prescribed judicial rules in the form of the hearing.
  - d. Serve as the basis for any recommendation for expulsion.

Within twenty-four hours of the decision to suspend, notification of such suspension shall be sent in writing to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student, the Superintendent, and the treasurer of the Board of Education.

This notice of suspension shall include:

1. The reasons for the suspension.
2. Notification as to the right to appeal the decision to the Superintendent and the right to be represented at the appeal.
3. The date and time the suspension is to begin, its duration, and the date and time the student is to return to school.

4. The conditions, if any, of the suspension.

An appeal:

1. Shall be requested within fourteen (14) days of the notice of the suspension in written form stating the grounds for such appeal.
2. Hearing shall be held by the Superintendent within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of a request for an appeal. The appeal hearing shall be closed to the public except the student has the right of representation and, if so represented; the Superintendent shall have the opportunity to also seek representation.

The decision of the Superintendent:

1. To affirm, vacate, or modify the disciplinary action shall be sent in writing within five school days to the student, the parent, the guardian or custodian of the student, the Treasurer of the Board of Education, and the principal.
2. May be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

**EXPULSION**

An expulsion is a more permanent removal of a child from school for a violation of more serious school policies or rules. Expulsions are recommended by the principal of the school and generally follow a 10 day suspension. Under Ohio law, expulsions can last up to 80 school days and may carry over to the next school year. Some expulsions can last longer than a year as per Board Policy.

In order to maintain effective learning conditions, it may be necessary to deny certain students participation in the educational program for extended periods of time. A student may be expelled from school:

1. By the Superintendent upon the recommendation of the principal.
2. For a period of time not to extend beyond the current law.
3. For violations of the Code of Student Conduct.
4. For multiple suspensions resulting from student code of conduct offenses.

Students expelled from school:

1. May not attend any school function during the period of expulsion.
2. May not be on school grounds or at any event off school grounds where FLSD is a participant during the period of expulsion. Students wishing to attend a school program as part of the audience must obtain explicit permission from the administration of that school to attend.
3. Will not receive assignments and will receive no credit for any assignments or tests given during the period of expulsion.
4. Shall remain under parental supervision during school hours for the period of expulsion.

Whenever an incident occurs that may lead to an expulsion:

1. The principal shall proceed with a suspension and recommend to the Superintendent that the student be expelled citing reasons for such expulsion.
2. The Superintendent shall give the student written notice of the intent to expel.

The notice of the Intent to Expel shall:

1. State the reasons for which the student may be expelled.
2. Set the date, location, and time of an expulsion hearing.
3. Inform the student of his right to be represented at the hearing.
4. State that the student may challenge the reasons for the expulsion at the expulsion hearing.

5. Be given to the student in written form and copies sent to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student and the treasurer of the Board of Education within twenty-four hours.

#### The Expulsion hearing:

1. Shall be held no less than three school days nor more than five school days after the student is given notice of the intent to expel.
2. Shall provide the student, parent, guardian, custodian, or representative the right to challenge the reasons for the expulsion or explain the student's actions.
3. May be rescheduled to grant an extension of time if requested by the student, parent, guardian, custodian, or representative. If granted, the Superintendent must notify all parties of the new time and place.

#### A notice of Expulsion:

1. Shall be sent to the student with copies to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student, treasurer of the Board of Education, and principal.
2. Shall be sent within twenty-four hours of the expulsion hearing.
3. Shall inform the student, parent, guardian, or custodian of the student's right to appeal the decision to the Board of Education.
4. Shall state the conditions of the expulsion.

#### An Appeal hearing:

1. Shall be requested in writing within fourteen (14) school days of receipt of a notice of expulsion stating the grounds for the appeal.
2. Shall be set by the treasurer of the Board of Education within twenty school days of the request of an appeal by the student, parent, guardian, or custodian of the student.
3. Shall provide all information regarding the incident and subsequent hearings be presented to the Board of Education or designee including the right of the student to explain his actions or challenge the reasons for the expulsion.

#### The decision of the Board of Education:

1. Shall be made in an open session of the Board of Education.
2. May be appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

**NOTE: Board adopted policies serve as the district's governing document.**

### **EMERGENCY REMOVAL**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on school premises, then the Superintendent, principal or assistant principal may remove the student from curricular activities or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from curricular activities under the teacher's supervision, but not from the premises. If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building administrator of the circumstances surrounding the removal in writing, as soon as practicable. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this policy. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from a curricular activity for less than one (1) school day and is not subject to further suspension or expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply. If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a due process hearing will be held within three (3) school days after the removal is ordered. If the Superintendent or principal reinstate a pupil prior to the hearing for removal, the teacher shall, upon request, receive in writing the

reasons for the reinstatement. The teacher cannot refuse to reinstate such pupil even though reasons for such refusal are given. Students may be removed from the premises, a curricular setting, or extra-curricular activity for violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

**MISCONDUCT FOR WHICH DETENTION, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, REMOVAL, AND/OR LOSS OF BUS RIDING PRIVILEGES MAY BE IMPOSED**

1. **Truancy.** Truancy is unexcused absence from school. No student shall be absent from the school day without a legitimate excuse and timely notification of the school by the parent or legal guardian. The State of Ohio specifies the following reasons for which an absence may be excused: personal illness, illness in the family, quarantine of the home, death of a relative, medical or dental appointment, observance of religious holidays, college visitation, family emergency, which in the judgment of the building principal, constitutes good and sufficient cause for absence.
2. Reserved for state code purposes.
3. **Fighting and Violence.** A student shall not engage in improper physical contact, fight, instigate a fight, or behave in such a way as to threaten or cause physical harm to a school employee, school visitor, or another student:
  - a. on school grounds, during and immediately before or immediately after school hours;
  - b. on school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a group;
  - c. off school grounds at a school-sponsored or related activity function, or event;
  - d. on a school bus; or
  - e. at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school.
4. **Vandalism / Damage or Destruction of School or Personal Property.** Vandalism is the willful destruction or defacement of school or personal property. A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or cause or attempt to cause damage to private property of students, teachers, school personnel or other persons.
5. **Theft or Unauthorized Removal of School or Personal Property.** Theft is the unlawful taking of property belonging to another person. A student shall not steal or attempt to steal school or private property, attempt to participate in the unauthorized removal of such property, or possess such property without authorization.
6. **Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Firearm.** A firearm is any weapon which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any machine gun. This includes zip guns, starter guns, and flare guns. Students are prohibited from using, handling, possessing,

selling, distributing or bringing a firearm as defined above on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity. If a student brings a firearm on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity, the Superintendent shall expel this student for a period of one calendar year. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. The Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with State law.

- 7. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Dangerous Weapon other than a Firearm or Explosive, Incendiary or Poison Gas** Under this provision, a weapon is defined as a device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. Such weapons may include, but are not limited to, knives, razors, clubs, chains, pepper spray, electroshock weapon or any instrument or item used to inflict harm on a person or to intimidate a person. The definition of a knife includes, but is not limited to, a cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle. Students are prohibited from using, handling, possessing, selling, distributing or bringing weapons as defined above on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity. If a student brings a weapon on school property, in a school vehicle or to any school-sponsored activity, the Superintendent shall expel this student for a period of one calendar year. Any such expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident occurred. The Superintendent may reduce this requirement on a case-by-case basis in accordance with State law.
- 8. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of any Explosive, Incendiary or Poison Gas** A student shall not use, possess, sell, distribute or conceal any object that can be classified as explosives, fireworks, munitions, incendiaries, accelerants, lighters, matches, or poison gas while on school grounds, at school-sponsored or related activities, functions or events off school grounds, or a school bus or conveyance, or at any other time that the student is subject to the authority of the school. The definition of a destructive device includes, but is not limited to, a bomb, a grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce and a mine or similar device. This definition would also include any weapon that will, or that may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and that has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter.
- 9. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products** A student shall not use, possess, sell, distribute or conceal tobacco or tobacco products, and tobacco-like products including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vape pens, and snuff:

  - a.** on school grounds, during and immediately before or immediately after school hours;
  - b.** on school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a group;
  - c.** off school grounds at a school-sponsored or related activity function, or event;

- d. on a school bus;
- e. in any area within the immediate view of school grounds; or
- f. at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school.
- g. Violations of this rule by athletes and student drivers in grades 9-12 will also be considered as a First Violation of the FLSD Drug Testing Policy.

**10. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages** A student shall not use, possess, sell, distribute, conceal or consume any intoxicating alcoholic beverage on school grounds, at school-sponsored or related functions or activities off school grounds, on a school bus or conveyance, or any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. Likewise, a student shall not consume any alcoholic beverage at a time before the commencement of school or at a school-sponsored or related event or activity where such consumption might affect or impair the student's behavior, while traveling to or from school, to or from any school building or facility, to or from any school activity, function or event, during and immediately before or after school, or during or immediately before or after any school activity, function or event, or in any area within the immediate view of school grounds.

Violations of this rule by athletes and student drivers in grades 9-12 will also be considered as a First Violation of the FLSD Drug Testing Policy.

**11. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Drugs other than Tobacco or Alcohol**

- a. A student shall not use, possess, sell, distribute, conceal or consume any controlled drug, or counterfeit drugs commonly called "look-alikes," on school grounds, at school-sponsored or related functions or activities off school grounds, on a school bus or conveyance, or any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school. Likewise, a student shall not consume any of the drugs of abuse or counterfeit drugs commonly called "look-alikes" at a time before the commencement of school or at a school-sponsored or related event or activity where such consumption might affect or impair the student's behavior, while traveling to or from school, to or from any school building or facility, to or from any school activity, function or event, during and immediately before or after school, or during or immediately before or after any school activity, function or event, or in any area within the immediate view of school grounds. Examples of drugs of abuse include, but are not limited to, narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, glue, cocaine, or other substances that could modify behavior. A counterfeit controlled substance includes, but is not limited to, any substance which is possessed, used, transmitted, sold, concealed or consumed that is represented to be a controlled substance or drug of abuse. The use of counterfeit drugs is illegal (H.B. 535) and subject to penalty. Use of medications as prescribed by a licensed physician and administered in accordance with District procedures shall not be considered violation of this rule.
- b. A student shall not handle, possess, use, distribute or conceal any drug of abuse or counterfeit drug instrument or paraphernalia (for example, a hypodermic needle, a syringe, a water pipe, a roach clip, etc.) on school grounds, at a school-sponsored or related function or activity off school grounds, on a school bus or conveyance or at any other time the student is subject to the authority of the school.
- c. Violations of this rule by athletes and student drivers in grades 9-12 will also be considered as a First Violation of the FLSD Drug Testing Policy.

12. Reserved for state code purposes.

13. Reserved for state code purposes.

**14. False Alarm/Bomb Threat** - A student shall not sound a fire alarm in the absence of an actual fire or other emergency. A student shall not make any threat (verbal, written or electronic) to bomb or use other substances or devices for the purpose of exploding, burning, causing damage to a school building or school property, or to harm students, staff or visitors.

15. Reserved for state code purposes

16. Reserved for state code purposes.

17. Reserved for state code purposes

**18. Disruptive Behavior / Failure to Comply with Directives.**

- a. Students will comply with directives and orders of teachers, student teachers, educational aides, substitute teachers, principals, or other authorized school personnel during any period of time when they are properly subject to the authority of the school.
- b. A student shall not give false identification or refuse to provide accurate identification to school personnel.
- c. Students shall comply with all school rules and regulations. Such rules and regulations will be provided to the student. Students are responsible for becoming familiar with those items.
- d. No student shall refuse to accept discipline or punishment from teachers, school officials, teacher's aides, or other authorized school personnel.
- e. Students may be disciplined for any other misconduct which is deemed by school authorities to be disruptive or to interfere with the educational process.
- f. Students shall not knowingly withhold information or mislead school officials when questioned.

**19. Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing and Bullying.** No student will harass, intimidate, haze, or bully another student. Please see the section in this handbook on bullying and harassment procedures for definitions and procedures.

**20. Firearm Look-Alikes.** A student shall not use, possess, sell, distribute or conceal any item that resembles a firearm but does not have the explosive characteristics of a firearm. This includes, but is not limited to, look-alikes that use a spring-loaded device or air pressure to propel an object or substance, such as cap guns, BB guns, pellet guns or toy guns.

**21. Unwelcome Sexual Conduct.** A student shall not make unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature, toward another student, a staff member, or a visitor. This definition includes gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment. Prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to, pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments, gestures or jokes, or pressure to engage in sexual activity.

- 22. Serious Bodily Injury.** A student shall not instigate or participate in an incident that results in serious bodily injury to oneself or to others. Serious bodily injury is defined as “a bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or faculty.” (18 USC § 1365(3)(h))
- 23. Likely Injury -- Removal by Hearing Officer (Special Education Provision).** A student with a disability may be removed from school for up to 45 days by the hearing officer if the student is charged with a weapons or drug violation and the hearing officer believes there is a possibility that the student may injure himself/herself or others. Such a removal must take place in accordance with the provisions of the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.
- 24.** Reserved for state code purposes.
- 25. Appearance and Dress.** Students shall not violate school rules pertaining to appearance and dress. Students shall attend school and school-related activities dressed in a manner which is clean, not hazardous to their safety or the safety of others, and which does not detract from the educational environment.
- 26. Tardiness and Class-Cutting.** No student shall be absent from any portion of the school day, class, or other mandatory activity without a legitimate excuse and timely notification of the school by the parent or legal guardian. Attendance procedures will be established to ensure a uniform system throughout the school district.
- 27. Vulgar, Improper or Threatening Language, Improper Gestures or Sexual Misconduct** No student shall speak or write vulgar, racially derogatory, threatening, or other improper language in any area of school buildings during school hours or at school-sponsored or related activities or events on or off school property; nor shall a student use vulgar, racially derogatory, threatening, or other improper language in any area of school buildings during school hours or at school-sponsored or related activities or events on or off school property; nor shall a student engage in sexual misconduct.
- 28. Misconduct on Bus/Driving or Parking Lot Violation.** No student shall threaten, act, participate in any act or acts, or attempt to threaten, act or participate in any act or acts which pose or attempt to pose a danger to the safe operation of a school bus, including, but not limited to, failing to remain seated, throwing objects at the passengers or the driver, extending arms or objects out of the windows, and shouting and other disorderly conduct which could cause physical harm, emotional stress, or diversion of the driver’s attention. Such misconduct may result in the loss of bus riding privileges and/or other disciplinary action. Students may not violate any rules or regulations of Student Driving policy (please see rules and regulations for driving). Students shall not be in the parking lot at any time other than ingress and egress (see rules & regulations of the Parking Lot).



- 29. Misconduct During Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities.** A student who has been accepted or qualifies for membership in a co-curricular or school-sponsored or related extracurricular activity shall not behave in any way which disrupts or tends to interfere with the conduct of that activity and shall not violate the rules, regulations, or policies which govern participation in a co-curricular or extracurricular activity, whose rules regulations, or policies are provided to participants and made a part of this code. Likewise, students attending any co-curricular or school-sponsored extracurricular or related activity shall not behave in any way which disrupts or tends to interfere with the conduct of that activity
- 30. Disruption of School** A student shall not, by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, harassment, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, cause, attempt, or threaten to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, activity, or function of that school. A student shall not urge other students to engage in such conduct for the purpose of causing, attempting, or threatening to cause the disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, activity, or function of the school. While this list is not intended to be all-inclusive, the following acts illustrate the kinds of misconduct prohibited by this rule:
- a. Occupying any school building, school grounds, or part thereof;
  - b. Blocking the entrance or exit of any school building or corridor or room therein;
  - c. Setting fire or attempting to set fire to or damaging or attempting to damage any school building or property;
  - d. Preventing or attempting to prevent by physical act or verbal utterance, the convening or continued functioning of any school class, or activity or any lawful school meeting or assembly on or off school property;
  - e. Preventing or attempting to prevent students from attending a class or any school-sponsored or related activity or event;
  - f. Except under the direct instruction of a principal or other authorized school personnel, blocking pedestrian or vehicular traffic on school property or at the site of any school-sponsored or related activity or event;
  - g. Continuously and intentionally making noise or acting in a manner so as to interfere with a teacher's ability to conduct a class or extracurricular activity;
  - h. Making, by telephone call, letter, or other means, a threat to damage or destroy any school property or to disrupt any school-sponsored or related activity, function or event on or off school grounds; and
  - i. Participating in gang-related activities such as attire, clothing, colors, initiation, or recruitment.
  - j. No student shall sell, distribute, or attempt to distribute any item which has not been authorized for such sale or distribution by the building principal to any person on school property or at any school sponsored activity.
  - k. No student shall cause disruption by making a knowingly false claim.
- 31. Cheating, Plagiarism, and Forgery.** A student shall not plagiarize, cheat, forge, falsify, distort or misrepresent in verbal, written, or electronic form any dates, times, addresses, grades or other data in any communication directed to or from school.
- 32. Gambling or Possession of Gambling Paraphernalia.** A student shall not engage in, possess, or promote games of chance, place a bet, or risk anything of

value on school grounds, on school-provided transportation, at school-sponsored or related school functions off school grounds, or any other time the student is subject to school authority. Examples: cards, dice, coins, etc.

**33. Extortion.** No student shall use an expressed or implied threat, violence, harassment, coercion, or intimidation to obtain money or anything of value from another on school grounds, at school-sponsored or related school functions off school grounds, or any other time the student is subject to school authority.

**34. Trespassing/Loitering.**

- a. A student shall not enter upon school grounds or premises of a school building to which the student is not assigned during or after school hours except with express permission of the school principal of that building or to attend or participate in a school-sponsored event in which his/her regularly assigned school is involved or where students from his/her regularly assigned school have been invited to attend or participate (e.g., a performance).
- b. A student already under suspension, expulsion or removal (emergency or disciplinary) shall not enter upon the grounds or premises of the student's regularly assigned or other school building, or attend any school-sponsored activities, without the express permission of the principal or designee. Violation may result in arrest and prosecution for trespassing as well as further school disciplinary action.
- c. Anyone who is not a currently enrolled student or staff member must check in at the office or security desk and receive a visitor's pass upon arrival. Unauthorized visitors may be prosecuted for trespassing. Any student who brings an unauthorized visitor into the school is subject to disciplinary action.

**35. Inappropriate Use of Electronic Devices.** A student shall not use radios, stereos, televisions, telephones, pagers, cell phones, or other equipment in a manner determined by school authorities to be disruptive to the educational process or the orderly operation of the school. Violation may result in confiscation of the equipment and/or disciplinary action. Please see electronic devices section of this handbook for additional guidelines.

**36. Inappropriate Use of Technology.** Students shall not violate the Information Technology Acceptable Use policy adopted by the Board of Education. Specific violations include the following: A. Infringing on the rights or liberties of others. B. Illegal or criminal use of any kind. C. Utilization involving communications, materials, information, or images reasonably regarded as obscene, pornographic, threatening, abusive, harassing, discriminatory, or in violation of any other school policy. D. Accessing, viewing, printing, storing, transmitting, disseminating or selling any information in violation of law or subject to privilege or any expectation of privacy. E. Causing or permitting materials protected by copyright, trademark, service mark, trade name, trade secret, confidential or proprietary data, or communications of another to be uploaded or downloaded to a computer or information system, published, broadcast, or in any way disseminated without authorization from the owner. F. Damaging or altering the operation, function, content or design of the school information technology facilities. G. Granting access to the school information technology facilities to individuals not authorized

by the school either by intentional conduct such as disclosing passwords, or by unintentional conduct such as failing to log off. H. Commercial, profit-motivated, or partisan political use not directly related to approved school programs.

**37. Misconduct Away from School** A student who sells or transmits any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, marijuana, or any other controlled substance of abuse off school property or at a non-school-sponsored or related activity, function or event may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.66, be subject to suspension or expulsion from school if the superintendent determines that the student's continued presence in the school is reasonably certain to significantly disrupt or interfere with the educational process or significantly endanger the health or safety of the students or others. A student who engages in an assault upon a school employee or another student off school property, at a non-school-sponsored or related activity, function or event may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.66, be subject to suspension or expulsion from school if the superintendent determines that the student's continued presence in the school is reasonably certain to significantly disrupt or interfere with the educational process or significantly endanger the health or safety of the students or others.

**38. Inappropriate Conduct/Horseplay** At no time shall a student exhibit any behavior deemed inappropriate in a school environment.

**39. Repeated Acts of Misconduct** Repeated acts of misconduct that disrupt an orderly school environment.

## **INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY & CONDUCT**

Students participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities must meet the minimum academic standards established to be eligible. These programs include, but are not limited to, **all athletic teams, academic teams, cheerleaders, speech/debate teams, dance team, clubs, and performing groups**. Performing groups include band, pep band, drama, and other similar groups as determined by the building principal. Students participating in extracurricular programs shall be required to meet the academic standards to be eligible to participate in contests, programs, or performances.

"Scholastic Eligibility Requirements"- Students must have received passing grades in a minimum of five, one-credit courses or the equivalent, which count toward graduation, the preceding grading period to maintain eligibility for the next grading period.

In all cases of eligibility, the Ohio High School Athletic Association standard for eligibility will apply.

Participation in extracurricular activities, athletic programs, and clubs at Firelands Local Schools is a distinct privilege and made available to only those students enrolled full-time at Firelands Local Schools. The expectation for all participants is to act in a positive manner and to set a good example for all to follow. In order to earn this privilege and keep it, students must obey basic rules, regulations, and guidelines. Students not willing to

abide by these rules, regulations, and guidelines will forfeit their privilege to participate. All students will abide by the rules of Code of Student Conduct.

## **I. ELIGIBILITY POLICIES**

1. Each athlete is expected to abide by the policies and procedures set forth in this handbook as well as those contained within the Firelands Code of Student Conduct. Furthermore, each athlete is expected to abide by any additional training rules established by each coach/advisor. The coaches/advisors are responsible for enforcing these policies and for taking proper action if an infraction occurs.
2. By signing the Student Code of Conduct Acceptance Form, the student acknowledges they have been made aware of all of the policies of the Code of Conduct, including the rules pertaining to Extracurricular Activities.

## **II. DISCIPLINE: DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE**

It should be recognized that coaches shall have the right to establish rules for each individual sport which exceed those established by the school. Each coach/advisor is then expected to make all participants aware of their individual training rules prior to the first practice. Coaches may implement rules during the season, as needed, to meet the goals and expectations of the Firelands Board of Education. The Code of Student Conduct will be followed by all participants in Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility.

## **III. REMOVAL: REMOVAL FROM ACTIVITY OR CONTEST**

Removal from extracurricular activities: The following procedure shall govern the removal of a student from extracurricular activities at Firelands High School. Extracurricular activities shall be considered to be all activities which are in addition to the normal school academic curriculum.

### **Grounds for removal shall include, but not limited to:**

1. Violation of training rules or rules of conduct expected of students engaged in any extracurricular activity.
2. Violation of school rules as published in Student Code of conduct under the Firelands School Board.

**PROCEDURE** If a pupil's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process or extracurricular activity, the:

1. Superintendent, Principal, or Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, may remove the student from the premises during a curricular or extracurricular activity.
2. A teacher/coach/advisor may remove the student from curricular or extracurricular activities under his/her supervision, and must contact the parent as soon as possible to inform them as to why their student was removed from the activity. A teacher/coach/advisor making an emergency removal must submit to the Principal in writing the reason for such removal as soon as practical.
3. The Athletic Director and Head Coach will meet with the student about their removal from an activity or team. This meeting will be used to determine what school or team rules have been violated, and to administer disciplinary proceedings, if necessary.

Following this hearing, the following will occur:

1. Written summary of this meeting including the reason for the removal and any further disciplinary action must be given to the student within 24 hours of the conclusion of the meeting.
2. There is no appeals process, as participation in an extracurricular activity is a privilege and not a right.

Students may be removed from the premises, a curricular or extracurricular activity for violations of the Code of Student Conduct listed in FHS Student Handbook.

## **IV. ATTENDANCE**

**Contests:** Members of any group/ sport squad are expected to attend all practices and contests. The head coach/advisor in each sport will establish specific sport attendance policies.

## **School Attendance:**

Practice / Contest days – **without prior administrative approval** all students must be in attendance the day of any sporting contest/event scheduled for their squad. For attendance purposes, a school day will be considered from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. Students that are absent 120 or more minutes from the school day OR leave early from school are not permitted to participate in after school activities and events without administrative approval.

Students have the responsibility to notify the coach/advisor if they are unable to attend a scheduled activity or practice.

## **V. TOBACCO**

- 1. Possession of or use of tobacco** tobacco-like products including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vape pens, and snuff (**rule 9 of Student Code of Conduct**)
  - a. Any member of an athletic squad who receives a school suspension for possession of or use of tobacco or tobacco-like products or is found to be in possession of or using tobacco or tobacco-like products off school property by a member of the staff or administration may lose his/her eligibility.
- 2. Loss of Eligibility Guidelines:**
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense-----Removed from 20% of total contests and considered a First Violation of the Drug Testing Policy. If student is already at Level 1 of the Drug Testing Policy, he/she would progress to Level 2. If the student is at Level 2, he/she would progress to Level 3.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-----Dismissal from the team

## **VI. NARCOTICS, ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND COUNTERFEIT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

- 1. Possession of or use of alcohol and/or drugs**
  - a. Any member of an athletic squad who receives a school suspension for possession of or use of alcohol and/or drugs or is found to be in possession of or using alcohol and/or drugs off school property by a member of the staff or administration may lose his/her eligibility.
- 2. Loss of Eligibility Guidelines:**
  - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Offense-----Denial of participation from 50% of total contests. This is reduced to 20% of total contests with participation in an administrative approved alcohol and/or drug evaluation/intervention group and subsequent treatment program if professionally recommended and considered a First Violation of the Drug Testing Policy. If student is already at Level 1 of the Drug Testing Policy, he/she would progress to Level 2. If the student is at Level 2, he/she would progress to Level 3.
  - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-----Dismissal from the team.

**All drug testing policies will be covered by the Firelands Local Schools Drug Testing Policy. This policy is available on-line, and a hard-copy is posted by the entrance to FHS and is available in the main office. The loss of eligibility guidelines are contained in the Firelands Local Schools Drug Testing Policy. Students that test positive and fail to comply with the requirements of the Firelands Local Schools Drug Testing Policy will revert to the Loss of Eligibility Guidelines in Section VI, number 2 of the Athletic Code of Conduct above.**

## **VII. STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Participants shall not engage in any criminal activity or violation of civil law. Student participants shall behave in a manner which reflects positively on the school and the activity. All participants will discipline themselves and display exemplary behavior to a much greater degree than non-participants and willingly abide by all established rules, regulations, and guidelines. The Code of Student Conduct will be followed in dealing with proper student behavior.

## **VIII. STEALING OF EQUIPMENT**

Any individual found in possession of athletic equipment which has not been issued to him/her or that he/she has failed to return may be denied participation from all athletic participation for a period

up to sixty school days. School policies concerning theft will be enforced in addition to the possible removal.

## **IX. QUITTING SPORT DURING THE SEASON**

Any individual who quits a sport/activity after that sport/activity first official contest will not be permitted to condition or practice with any other squad until the squad he/she quits has completed their sport season. As well as, any individual who quits a team after accepting a slot on the team may not go out for another sport during the same season or lift or condition with another sport until the original team's regular season is complete.

## **X. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

All students must meet the eligibility guidelines as outlined by the Scholarship By-law of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. The following requirements must also be met to remain eligible:

1. A 1.50 GPA at the high school would be determined at the end of each grading period for eligibility. Students passing the equivalent of five one-credit courses (the courses may be a combination of high school and college courses) (OHSAA requirement) per grading period but falling below the 1.50 GPA would be placed on academic probation and given until midterm to attain at least a 1.50 GPA. If this did not occur, they would be ineligible for the remainder of the grading period and until the 1.50 GPA is attained. In grades 9, 10, and 11, students must have passed the equivalent of five one-credit courses and attain a 1.50 GPA in the final grading period to be eligible for the first grading period of the next school year. A student who is passing the equivalent of five one-credit classes, but attains less than a 1.50 GPA in the final grading period would be placed on academic probation for the first grading period of the next school year.
2. Students who became ineligible at the midterm of the previous grading period, because they did not meet the requirements to be removed from academic probation, will be reinstated to full athletic privilege if they are passing the equivalent of five one-credit courses, and raise their GPA to a 1.50 or above at the end of the grading period. Students who were ruled ineligible at the midterm in the previous grading period as a result of academic probation, will remain ineligible if they cannot meet the requirements of full athletic reinstatement listed above. These students will again have their grades checked at the midterm of the current grading period to determine if they should be reinstated to full athletic privilege, as stated above.
3. An incomplete (I) will be treated as a failing grade unless the incomplete was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician. Students have five days after grades are posted to complete their work.
4. Summer school grades earned may not be used to substitute for failing grades from the last grading period of the regular school year.
5. A student cannot receive more than one F at the conclusion of a grading period, regardless of GPA, without being placed on academic probation until midterms to bring the F up to a passing grade. A student who still has two F's after midterms will be ineligible for the remainder of the grading period and until there is only one F.
6. Students taking College Credit Plus classes at either FHS, LCCC, or another institution, must provide written documentation of their grade in progress at the conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grading period. Student grades at the end of each semester will be the determining factor regarding eligibility for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grading periods. All College Credit Plus students are responsible for their eligibility requirements for courses taken off the FHS campus.
7. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must have received passing grades in at least five classes during the immediately preceding grading period.

8. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, the student in grade seven or eight must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period, and received passing grades during the grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.

## **XI. SCHOOL DISCIPLINE**

Any student who receives an out-of-school suspension may not practice or compete in any contest during the period of suspension or attend any activities associated with school.

## **XII. SPORTS SEASON**

The sport season shall be defined as the period of time as determined by the **OHSAA** rules.

## **XIII. OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The high school will be a member of the OHSAA.
2. All concerned in the athletic program will strictly adhere to rules and regulations of this association.
3. Interpretations which are questioned or perhaps not covered in these rules and regulations may receive clarification by contacting the State Office through the Athletic Director or building Principals.

## **XIV. ACADEMIC COUNSELING**

Academic success in the classroom is imperative to the overall success of the student athlete. Without success in the classroom, the student athlete cannot realize his/her ultimate potential and can under the worst scenario lose his/her eligibility.

1. Student athletes desiring additional academic help to aid in improving any academic problems they may be experiencing should contact their head coach/advisor immediately.
2. The coach/advisor will take proper action to obtain the academic help needed. We have available to us a wealth of knowledge from tutors to peer help that may aid you in any academic inadequacies.

## **XV. INELIGIBLE PLAYER STATUS**

Students who are ineligible will be required to participate in all practices but not be allowed to participate in performances, programs, or athletic contests.

## **XVI. PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS**

No student will be allowed to practice or participate in games without having a physical examination form on file in the office of the Athletic Director. This policy is in accordance with rules established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

## **XVII. INSURANCE**

All athletes, cheerleaders, and managers will be covered by OHSAA catastrophe insurance.

1. All athletes shall have the **FHS ATHLETIC INSURANCE WAIVER FORM** completed and turned in to the head coach prior to any participation. These forms must be on file with the athletic director prior to the first day a student is scheduled for practice.
2. Any athlete not covered by medical insurance will be required to purchase insurance through the company selected annually by the Board of Education. This insurance is offered to students the first day of a new school year. After that time, the proper forms are available in the principal's office. Athletes will not be allowed to participate unless an insurance waiver is on file or school insurance is purchased.

## **XVIII. PARTICIPATING ON MORE THAN ONE ATHLETIC TEAM PER SEASON**

Students may participate on more than one team during a specified season with specific written permission which is obtained through the high school administration. This policy applies to high school athletes only for dual sport. The specific policy guideline for athletic participation in two sports during one season is available through the athletic department. Dual participation is not guaranteed, and can only be approved with prior agreement of the Head Coaches from all of the programs involved.

## **XIX. EQUIPMENT**

Equipment is costly. It is the coach's responsibility to instruct the athletes on how to take care of equipment. Students will be charged the cost of replacement for all equipment lost, stolen, or destroyed. Student athletes are encouraged to purchase locks or get a locker from the head coach. The office is not responsible for stolen equipment. Financial obligations resulting from equipment fees, replacement of lost or stolen equipment, and/or unpaid balances from sale projects must be paid prior to participation in any present or future extracurricular activity, athletic program, or club.

The athletic department will keep an account of all equipment dispersed to students.

## **XX. TRANSPORTATION /OVERNIGHT TRIPS/ OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL**

1. All Students will be transported to away events in Firelands High School buses.
2. Overnight Trips/Out-of-state travel must have prior approval by the administration. All rules and regulations governed under Student Handbook/Student Code of Conduct will be in effect.
3. All team members must ride to athletic events and home in the bus. There will be no student driving to any away athletic events. In extreme cases, the Athletic Director or Principal, with prior parental approval, may grant permission to a student to drive to an away contest in extremely rare circumstances. Only on direct parent request, and permission from the coach and Athletic Director, will a team member be able to ride home with his/her parents/guardians.
4. Under no circumstances will anyone not directly involved with the athletic event be allowed to ride in the bus to the opponent's site. No family members should ride the bus, as this is an infringement of liability. All people riding the bus must be on the official roster.
5. Coaches/Advisors will encourage proper behavior on the bus and inspect the bus for cleanliness and misuse before the team members are excused.
  - a. No walking around on bus.
  - b. No food on the bus.
  - c. Everyone must be quiet while crossing railroad tracks.
  - d. Bus transportation rules will be followed at all times.
1. Coaches/Advisors will instruct students prior to each event of leaving and returning to minimize parent inconvenience.
2. Stops at restaurants following an athletic event are discouraged.
3. Managers should be competent, trustworthy, and dependable. They will abide by the rules of eligibility.

## **XXI. OUT OF SEASON CONDITIONING/LIFTING/OPEN GYMS**

All students are encouraged to participate in non-mandatory out of season conditioning, lifting, and open gyms to improve their skills and abilities. When an athlete is participating on a sports team that is currently in-season they have made a commitment to that team for the entire season. Students who are on a team that is in-season are prohibited from participating in out of season conditioning, lifting, and open gyms for other school sponsored teams. This rule can be waived upon the agreement of the in-season coach.

## **XXII. STUDENT'S, SPORTS FAN CONDUCT**

1. *At all school athletic contests:* Firelands students are a reflection of the school and community. As such, students are expected to conduct themselves with the ethics of good sportsmanship as a top priority. Students are expected to cheer for Firelands athletes, not against the opposing team or referees.
2. Students who wish to attend a home event and are not directly participating in the event as players or designated, supervised helpers are to arrive back on campus no earlier than 15 minutes before the first athletic event of the day; otherwise, students will be considered to be loitering and subject to disciplinary action according to the Code of Conduct.
3. ***At all home contests:*** Students are required to sit/stand in the bleachers designated as the home side.



4. ***At all away contests:*** Students are required to sit/stand in the bleachers that are designated for the visiting school.

### **Conduct at School Events**

The behavior of a spectator/fan should at all times be marked by dignity and self-control. He/she should not, at any time, use provocative language or engage in any improper actions or tactics. Spectators/fans should refrain from any actions or remarks which would tend to incite the displeasure of spectators/fans or provoke disorderly behavior.

Spectators/fans should refrain from any form of physical or verbal confrontations.

Should a spectator's/fan's behavior/actions be such that they must be removed from an event by a law enforcement official or an employee of the District, said individual shall not be entitled to attend games/contests/activities until such time the administrator of the building feels the removed spectator/fan can act in an appropriate manner.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIFIC POLICIES REGULATIONS

## WELCOME

Welcome to Firelands Middle School (FMS). The teachers and staff look forward to working with you this year. The ultimate purpose of education is to help each student become an effective citizen in a democracy. Developing and accepting the responsibilities and obligations of good citizenship will help you participate successfully in the world of tomorrow.

We believe that each student will find something uniquely suited for them at FMS. We believe in a “Work Hard, Play Hard” commitment. We reward hard work and dedication to success. FMS has developed a student-created mission statement that sets the stage for who we are as a school community. Firelands Middle School will be whatever you make it. We will have a great year because we DARE TO BE GREAT and NEVER SAY CAN'T!

### **ADMINISTRATION / MAIN OFFICE**

Mrs. Cara M. Hutchinson, Principal

Mrs. Kristian Novak, School Counselor

Mrs. Beth Monyak, School Counselor

Mrs. Debbie Urbansky, Office Secretary

Mrs. Beth Dendorfer, Office Clerk

**Office Hours      7:00 am – 3:00 pm**

## **Qualifications for National Junior Honor Society**

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a middle school student. Our chapter works hard to bring the accomplishments of outstanding students to the attention of parents, teachers, peers, and the community. Our chapter strives to give practical meaning to the Society's standards of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These five ideals are considered as the basis for selection. The National Junior Honor Society strives to recognize the total student—one who excels in all of these areas. No student is inducted simply because of a high academic achievement. The standards used for selection are: Scholarship (honor roll every quarter), leadership, service, character, and citizenship: as demonstrated by activities and supported by teacher evaluations.

## Tardiness to School

- Tardiness to School: Students who arrive at school after the start of the first class and prior to 9:30 A.M. are considered tardy. If you are tardy to school, you must go to the office and get an admit slip before you will be admitted to class. Teachers will not accept you into class without an admit slip. The school day is from 7:30 A.M. until 2:30 P.M. and office hours are from 7:00 A.M. until 3:15 P.M.
- 3 Tardies- Office detention with parental notification
- 6 tardies- 2 hour Wednesday Schools with parental notification
- 9 tardies – 2 Wednesday Schools with parental notification
- 12 tardies- 2 Wednesday schools with parental notification
- 15 tardies- 2 Wednesday Schools with parental notification
- \*\*After 15 Tardies, discipline will be at the discretion of the administrator
- Tardies are accumulative throughout the entire school year.

**Tardy To Class:** Any student reporting to class after the tardy bell will be counted as tardy unless the student has a pass. Students tardy to class are subject to discipline by the classroom teacher.

**After School Activities:** Students are to exit the building by 2:40 P.M. unless involved in an after school program. Students are not to stay after school for games.

**Loitering:** If a student is loitering, parents will be called immediately to pick up their child. Office staff will record infractions.

When there are parties and dances after school hours on special occasions, the only students permitted at these functions are those attending Firelands Middle School.

**Honor Roll with Distinction:** In order for a student to qualify for the honor roll with distinction in any marking period, the student must earn all A's for that marking period.

**Honor Roll:** In order for a student to qualify for the honor roll in any marking period, the student must earn all A's and B's for that marking period.

**Merit Roll:** In order for a student to qualify for the merit roll in any marking period, the student must receive A's, B's and only one C, with nothing lower than that one C.

**Grading Scale:**

90%-100%- A

80%-89%- B

70%-79%-C

60%-69%-D

Below 60%-F

### **Locks/Lockers:**

Each student is provided a school locker. Students are not to share a locker with another student or give their locker combination to another student under any circumstance.

**WEEKDAY DISCIPLINARY ASSIGNMENT (WDA):** Weekday Disciplinary Assignment will be operated for students who have accumulation of three tardies, truancy from school, and other violations of the Code of Student Conduct. Weekday Disciplinary Assignment will be held from 2:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. (2hrs) on designated days. The administration will make the assignments and each student will be required to serve on the day to which he/she is assigned. If a student misses a W.D.A. due to an absence, it will be rescheduled the day the student returns to school. If a student fails to attend a Weekday disciplinary assignment, then they will be assigned two WDA. If a student fails to attend those, then the student will be assigned up to a three (3) day out-of-school suspension upon his/her return to school. Students reporting late will subject themselves to further disciplinary action. At times, Disciplinary Assignments may conflict with other obligations and become a major inconvenience. Students who participate in extracurricular activities or may experience these conflicts. However, you are responsible for your own actions and must strive toward good self-discipline. In the event that you are assigned to a W.D.A., it will be treated as a priority obligation by the school. Extra-curricular activities are not acceptable excuses for missing Disciplinary Assignments.

The only acceptable excuse for missing a Disciplinary Assignment will be: illness (a doctor's excuse will be required), death in the family, or quarantine in the home due to illness. If you have an acceptable excuse, a telephone call from the parent or guardian must be made to the school between 7:45 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on the assigned day. A note signed by the parent or guardian is required the following day.

Let's strive toward positive school spirit and good self-discipline so that it will not be necessary to assign students to the Disciplinary Program. If there are any questions, please feel free to ask the administration.