
Virginia High School

Blue Devils Student Handbook 2017-2018



Mission Statement

A source of community strength and pride, the Virginia Public Schools work in partnership with families and the local community to educate and engage our students and prepare them to be productive and responsible citizens.

411 5th Avenue South ● Virginia, Minnesota 55792 ● 218-749-5437

Attendance Line: ext. 8025 ● Website: www.vmps.org

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Purpose of Student Handbook

To Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Please take time to read this handbook.

The student handbook should be used as a source of regulations, policies, and information for the student while attending the Virginia High School. Students should read the student handbook carefully, review it with their parent/guardian and keep it as a reference. The administration reviews the rules and procedures each year, making them relevant to protecting the rights of all students and allowing the school to function in a safe environment.

The Virginia School District will continue with an educational plan designed to develop students' social skills as well as a better understanding of responsibility, respect and resourcefulness. The educational plan includes behavior expectations, achievement expectations, student self-management, and student social skills. The purpose of the plan is for the staff to work together to raise the quality of work done by students, and enhance the attitude of both students and teachers towards school and learning. The total education system teaches students such outcomes as self-discipline, self-management, respect, responsibility, planning, organization, persistence, tact, courtesy and coping skills.

The education plan has had an impact on the rules and procedures that are written in this handbook. As rules and procedures change, students and parent/guardians will be kept informed.

Students are responsible for knowing and following the rules, regulations, policies, and procedures contained in the student handbook. The signing of the enrollment card indicates that the parent/guardian has reviewed the high school student handbook and acknowledges the rules, regulations, policies and procedures as stated.

Lisa Perkovich
Virginia High School Principal

Brian Hake
VHS Assistant Principal

This handbook is divided into (5) sections and items are subsequently listed alphabetically.

- 1-General Information**
- 2-Academics**
- 3-Attendance**
- 4-Rules and Discipline**
- 5-Sports and Student Activities**

School Calendar & Bell Schedule

Virginia Public Schools 17-18 School Calendar

July	
3	4
10	11
17	18
24	25
31	

T=0
P=0

August	
1	2
7	8
14	15
21	22
28	29
	30
	31

T=3
P=0

September	
4	5
11	12
18	19
25	26
	27
	28
	29

T=19
P=19

October	
2	3
9	10
16	17
23	24
30	31

T=20
P=20

November	
6	7
13	14
20	21
27	28
	29
	30
	31

T=20
P=20

December	
4	5
11	12
18	19
25	26
	27
	28
	29

T=15
P=15

January	
1	2
8	9
15	16
22	23
29	30
	31

T=22
P=21

February	
5	6
12	13
19	20
26	27
	28
	29
	30

T=19
P=19

March	
5	6
12	13
19	20
26	27
	28
	29
	30

T=20
P=20

April	
2	3
9	10
16	17
23	24
30	

T=19
P=19

May	
1	2
7	8
14	15
21	22
28	29
	30
	31

T=22
P=21

June	
4	5
11	12
18	19
25	26
	27
	28
	29

T=0
P=0

- First & last pupil days
- Teacher in-service days
- No School
- * Last day of marking period
- Conference Comp Days
- No School
- # Graduation
- Early Release Days

Virginia High School

S1	87	Q1 *	42	Mid Q1	M
S2	87	Q2 *	45	Mid Q2	M
		Q3 *	44	Mid Q3	M
		Q4 *	43	Mid Q4	M

K-6 Roosevelt & Parkview

T 1	55
T 2	61
T 3	58

180	Teacher Contract Days
174	Pupil Days
5	In-service Days
1	Conference Comp Day

2017-2018 Bell Schedule

<u>Class Periods</u>		<u>Early Release Wednesday</u>	
Period 1	8:15-9:06	Period 1	8:15-8:58
Period 2	9:10-10:01	Period 2	9:02-9:45
Period 3	10:05-10:57	Period 3	9:49-10:32
.....		
<u>Grades 9-12</u>		<u>Grades 9-12</u>	
Period 4	11:01-11:52	Period 4	10:36-11:19
Lunch.....	11:52-12:22	Lunch.....	11:19-11:49
.....		
<u>Grades 7-8</u>		<u>Grades 7-8</u>	
Lunch.....	10:57-11:27	Lunch.....	10:32-11:02
Period 4	11:30-12:21	Period 4	11:04-11:47
.....		
Period 5	12:25-1:16	Period 5	11:51-12:34
Period 6	1:20-2:11	Period 6	12:38-1:21
Period 7	2:15-3:06	Period 7	1:25-2:08
.....		
		<u>Early Release Wednesday</u>	
		<u>Calendar</u>	
		Sept. 13, 27	Oct. 11, 25
		Nov. 8, 22	Dec. 13
		Jan. 10, 24	Feb. 14, 28
		Mar. 14, 28	Apr. 11, 25
		May 9, 23	



Virginia High School

Main Office: 742-3915

Activities Office: 742-3923

Counseling: 742-3908

Nurse: 742-3918

Attendance Line: 749-5437 Ext. 8025

Community Ed: 742-3990

Indian Ed: 742-3949

SPED Coordinator.: 742-3909

District: 749-KIDS (5437) www.vmps.org

All students and visitors should utilize Door #5 as the entrance to the building.

Those arriving after 8:15 am will be required to be buzzed in to the building.

School busses will drop off students on 5th Avenue. Parents should drop students off on 4th Street.

Students are dismissed by the teacher...not the bell

Building Hours: 7:30-4:00. Students should be in their assigned location or out of the building by 3:30

General Information

ACCIDENTS

Students involved in an injury of any kind in gym, classrooms, corridors, as well as in athletic competition, must report the accident to the teacher in charge immediately. The student will be referred to the main office or nurse's office as soon as possible to complete the proper forms. Tardiness in reporting an accident makes it difficult to record the circumstances accurately.

ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE CHANGE

A change in a student's address or phone number should be reported to the high school office. This is necessary for keeping school records accurate, for school mailings, and for emergencies.

AGE OF MAJORITY/EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD STUDENTS

Students 18 years of age or older must comply with the same rules and regulations as younger students according to State Statute M.S. 120.06 unless it has been determined by the school and the student's legal parents/guardians that the student is to be treated as an "independent student". Once a student is deemed independent, the parent/guardian no longer has access to educationally relevant including attendance, behavior, and academics. They may not write their own notes or excuses if they are living in the parental home. Families are cautioned in providing the independent status.

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

The Virginia Public Schools has established an asbestos abatement and management plan for all asbestos- containing building materials. All of our buildings are regularly inspected to insure compliance. If anyone has questions or concerns, please contact Bob Judnick, the District's Director of Transportation and Maintenance at 742-3939.

CONCERNS and COMPLAINTS

Students, parents/guardians, employees, or other persons may report concerns or complaints to the school district. Complaints may be either written or oral and should follow the appropriate chain of command, as appropriate. Questions, concerns, or complaints should be directed first to the teacher or coach.

COPY MACHINES

The copy machines are provided for the instructional staff. Students are not to use the copy machines.

COUNSELOR

The counseling office for grades 7-12 is located in the corridor near the high school office (T127). Counseling services are available to all students. The counselors are prepared to assist students and parents/guardians who have concerns about vocational or educational plans in high school or for college preparation, programming and course selection, test results, achievement, study habits, personal matters, or social/emotional development.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS/MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENTS

The school closing announcements will be put on the following media stations:

RADIO

WEVE 97.9 FM 1340 AM

WTBX 93.9 FM

Radio USA 99.9 FM

WMFG 106.3 FM

KMFG/WMFG 1240 AM

WNMT 650 AM

TELEVISION

KDLH TV 3

KBJR TV 6

WDIO TV 10

KQDSTV FOX 21

Duluth News Tribune Online

The information will also be put on the homepage of the Virginia Public Schools website.

Employment Background Checks

The school district will seek criminal history background checks for all applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district. The school district also will seek criminal history background checks for all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether compensation is paid. These positions include, but are not limited to, all athletic coaches, extracurricular academic coaches, assistants, and advisors. The school district may elect to seek criminal history background checks for other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees.

Fees

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state, federal, and local funds at no charge to a student. Students are expected to provide their own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks. Students may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including (not an inclusive list):

- Cost for materials for a class project that exceeds minimum requirements and is kept by the student.
- Security deposits for the return of materials, supplies, or equipment.
- Field trips considered supplementary to the district's educational program.
- Admission fees or costs to attend or participate in optional extracurricular activities and programs.
- Use of musical instruments owned or rented by the school district.

Students will be charged for textbooks, workbooks, library books, and other resources that are lost or destroyed. The school district may waive a required fee or deposit if the student and parent/guardian are unable to pay. For more information, contact the building principal.

FIRE DRILLS, EMERGENCY EVACUATION & LOCK DOWNS

Fire, evacuation, and lock down drills are held to reduce the probability of serious damage or injury in case of a real emergency and are required by the state of Minnesota. Explanations of fire exit routes are provided in each room at the beginning of the school year. Teachers will provide this information and explain the procedure in case of a fire drill; students are to follow these instructions. All books and other materials must be left and students are to leave the

building in a quiet and orderly manner. The first student out of the room should hold the door open until all persons are out, and then close the door. The first person to the outer door should hold that open until all students have gone out and then move away from the building to the sidewalks surrounding the school. On a signal, the students will return to the building and their classrooms in an orderly fashion. In case it becomes necessary to evacuate the building for other reasons than fire, students and faculty will follow the general fire drill exit regulations. If needed, you will be notified of any change in this routine, such as reporting to specific areas after leaving the school building.

HEALTH PROGRAM

The health service program at the Virginia High School is the continuation of a plan of health guidance for students which began in the lower grades. The health services consist of Individual Health Care Plan and Emergency Action Plan development, student health assessments/evaluations, screenings for vision, hearing, and assistance with needed medical treatments. The health service program at the VHS assists to protect and promote student health, facilitate normal development, and advance academic success. As a district our health services provide care coordination and advocate for quality student-centered care. Parents/guardians may contact the nurse at 742-3918 regarding any special health problems.

Note: Except in emergencies, students must first report to their scheduled class to obtain a pass from their teacher to go to the Nurse's Office.

Medications:

Parent/guardian is responsible for providing all medications.

Medications may be dispensed in school when the student's health may be jeopardized without it, and when needed to maintain/promote the health of the student so that learning is enhanced. If a student needs to take prescription and or over-the-counter medication during school, the school district requires.:

1. The district's Medication Authorization form must be completed once per school year and/or when a change in the prescription or requirements for administration occurs. These forms are available on www.vmps.org under nursing services and in the nurse's office.
2. The administration of PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION at school requires a completed signed request from the student's parent and a signed physician's order. Prescription medication must be in the properly labeled pharmacy container & are to be kept and administered in the health office. Parents/Guardians are advised to ask the pharmacist for a bottle for home and second/separate labeled bottle for school.
3. OVER THE COUNTER MEDICATIONS SECONDARY STUDENTS (grades 7-12): May possess and use nonprescription pain relief medications in a manner consistent with labeling for their own use only.

4. The school district may revoke the privilege of self-carry and self administering of medications if it is determined that the student is abusing the privilege or is at risk of harm to self or others.
5. Self-Carry Medications: Students needing to self-carry emergency medications such as an epi-pen or an inhaler may do so. The district requires the Self-Carry Medication Authorization form and either the Allergy Action Plan or the Asthma Action Plan available on the District's website www.vmps.org to be completed by the guardian and the prescribing health care provider. These forms must be completed at the start of each school year.

Immunizations

As required by Minnesota Statutes Section 121A.15, children enrolled in a Virginia Public Schools must receive immunizations required per the Minnesota School Immunization Law. Proof of immunizations must be provided prior to the student's first date of attendance. All students entering grade 7 must show proof of 2 MMR vaccines, a series of 3 Hepatitis B vaccines, 1 Tdap vaccine, 3 polio vaccines, 1 Meningococcal vaccine and 2 Varicella vaccines or certify that the student had chicken pox. If immunization is medically contraindicated or if a parent or guardian wishes to be exempt based on beliefs from one or more immunization requirements then section 2 of the "Student Immunization Form" available on our school website must be completed and provided to the school health office. Students not in compliance will not be allowed to attend school.

Procedures & Expectations

1. Gym and swim excuses will be handled from 8:00-8:15 a.m. in the Nurse's Office.
2. If students have physical restrictions or are not able to participate in physical education classes due to medical reason then medical verification of restrictions and or accommodations needed for school are to be provided to the school nurse. Medical verification of clearance for return to physical activity is also needed.
3. Please update any health and emergency information annually. Contact the School Nurse as soon as possible if a student has a chronic or health condition that may need an Individual Health Care or Emergency Plan.
4. New students to the school must show proof of immunizations upon enrollment.

HOMEROOMS

Homeroom is a term applied to the grouping of students for the purpose of taking care of administrative details necessary for the operation of our school. Each student will be assigned a homeroom teacher, given an assigned locker, given their class schedule, and assigned an assembly seat. It is the responsibility of the student to become acquainted with his/her homeroom teacher, especially for the purpose of attendance at assemblies.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS OPTIONAL PURCHASES

Sophomores will be offered an opportunity to purchase a class ring. Class rings are ordered in the winter of the sophomore year and delivered in the spring. Information about class rings, style, and price available to students. The purchase of a class ring is optional. Seniors should have their graduation pictures taken during the summer preceding their senior year.

Photographer selection and service is an optional choice left to students and parents/guardians. All seniors will be given the option to purchase a graduation cap and gown, but one will be provided to students to utilize for the ceremony if he/she decides not to purchase the cap/gown. The purchase of class rings, announcements, caps/gowns, and graduation pictures are all optional.

INTERNET POLICY

Virginia Public Schools' Internet Use Policy Statement

Students are responsible for good behavior on school computer networks just as they are in a classroom or school hallway. Communications on the network are to be considered public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.

Network resources are provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others in relation to school work. Access to network services is given to students who agree to act in a responsible manner. Access is a privilege, not a right. Therefore, based upon the acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, the administration and staff will deem what is inappropriate use and their decisions are final. Upon identification of inappropriate use of network services by the administration, faculty, and staff, access may be denied, revoked, or suspended at any time.

Virginia Public Schools' Internet Use Rules & Responsibilities

Individual users of the Virginia Public Schools' Internet resources are responsible for their use of the network. The use of these resources must be in support of education and research and must be consistent with the academic expectations of the Virginia Public Schools. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of U.S. or state regulations including copyrighting, threatening, or obscene materials is prohibited. Use for commercial activities for profit by organizations, product promotion, political lobbying, or illegal activities is strictly prohibited.

The user is expected to abide by the following network rules of etiquette:

- * Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages.
- * Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or other offensive language.
- * Transmission of obscene materials is prohibited. Sending or receiving offensive messages or pictures from any source will result in immediate suspension of privileges.
- * Do not reveal the personal address or phone number of yourself or other students.
- * Do not communicate any credit card number, bank account number, or any other financial information.

- * Only school-approved e-mail accounts will be allowed. Electronic mail is not guaranteed to be private. The System Administrator shall have access to all electronic mail.
- * Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the use of the network by other users.
- * Vandalism - any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user will not be tolerated. Any questionable action will result in the cancellation of user privileges.
- * Students will not bypass the content filter or compromise other securities within the network.

LOCKERS

The 1995 Omnibus Crime Act creates a statewide school locker policy. It provides that it is the policy of the State of Minnesota, “School lockers are the property of Virginia Public Schools. At no time does the Virginia School District relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Periodic general inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student’s personal possessions, the school authorities must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.”

1. All students must provide their own locks and are not allowed to share or change lockers.
2. Students are responsible for all contents contained in their assigned locker.
3. Students are advised not to leave money or other valuables in their locker.
4. Students should not leave items above or below lockers as it is not secure.
5. Students found tampering with another person’s locker will be in violation of policy.
6. Students will be expected to honor a request by the administration to open his/her locker for inspection. Should a student refuse to honor the request, the school reserves the right to cut the lock on the student’s locker.

Nondiscrimination

The school district is committed to inclusive education and providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, parental status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age in its programs and activities. Contact the school superintendent as needed.

Notification to Staff Regarding Placement of Student With Violent Behavior

ISD 706 recognizes the right of students and data privacy. In an effort to provide a safe school environment, staff members will be notified by the Administration of a student’s history of violent behavior. The history of violent behavior and notice to the appropriate staff is an educational record and will be transferred to an enrolling school district. Parents have the right

to review and challenge records or data, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior, under both state and federal law as set forth in the school district's Data Practices Policy.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Parents/guardians are welcome in the schools and are encouraged to volunteer in their children's classrooms. To volunteer in the school district, parents/guardians should speak to the building principal. Parents/guardians who visit the school should sign in at the office before entering a classroom. In most instances, volunteers will be required to have a background check on file with the school district prior to volunteering.

PARKING POLICY

The Virginia School Board adopted a policy on January 8, 1996, regarding all school parking lots within the district. It is illegal to park in any school parking lot during school hours without a parking permit issued by the school. School personnel will check cars parked in all school lots for a school-issued parking permit. A car without a school-issued permit will be issued one parking violation warning. A second parking violation will result in the car being towed at the owner's expense.

PASSES

Passes from Study Hall

Students found to be in violation of the procedures and/or in locations other than the one listed on the approved pass will have study hall passes revoked for a period of time determined by school administration.

1. Students 7-12 may be issued a pass from study hall to a classroom by a teacher. Students shall obtain this pass prior to their assigned study hall hour.
2. All students assigned to a study hall will report to study hall first. Roll will be taken and then the study hall supervisor will sign passes for students leaving. In addition, the student will sign a sheet indicating where he/she is going.
3. The student brings the original pass to the issuing teacher.

SPECIAL PASSES

Students may obtain a special pass from the Principal's office to leave the school building. Those passes will be granted if the request is determined necessary and best for the well being of the student. The student will be required to sign out in the office before he/she leaves the building after being granted a special pass.

Study Hall Passes Specific to Grades 11-12

Students may receive a semester pass to leave the building during study hall if he/she is earning a 3.0 grade point average, passing all current classes, and within the attendance parameters. An additional form with parent signatures is required for approval.

Study Hall Passes Specific to Grades 9-12

Students may receive a semester pass to go to another location within the building during study hall if he/she is earning a 3.0 grade point average, passing all current classes, and within the attendance parameters. An additional form with parent signatures is required for approval.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION EXCUSES

A student may, when it is necessary, be excused from gym or swim classes. A student shall not be excused from physical education unless he/she presents a written excuse from one of the following:

Doctor.....this excuse must include the length of time for non-participation.

Nurse.....the school nurse shall evaluate the student's illness or injury.

Parent.....this is valid for one class meeting in a case where the student cannot immediately obtain a doctor's excuse or where the student had just returned to school after a sustained illness. If a student is excused from participating in physical education he/she shall remain in the physical education area if the excuse is for two weeks or less. He/she may be programmed into a study hall if the excuse is longer.

Students are discouraged from getting new piercings during the school year for safety reasons in PE class. Students with new piercings that occur during PE class must remove them or cover them with athletic tape provided by the school.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

According to Minnesota Law, public schools are to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America at least once a week. The Pledge of Allegiance is optional for all students. Any student may choose not to participate, but must not interfere with another student's choice to participate.

PURCHASING, SELLING OR SOLICITING

Students are not permitted to make any purchase for the school or for any club or organization without permission of the club advisors. Receipts for purchased items shall be given to the club or class advisor so payment may be made. The Principal must approve any type of selling or soliciting to be carried on in the school building or on the school grounds.

All notices, signs, advertising bills displayed in the corridors or on the school bulletin board must be approved by school administration. It is a policy to display materials pertaining only to approved high school student activities.

RESOURCE CENTER

1. The Resource Center hours are from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
2. The Resource Center is available to students and faculty/staff as a place to read, to search for materials, and to study.
3. Any student asked to leave the library for inappropriate behavior will be issued a warning. This student will lose Resource Center privileges if inappropriate behavior continues.
4. On the average, books are checked out for 3 weeks; materials can be used for a longer time for reports/projects provided they are renewed.

5. Overdue notices are sent through the English teachers. If materials are not renewed, returned, or cleared with Resource Center staff by the specified date on the individual overdue notice, detention will be assigned. Using and returning Resource Center items is each individual student's responsibility.
6. Magazines will remain in the Resource Center - these items are not available for checkout. Articles from magazines will be copied.
7. Students must obtain a pass from a teacher in order to access the Resource Center or use a Resource Center computer for a classroom assignment; guidelines posted in labs in other parts of the building apply to the Resource Center computers. Proper care and respect for equipment is expected.
8. Computers are to be used for classroom assignments only. Computer games are only allowed before first hour or after seventh hour.
9. Respect and care of the furniture and surrounding area is encouraged and expected.
10. No food or drink will be allowed.
11. All rules, regulations, policies and procedures contained in the Student Handbook apply to student use of the Resource Center.

VISITORS

Visitors are welcome in our school. All visitors must enter door #5 and register in the high school office to obtain a visitor badge. The practice of casual student visits is not allowed. Students wishing to tour the school must make prior arrangements through the principal's office.

WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS BY STUDENTS

A student who will be withdrawing from school is asked to bring a written statement from home to the Principal's Office in order to receive a withdrawal form. This form must be taken to each teacher for grades and clearance, the school librarian, athletic director, and counselor. Upon completion, the withdrawal form must be returned to the Principal's Office.

WORK PERMITS (Excused from Study Hall)

Students are not encouraged to work during school hours. If a junior or senior has a job and wishes to be excused from a study hall period for work privileges he/she must obtain a work permit from the office. This form will need to be completed by the parent/guardian, employer, principal and counselor. The privilege of excusing a junior or senior to work during the school day may be granted by the school providing a proper work permit has been submitted. Students who are tardy, truant, or have excessive absences will not be issued a work permit. If a student receives any failing grades or incomplete's during the year, the work permit will be revoked for the next marking period or until satisfactory progress is made. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required in order to qualify for being excused from study hall.



Academic Information

GRADE 9-12 **Graduation Requirements:** 24 credits

Visit www.vmps.org to view course catalogs with more academic information about course offerings, college credit opportunities, NCAA compliance questions, and more!

English: 4 Credits

- 1.0 English 9
- 1.0 English 10
- 1.0 English
- 1.0 English

Social Studies: 4 Credits

- .5 Geography 9
- .5 Economics 9
- 1.0 World History
- 1.0 US History or American History I & II
- .5 Economics 12 or Survey of Economics
- .5 Government 12 or American Government

Math: 4 Credits

- 1.0 High School Algebra*
- 1.0 Geometry
- 1.0 High School Algebra II
- 1.0 Senior Math Elective - a variety of options meet this requirement-see course catalog

*Students that accelerated to Honors Geometry in Grade 9 will meet this requirement through advance coursework in their 11th and 12th grade years.

Science: 3 Credits

- 1.0 Intro to Physics 9
- 1.0 Biology or AP Biology
- 1.0 Science Elective - a variety of options meet this requirement-see course catalog

Speech: .5 Credit

Physical Education and Health: 1 Credit

- 1.0 Physical Education/Health 9

Fine Arts: 1 Credit - a variety of options meet this requirement-see music/art sections in course catalog

Electives: 6.5 Credits - a variety of options meet this requirement-see course catalog

7 & 8 GRADE REQUIREMENTS

GRADE 7

Required Courses-

Students must take all the 6.5 required courses and only 1 of the electives: English 7

7th Grade US Studies

Honors Math 7, Math 7 or Informal Math 7

Life Science 7

Physical Education/Health 7

Music (Band, Choir or Orchestra)

Computer 7 (1 semester)

Elective Options: Intro to World Languages or Study Hall (1 semester)

Required Assessments: MCA Reading, Math

GRADE 8

Required Courses-

Students must take all the 6 required courses and only 1 of the electives:

English 8

Algebra I, Informal 8th Grade Algebra I or Honors 8th Grade Algebra I

Earth Science 8

Global Studies

Physical Ed/Health 8 (1 semester)

Art (1 semester)

Family & Consumer Science (1 semester)

Pre-Engineering 8 (1 semester)

Elective Options: Band, Choir, Orchestra, or Study Hall

Required Assessments: MCA Reading, Math, and Science

7th and 8th GRADE PROMOTION POLICY

Evaluation of student achievement focuses on performance and on all dimensions of student growth. While the Principal is ultimately responsible for determining the placement that best meets the student's academic, social, emotional and physical needs, each member of the school teaching team is responsible for evaluating the growth of each individual. The teaching team will consist of the Principal, the teacher, the counselor, the Assistant Principal, and the parent.

Promotion Criteria:

The Principal and the teaching team will consider the following factors in determining promotion, retention and placement of students:

- 1 – Academic achievement
- 2 – Perceived ability to function at the next level
- 3 – Organizational skills

- 4 – Work habits
- 5 – State test scores (or other norm referenced tests)
- 6 – Level of maturity – including social, emotional and physical factors

Students who are failing 30% or more of the total program will be considered “at risk”. For a student “at risk” the Principal and teaching team may recommend from the following alternatives:

- 1 – Attendance at summer school at the student’s expense
- 2 – Supplemental assignments as determined by the teaching team (to be completed during the summer months)
- 3 – After school help if a program is available
- 3 – Repeat a particular class or classes
- 4 – Promotion to the 8th or 9th grade
- 5 – Repeat the entire year
- 6- Enrollment in a supplemental intervention during the school year
- 7 – Any combination of the above

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Students will not be allowed to take final examinations early unless cleared by the Principal. Circumstances for students taking final examinations early are:

- 1. Involvement in school sponsored or school scheduled events
- 2. Illness
- 3. Family moving out of the district before the end of the school year
- 4. Administrative discretion

HONOR ROLL

Students of Virginia High School must meet certain standards to be listed on the Honor Roll. The basis for Honor Roll designation for grades 7-12 is as follows (effective 1994-95):

- 1. Honor Roll will be computed following the end of the marking period.
- 2. A Honor Roll for the nine week period, student GPA must be between 3.667 and 4.0.
- 3. B Honor Roll for the nine week period, student GPA must be between 3.000 and 3.666.
- 4. Students that have an Incomplete or F recorded as a nine week grade will not be eligible for the marking period’s Honor Roll.

The numerical equivalents for letter grades are as follows:

A+	4.000	B+	3.333	C+	2.333	D+	1.333
A	4.000	B	3.000	C	2.000	D	1.000
A-	3.667	B-	2.667	C-	1.667	D-	.667

Power School Parent Portal

Parents may check the progress of their children on a daily basis by using Virginia Public School's Power School Parent Portal. Sign on with your Username and Password. Contact the school if you do not have this information. Grading information is updated weekly. Attendance information is updated daily. It is an excellent way to stay connected with the school.

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY:

OPTION A

Student is dropping from a class into a study hall. This drop is occurring prior to the "10 5 school day" deadline set at the beginning of the year for a year-long class, and the beginning of the semester for a semester-long class. The student is dropping without penalty and the class will not appear on his/her transcript. Signatures are required by: parent/guardian, teacher and counselor.

OPTION B

Student is dropping from a class into a study hall. This drop is occurring after the "10 5 school day" deadline set at the beginning of the year for a year-long class, and the beginning of the semester for a semester-long class. The student is dropping with penalty. The student will receive an "F" for the quarter in which the drop occurs. Signatures are required by: parent/guardian, teacher and counselor.

OPTION C

Students who drop an upper level class and move to a lower level class (i.e. AP Biology to regular Biology), will retain the current grade in the class they are dropping.

PROGRESS REPORTS

During each marking period, progress reports are mailed/e-mailed to the parent/guardians of those students who are failing and/or not working up to capacity. Parent/guardians who receive these reports should contact the teacher or counselor to make an appointment.

REPORT CARDS

Following the completion of each marking period, report cards will be available to be viewed electronically. Report cards will still be mailed by request to those households that do not have computer access.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

Students may receive an incomplete as a grade because their work was not completed at the end of the marking period. Failure to complete work may result in no credit being given. Seniors receiving incomplete's in courses needed for graduation will not participate in the graduation ceremony if the incomplete is not made up before graduation day. All incomplete grades on assignments must be made up within two weeks or the assignment grade will turn to a zero.

Athletic Eligibility is affected by incomplete grades. Students that earn an incomplete are ineligible to play until the incomplete has been made up and recorded in the office. If the eligibility was the result of an incomplete grade, eligibility may be re-established once work for the incomplete grade is made up and the grade change is made in the office.

Attendance Information

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

See Board Policy 503 http://www.vmps.org/downloads/board/policies/Policy_503.pdf

To excuse an absence, please call 749-5437 ext. 8025 (attendance line) within 24 hours.

Each student is expected to be in daily attendance at school and to report to classes on time and with appropriate work materials. Regular attendance is basic to meeting the educational needs of students. Maximum classroom instructional benefits can happen only when the student is in attendance. Regular attendance being essential to educational welfare, it follows that students, parent/guardians, and educators need clear understanding as to rights and responsibilities relating to attendance.

Minnesota State Law:

(a) Every child between seven and 17 years of age must receive instruction unless the child has graduated. Every child under the age of seven who is enrolled in a half-day kindergarten, or a full-day kindergarten program on alternate days, or other kindergarten programs shall receive instruction. Except as provided in subdivision 6, a parent may withdraw a child under the age of seven from enrollment at any time. (b) A school district by annual board action may require children subject to this subdivision to receive instruction in summer school. A district that acts to require children to receive instruction in summer school shall establish at the time of its action the criteria for determining which children must receive instruction. (c) A pupil 16 years of age or older who meets the criteria of section 124D.68, subdivision 2, may be assigned to an area learning center. Such assignment may be made only after consultation with the principal, area learning center director, and parent or guardian.

Open Enrolled Students

Under MN Statute 124D.03, subd. 12, open enrolled students may be assigned to their home district if they meet the definition of Habitual Truant and have been referred as indicated by law for truancy.

ACADEMIC CREDIT/EXCESSIVE ABSENCE

Virginia High School policy states that students are allowed a maximum of 10 absences per semester and 20 per school year. Students who miss more school than indicated above may be required to make up time in order to receive credit for a class in which the maximum number of absences has been exceeded. School excused activities, medical absences verified by a doctor, funerals, and other absences exempted by the school will not count against a student. Other days missed, including illnesses, will count towards a student's maximum number of allowable absences. Any absences above 5 per quarter that are not school activities, medically excused by a doctor, or other absence excused by the school can be marked as unexcused.

If a student's absences are excessive, parents/guardians will be notified that the student will be required to make up the time missed in that particular class. The student will be given 2 weeks from the end of the quarter to make up their time before the grade turns to an "F" **No Credit**. Time must be made up with the teacher or at the teacher's or school administrator's discretion after school, before school, at lunch, or during study hall with administrative approval. Time will not be made up out of a different class.

LEAVING SCHOOL

Under no condition will a student leave the high school without permission from the Nurse, Assistant Principal, or Principal. If a student leaves school without permission, he/she will be considered unexcused and/or truant. Once permission has been granted, the student must sign out in the High School Office.

PRE-EXCUSED ABSENCES

As necessary, a student may be given an advanced excuse. An example of a pre-excused absence would be a co-curricular activity and other activities at the discretion of the principal. These days still count towards the 10 allowable absences per semester.

Procedures

- a. Parents must call the high school office (749-5437 ext. 8025) and state the reason why the student will be absent.
- b. The office will issue a pre-excuse form to be signed by the teachers. This form must be returned to the high school office by the student prior to the absence
- c. The amount of time the student must notify the office in advance shall be equal to the number of days the student will be absent, but not less than two (2) days notice.
- d. Advance make-up shall be at the discretion of the individual instructor.

CO-CURRICULAR ABSENCES

Students participating in co-curricular or school sponsored clubs, sports, and activities must be present for all classes preceding any practice, activity, concert, contest, or game and all classes the day after unless **pre-excused** by the Principal or the absence is due to an exempted reason.

If a student has exceeded the 10 allowable absences, he/she must make up the time to return to eligible status. Students with 11+ are not eligible to participate.

Students involved in school activities during school hours have the responsibility to obtain and complete assignments for the time missed from class. Teachers can expect these assignments to be completed on time.

TARDY POLICY

Tardy is defined as arriving for class late or after the bell.

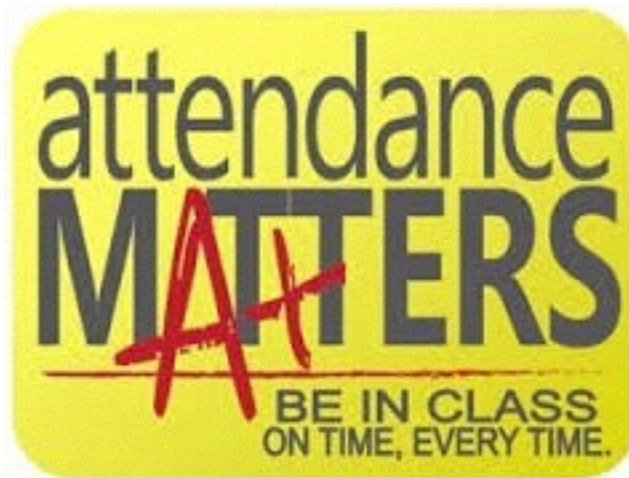
1. Tardies will accumulate regardless of which classes they are received in. Students will receive warnings for tardies 1-2.
2. Students will receive 1 hour detention for tardies 3-9.
3. If a student reaches 11 tardies in one quarter, a meeting will be called by administration with the student and parent to find a solution to the issue.
4. Tardies above 11 may result in ISS or OSS and eventual removal from school to an alternative educational placement.
5. Accrual of 7 tardies without serving detention will result in in school suspension.

TRUANCY

A student is truant when absent from school without parental and/or school knowledge or consent. Students under the age of 17 are required by law to attend school. If a student under the age of 17 has missed 3 days of school unexcused and is determined by the school/parent to be truant, the student will be referred to the St. Louis County probation office for a truancy hearing.

UNEXCUSED OR UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE

The school has the right and responsibility to screen and either approve or disapprove excuses brought in by the students. The school has the right to declare an absence to be unexcused even though a parent/guardian may have provided a written excuse. Reasons such as oversleeping, car trouble, or missing the bus do not excuse a student. Such disapproval by the school indicates that the absence was not consistent with the reasons for excused absences.



EXEMPT Absences & Tardies	EXCUSED Absences & Tardies	UNEXCUSED Absences & Tardies
Grades 7-12 Maximim = 10 Total Per Semester		
Documented Medical -Appointments w/ Medical Note -Illness & Injuries w/ Medical Note -School Nurse Recommendation School Related Activities -School Related Assessment -Sport/Activity Participation -College Visits w/ Documentation -Career Visits w/Documentation Legal Concerns -Documentation Required Administrative Referral -In School Suspension -Out of School Suspension Discretion of Administration -Prior Approval Required -Community Related Activities -Funerals of Immediate Family	Undocumented Medical -Illness -Injury -Appointments Without Cards -Serious Illness of Family Physical Emergencies -Fire, etc. Funerals -Non-Immediate Family Religious/Cultural Observance Family Leave/Vacations -Excused Absences Require a Pre-Absence Form for 3+ Days Non-School Related Activities	Any absence that is not accompanied by a parent/guardian notification to the office will be labeled as unexcused. or Any absence in which a student leaves the building without parent/guardian notification to the office will be labeled as unexcused. or Any absence not falling under the category of exempt or excused will be labeled as unexcused unless prior approval has been granted by administration.

INTERVENTIONS

The purpose of attendance interventions are to reengage students with the school community. We recognize the students and families may be struggling with a variety of concerns and we recognize the need to work together to reengage students with the positive supports a school community can offer. Research shows that students connected to school are less likely to miss classes and more likely to graduate on time.

Students that do not make up the absences over 10 in each course may receive their letter grade on their transcript with a “no credit”. This means that students will be required to retake the course in order to receive credit. In general, these absences must be made up prior to the end of the semester unless special arrangements have been made with administrator. In most instances, the student will receive “no credit” until the absences have been made up and documented.

Time may be made up in a multitude of ways including, but not limited to:

- ~time with a staff member before school (at teacher’s discretion)
- ~time with a staff member at lunch (at teacher’s discretion)
- ~time with a staff member after school (at teacher’s discretion)

- ~time with staff member during study hall (at teacher's discretion)
- ~attending lunch or after school detention
- ~participating in ongoing chemical dependency supports
- ~participating in ongoing mental health, counseling, or medical supports
- ~joining and participating in a new club or sport (this must be a new activity)
- ~volunteering for school related activities (see office, teachers, or coaches for ideas)
- ~participating in after school tutoring
- ~other activities approved by individual teachers or administration

While students are encouraged to make the arrangements with individual teachers, administration reserves the right to approve specific options for reengaging with the school community.

NOTIFICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

While teachers should remind students of excessive absenteeism, it is the student's responsibility to ultimately be responsible for tracking his or her own absences by checking the student information system or asking the office for support.

Daily

Daily notifications will be sent via electronic systems for all absences not cleared by a parent/guardian.

Continuing Truant (3 Unexcused Absences)

Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means.

1. That the child is truant;
2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
5. That alternative educational programs and services may be available in the district;
6. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;

7. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260;
8. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 260C.201.

Habitual Truant (7 Excused or Unexcused Absences)

A habitual truant is a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school. A principal shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A. Once a student has reached 7 excused or unexcused absences in any one course, a formal notification will be provided to the student and his/her guardian. This notification will be generated only one time per semester regardless of additional absences and serves as a reminder that students may lose credit if they exceed the 10 allowable absences. These reports and letters will be sent at one specified time each month and may not be immediately upon accruing 7 absences.

Chronically Truant (9 Excused or Unexcused Absences)

A chronically absent student will be required to participate in a parent/guardian, student, administrative conference to discuss absenteeism, possible interventions, and appropriate consequences. These conferences will serve as a notification that students accruing 10 or more absences may lose credit in each specific course unless interventions are successful.

Once a student has reached 11 or more excused or unexcused absences in any one course, a student will be required to make up absences and turn the documentation into the office in order to earn the credit for a course regardless of the grade earned. The code will be changed when students make up the absence.

Failure to make up the required absences may result in loss of credit, a truancy referral to appropriate agencies, discontinuance of open enrollment, transfer to an alternative education program, or a combination of listed consequences.

Rules and Discipline

DISCIPLINE See Board Policy 506 Student Discipline for more information http://www.vmps.org/downloads/board/policies/Policy_506.pdf

SUMMARY OF COMMON CONSEQUENCES (NOT ALL INCLUSIVE)

For each infraction, a Discipline Notice will be completed and the parent contacted by school staff.

***Note – The administration has the right to deviate from the chart.**

ISS= In School Suspension OSS=Out of School Suspension

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense
Athletic/Activity Eligibility	Ineligible - 2 contests or 14 days (whichever is longer)	Ineligible - 6 contests or 21 day (whichever is longer)	Ineligible - 12 contests or 28 days (whichever is longer)
Bullying/Contributing to the Continuance of Bullying	1 hour detention	1-3 days OSS	4-5 days OSS, Possible Expulsion
Cheating/Plagiarism	Zero on assignment	F for the quarter	F for the year
Classroom Infraction	Warning	1 hour detention per occurrence	2 hours detention per occurrence
Dress Code Violation	Warning - change clothing	Warning - change clothing	ISS, change clothing, parent conference
Drug Sales and Distribution	OSS/Expulsion and police referral		
Drug/Synthetic/Alcohol Use/ Possession	3 days OSS, Police Rule 25 Referral Recommended	5 days OSS, Police Rule 25 Referral Required, Treatment Referral	10 day OSS, Police Referral, Treatment Referral Required with Recommendations, Possible Expulsion
Failure to Clear Absences	Warning	Detention	Detention
Failure to Identify Self	Detention	ISS	ISS
Fighting/Assault	1-3 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	3-5 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	OSS/Expulsion and police referral
Harrassment (Sexual, Religious, Racial)	1-3 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	3-5 days ISS/OSS possible police referral	OSS/Expulsion and police referral
Inappropriate Behavior/ Language	1 hour detention	2 hours detention and parent conference	ISS and parent conference
Insubordination	1 day ISS or OSS	3 days ISS or OSS and parent conference	5 days OSS

Misuse of Technology including videos/photos without authorized permission	WiFi restrictions, Check in/out, meeting with Principal	Reviewed by Principal	
Public Display of Affection	Warning	Detention	Detention/ISS
Safety Concerns	Principal Discretion w/ Possible Police Referral		
Sexual Comment or Gestures	1-2 days ISS/OSS	3-4 days ISS/OSS	5 Days OSS
Skipping Detention	Warning	Detention added	ISS/OSS
Teasing/Threatening	1 hour detention	1-3 days ISS/OSS	4-5 days ISS/OSS Possible Expulsion
Theft	1-5 days OSS and restitution/police report	1-5 days OSS and restitution/police report	OSS/Expulsion/police report
Tobacco/E-cig/Vape use or possession	3 days ISS and referral to police	5 days ISS, police referral, parent conference	5 days OSS, parent conference, police referral
Truancy/Skipping	Detention/ISS	Detention/ISS	ISS/police referral
Vandalism	1-5 days OSS and restitution	1-5 days OSS and restitution	Expulsion
Weapon Possession	OSS/Expulsion and police referral		

The purpose of discipline in a school is to provide a positive force designed to ensure the rights of all students to learn in a safe and comfortable environment. A teacher, school employee, school bus driver, or other agent of the district **may use reasonable force** in compliance with Minnesota Statute 121A.582 and other laws. Discipline also provides for a productive environment in which students may learn the skills necessary to develop into mature adults responsible for their own actions. The following items are discipline issues that are of special interest and have specific consequences attached to them. However, the Principal may impose or recommend longer suspensions, expulsions, or any other discipline as appropriate on a case by case basis.

MN Statute 123A.06(b)-Consistent with the requirements of sections 121A.40 to 121A.56, a school district may provide an alternative education program for a student who is within the compulsory attendance age under section 120A.20, and who is involved in severe or repeated disciplinary action.

ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

It is expected that language directed toward staff members and fellow students will be polite and appropriate. Profanity, obscenity, and vulgarity have no place in the school setting. This pertains not only to students as individuals, but also as a part of larger groups. Yelling offensive

chants in the cafeteria or at athletic events is as inappropriate as if you were saying these words as an individual.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NONPRESCRIPTION DRUGS & MOOD ALTERING SUBSTANCES

The use of intoxicating beverages, nonprescription drugs or mood altering substances by students in school vehicles, on school premises within this district or at any other premise in which students from Virginia Public School are participating in a school activity is prohibited. These infractions of school and State Laws are also under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota State High School League.

Intoxicating beverages are any beverages containing alcohol. (Please note that this includes many of the “nonalcoholic” beverages.) The use of intoxicating beverages shall include possession of such beverages as well as the actual consumption thereof. The consumption of alcoholic beverages during times considered normal school hours will be considered in this provision.

ASSEMBLY BEHAVIOR

School assemblies will be held at various times during the school year. The assemblies will be announced in the daily bulletin. Unless notified otherwise, students will sit in their ASSIGNED SEATS. A student not in his/her assigned seat will be marked absent. Inappropriate behavior during an assembly will result in the loss of assembly privilege.

BACKPACK POLICY

The backpack policy will be enforced as a result of concern for health and safety of all students.

The following conditions will apply to the use of backpacks:

- 1.String backpacks will be allowed to assist students with getting classroom materials, water bottles and other educational supplies between classes.
- 2.No larger backpacks allowed in any classrooms.
- 3.No larger backpacks allowed in the hallways between 8:15 and 3:06.
- 4.No larger backpacks allowed in the cafeteria, auditorium or other areas used for student gatherings.
5. Larger backpacks may be used to transport books to and from school.
6. Students may use a gym bag to carry gym clothes to and from gym class.

The administration reserves the right to limit the size of bags, purses or string bags carried in the school.

BULLYING

Virginia High School promotes a safe and appropriate environment for all students in compliance with the MN Safe and Supportive Schools Act. Please see Board Policy 514 “Bullying” for more information.

BUS CONDUCT

Bus transportation is a privilege, not a right, and the following rules must be followed by students:

Rules for Waiting at the Bus Stop

1. Be on time.
2. Respect others and their property.
3. Stay away from the street, road or highway.
4. Keep safety in mind...no shoving, running or pushing.

Procedure for Boarding the School Bus

1. Line up in single file.
2. Approach the bus only when it has stopped and the driver has opened the door.
3. Don't push or crowd others.
4. Use the handrail, climb the steps one at a time, and be seated quickly.

Rules When Riding the Bus

1. Obey the driver's instructions.
2. Promptly be seated and remain in your seat.
3. Speak quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep the bus clean and do not damage it.
6. Do not throw any object.
7. Do not bring weapons/dangerous objects on the bus.
8. The use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs is prohibited.
9. Fighting, harassment, and horseplay are prohibited.

Procedures for Leaving a School Bus

1. Remain seated until the bus stops.
2. Let the students in front get off first.
3. Don't push or crowd.
4. Watch your step and use the handrail.
5. Move out of the "danger zone".

Procedure for Safe Crossing of Vehicle Lanes

1. Move away from the side of the bus to at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
2. Turn to the driver and make eye contact.
3. Wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross.
4. Walk 10 feet in front of the bus & stop to check for vehicles that might violate the stop arm.
5. When it's safe...complete the crossing.

Procedures for Emergency Evacuation

There are three different evacuation plans:

1. Using only the front service door
2. Using only the rear (or side) emergency door
3. Using both the service door & the emergency door

Whichever plan is used, students need to:

1. Be quiet and wait for instructions from the driver.
2. Be alert and move quickly.

3. Keep your feet out of the aisle, go out seat by seat, alternating sides.
4. Duck your head when going out the emergency door
5. After you are out of the door, move away from the bus
6. Go a distance of at least 100 feet from the bus and remain there for further instructions

Consequences for Failure to Follow Bus Rules

Consequences are consistent with all other school policies and practices. Please remember that school transportation is a privilege and not a right. Administration reserves the right to remove students from school transportation.

CAFETERIA BEHAVIOR

Students in grades 7 & 8 will observe a closed lunch break. No student will leave the lunch area during this time except when excused by a supervisor to use the bathrooms on the ground floor. All students will observe the following rules for the well being of all who eat and work in the cafeteria

1. Books should be kept at the student's seat.
2. Voices should be kept to a conversational level.
3. No eating food or drinking in the halls.
4. Each student is responsible for cleaning up. Students must leave their table free of trays, food or litter. Students will use refuse containers provided.
5. Throwing of anything is not allowed. Offenders will be given consequences.
6. Trays are to be brought to the window in the cafeteria when finished. You are responsible for your own tray and area of the table.
7. Headgear and/or jackets are not allowed in the cafeteria.
8. Students may not break in line (no cuts).

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Cheating and/or plagiarism of any school assignment will result in zero credit for the assignment. On the second occurrence, the student will fail that class for the quarter. Teachers shall include this policy on their course syllabi and make sure younger students understand what "plagiarism" is and how to avoid it. Parents must be contacted by the teacher if and when cheating or plagiarism occurs. Students will earn a 59% for the quarter grade unless the earned grade from other assignments is lower than 59%.

DETENTION PROCEDURES

Detention is a form of discipline for students who choose to behave inappropriately. Detention will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday after school. Students assigned detention have one week to serve their consequences. There is no detention on Wednesdays.

The procedure for detention is as follows:

1. The student will have one-week from the time the infraction occurred until the detention is served. This allows parent/guardians and students to make arrangements for transportation. If the student fails to be at detention, an extra hour will be added. Third and future consequences are at administrative discretion.
2. Students will serve assigned detention from 3:15 to 4:05 p.m. in room T128.

3. Students will bring everything they will be taking home with them to detention.
4. Students will not be allowed to go to their locker after detention. Teachers in charge of detention will escort students out the nearest exit.
5. Students will take a seat and sit up for the entire period. Students will be permitted to do homework assignments during detention. Students may not talk, chew gum, sleep, etc.
6. Inappropriate behavior in detention will result in added consequences. If the student is tardy getting to detention, the student will not be allowed in the room.
7. A student will be allowed a maximum of 7 hours of detention for all offenses related to inappropriate school behavior. Beyond 7 hours more severe consequences will be administered.
8. Parent/guardians will provide transportation for detention.

DRESS CODE POLICY FOR STUDENTS

A correlation exists between good grooming, personal attire, personal/public respect, and student achievement. A similar relationship exists between student dress and acceptable standards of conduct. The School District has a legitimate educational interest in promoting respect for authority, decency and civility among students and in protecting the health and safety of its students. This dress code is designed to allow for student comfort, while maintaining an environment conducive to learning and appropriate for the educational setting in the Virginia High School.

Recognizing these relationships and educational interests, the following dress code applies to both sexes and will be enforced at school and school-sanctioned activities. Any apparel, hair style, cosmetics, or jewelry - even if not specifically mentioned which poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others, or disrupts the educational process is not acceptable. Our school is a place for the business of education; students' grooming and dress must be appropriate to both the school setting and the weather. Exceptions to the enforcement of this dress code may be made in exceptional circumstances; for example, Prom or other school sanctioned activities. Students will be notified in advance of the activity of the dress code provisions which may be relaxed for the activity.

Prohibited dress and grooming items includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing that exposes the midriff or chest, intentional exposure of undergarments or undergarments that are worn as outer garments, and other clothing that is not in keeping with community standards.
2. Clothing that includes words or pictures that are obscene, vulgar, sexually explicit, convey sexual innuendo, abuse or discrimination, or which promote or advertise alcohol, chemicals, tobacco, or any other product that is illegal for use by minors.
3. Clothing and other items or grooming in a manner that represents and/or promotes threat/hate groups or gangs.

4. Jewelry that presents a safety hazard to self and/or others.
5. Hats, caps, bandanas and other head attire during the school day. Exceptions will be made for religious, medical, or school related reasons.
6. Wearing of masks, painted faces, disguises or grooming that limits or prevents the identification of a student or substantially disrupts the learning environment.
7. Any apparel or footwear that may damage school property or interfere with the educational process.
8. Any other items that substantially disrupt the educational environment.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Technology is a part of life for many students and adults. However, their usage necessitates some rules in order to ensure that the environment of the school is not negatively affected. For that reason, technology use is allowed at lunch, before school, and after school. Cell phone use is not allowed in class, in hallways between class, or while students are in the hall for any other reason unless expressly used for an educational purpose. Cell phone usage is not allowed during lockdowns or fire drills. Students are not allowed to take pictures or videos of any student or staff member without the express written consent of all parties involved. Consequences are listed on the “Summary of Consequences” chart. Electronic Video Devices in Locker Rooms

Electronic video devices in any locker room is strictly forbidden. Student privacy needs to be maintained at all times. Penalties for non-compliance of this rule will be enforced.

This includes iPads, cell phones, and any other electronic device with photographic or video capabilities. In the event that the supervisor has the ability to place the devices in a locked cabinet upon entering the locker room, the devices must be secured and locked immediately.

iPAD POLICY SUMMARY

2.1 General Precautions

iPads must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, skins, or labels that are not the property of the Virginia School District.

3.3 Charging Your iPad’s Battery

iPads must be brought to school each day in a fully charged condition. Students need to charge their iPads each evening. If students do not come to school with their iPad properly charged, they are responsible for getting the course work completed as if it were charged.

3.4 Lock Screen/Background Photos

- Your Lock screen must include: Blue Devil Logo, First Name, Last Name, Middle Initial and Graduation year.
- Inappropriate media may not be used as a screensaver or background photo.
- Presence of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drug, and gang related symbols or pictures will result in disciplinary actions.
- Passcodes are not to be used, unless approved by the technology office.

3.5 Sound, Music, Games, or Programs

During class, only apps used in class should be open.

5.2 Additional Software

Students are **not allowed** to load extra software/Apps on their iPads. Virginia will synchronize the iPads so that they contain the necessary apps for schoolwork. Students will not synchronize iPads or add apps to their assigned iPad, to include home syncing accounts.

5.4 Procedure for Re-Loading Software

If technical difficulties occur or illegal software, non-Virginia installed apps are discovered, the iPad will be restored to its original configuration. The School does not accept responsibility for the loss of any software or documents deleted due to a re-format and re-image.

6.3 Student Responsibilities

- Using computers/devices in a responsible and ethical manner.
- Obeying general School rules concerning behavior and communication that apply to iPad/computer use.
- Using all technology resources in an appropriate manner so as to not damage school's equipment.

This "damage" includes, but is not limited to, the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions caused by the students own negligence, errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via Virginia School District's designated Internet System is at your own risk. Virginia School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

- Helping Virginia School District protect our computer system/device by contacting an administrator about any security problems they may encounter.

6.4 Student Activities Strictly Prohibited:

Cyber bullying.

6.5 iPad Care

Students will be held responsible for maintaining their individual iPads and keeping them in good working order.

- iPad batteries must be charged and ready for school each day.
- Report any issues with the iPad or accessories as soon as possible.

6.7 Student Discipline

If a student violates any part of the procedures, he/she may face discipline as determined by administration which may include:

1. General WiFi Restrictions placed on device for the semester
2. Student(s) will check-in/checkout their iPads from the Tech office daily for (3) weeks.
3. Wifi restrictions will be placed on the device that only allow the use specific websites and apps for classroom purposes. Student will also check-in/checkout their iPads from the Tech office daily for for the rest of the grading period or 4 weeks which ever is longer.
4. A meeting between Principal and/or Assistant Principal, Technology Staff, Teacher(s), Parent(s) and Student will be called to discuss the situation. At this point the Admin

will decide on the best plan to move forward, which may include the removal of the device for the remainder of the school year.

FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Directions by teachers, substitutes, and other members of the school staff must be followed. A student may not always agree with the directions of a staff member, but the staff member has a position of authority that must be respected. Students have recourse in situations where they feel inappropriately directed, but they do not have the right to refuse the directions as given. Students may address their concerns to a school counselor, Assistant Principal, or the Principal.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

The public display of affection such as kissing, inappropriate touching, etc. is not acceptable school behavior. Respect yourself and the rights of others by demonstrating appropriate school behavior.

REMOVAL FROM CLASS Please see Board Policy 506 for more information

There are many reasons that a student may be removed from class. They include but are not limited to rules violations or the potential of a dangerous situation. In these cases, a student may be sent to ISS (In School Suspension) or sent to the Assistant Principal.

When a student is removed the **first time**, it will be documented by the teacher and the parent will be notified by the teacher. The student may also receive additional disciplinary action.

If a **second** removal occurs, the parent will be notified and a meeting will be held within 48 hours with the student, teacher, parent, and administration. During this meeting the teacher will explain his/her expectations for behavior. The student and parent will have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have with the goal being a solution to the behavioral problem.

If a **third** removal takes place, the student may be removed from the class, assigned study hall, and lose credit. Other solutions may be a class change or alternative programming for the student.

A parent meeting may also be held at the request of the teacher when removals have not occurred.

SKATEBOARDS & ROLLERBLADES

Skateboarding and rollerblading are not allowed on school property.

SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE

Effective September 1, 1987, the Virginia School District adopted a Smoke and Tobacco Free Policy prohibiting smoking and the use of tobacco products on school district property. This shall include school buildings, school grounds, and school-owned vehicles. This applies to all staff and students of the Virginia School District as well as the public when attending school activities on school property. Possession of tobacco products by students on school property shall be prohibited.

- a. Use or possession of tobacco products in the building, on school property, during school activities, or leaving school grounds during school hours to smoke or chew will not be tolerated. Violators of this regulation will receive consequences consistent with school policy and students will not be readmitted until after a parent/guardian has been contacted by the

administration. Cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices and paraphenelia or other tobacco products are not to be carried by students within the school during school hours. Students should realize the State High School League rules carry a penalty for smoking and tobacco use that also will be enforced by the School. b. Minnesota Statute 609.685, subd. 3, a state that possession or use of tobacco or tobacco related devices by anyone under the age of 18 is unlawful. Because of the health consequences for our youth and the mixed message that is given when laws are not enforced, the NO SMOKING LAW for those under the age of 18 will be enforced. Law enforcement officials will be contacted for violation of the district's smoking and tobacco policy.

STUDY HALL RULES

1. All students are expected to bring assigned work or school approved reading material. Bring enough material for the entire hour - there should be no need to go to lockers during study hall.
2. All students are to be in their assigned seats at the beginning of the hour or they will be counted tardy.
3. Students will refrain from distracting movements and disturbing noises.
4. No outside clothing will be worn in study hall.
5. No walkmans, radios, headphones, etc. are allowed.
6. No visiting between students allowed without the consent of the person in charge.
7. No food or drink of any kind allowed in study halls.
8. Dispose of all waste paper and unwanted materials in the trash can on the way out of study hall.
9. A study hall is what the name implies, a place to study, not a place to visit, play or sleep.
10. Should it be necessary to call out a student's name more than once during the hour for disciplinary reasons, one hour detention will be assigned. Detention will double for incidents following.
11. Should a situation arise that would necessitate a student's seat to be reassigned due to disciplinary reasons, suspension could result.
12. Students will not be allowed to leave study hall without a pass from an instructor.
13. No passes from study hall teachers (Exception: washroom pass).
14. Students must sign out in the office before leaving the building for appointments, public library, or errands.

PUPIL FAIR DISMISSAL ACT

All students are protected under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. Students who are involved in suspension from school should ask what their rights are under this act. See the Assistant Principal for a copy of this document.

Sports and Activities

VHS ACTIVITIES	VHS SPORTS	 VIRGINIA ACTIVITIES OFFICE 411 5 TH AVE. S. VIRGINIA, MN 55792 ENTER DOOR #5 (218) 742-3923 VIEW ACTIVITY SCHEDULES ONLINE www.ironrangeconference.org 																																																	
Art Club Choir Concert Band Engineering Club Flags Foreign Language Club Green Team Iron Range Youth in Action Jazz Band Leo's Knowledge Bowl Math Counts (Jr. High) Math League (Sr. High) Musical Theater National Honor Society One Act Play Pep Band Three Act Play Pom Poms Prom Prom Committee Rifles Speech Stand For The Silent Club Student Council Video Crew Wind Ensemble Yearbook	 <table border="0"> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Cross Country</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Swimming & Diving</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Tennis</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Volleyball</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Soccer</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Alpine Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Basketball</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Hockey</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Nordic Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Track</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Golf</td></tr> <tr><td>Girls</td><td>Softball</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Cross Country</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Football</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Soccer</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Alpine Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Basketball</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Hockey</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Nordic Ski</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Swimming & Diving</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Wrestling</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Baseball</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Tennis</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Track</td></tr> <tr><td>Boys</td><td>Golf</td></tr> </table>		Girls	Cross Country	Girls	Swimming & Diving	Girls	Tennis	Girls	Volleyball	Girls	Soccer	Girls	Alpine Ski	Girls	Basketball	Girls	Hockey	Girls	Nordic Ski	Girls	Track	Girls	Golf	Girls	Softball	Boys	Cross Country	Boys	Football	Boys	Soccer	Boys	Alpine Ski	Boys	Basketball	Boys	Hockey	Boys	Nordic Ski	Boys	Swimming & Diving	Boys	Wrestling	Boys	Baseball	Boys	Tennis	Boys	Track	Boys
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ELIGIBILITY

The Virginia High School requires all students in grades 7-12 who participate in extracurricular activities outside of the classroom whether they are extra-curricular, co-curricular or athletics, are all subject to the same eligibility requirements. It will be the duty of the sponsor of an activity to inform all participants as to the scholastic eligibility requirements. The following policy was adopted by the Virginia School Board pertaining to the eligibility of the students:

Students not accompanied by their parent are prohibited from entering bar areas, liquor establishments, or attending parties where liquor is made available to high school students. This rule puts the burden on the student to know, in advance, whether alcoholic beverages will be made available to students at a party. If there is any doubt, the student or parent/guardian should contact the host family to determine whether alcoholic beverages will be served. Students violating this rule are not eligible to participate in activities sponsored by the Virginia High School for a period consistent with the Minnesota State High School League Rules (MSHSL

Bylaw Section 205.00 regarding the Use of Mood Altering Chemicals, i.e. Alcohol, Tobacco, Drugs or Marijuana). A student employed by a business establishment is exempt from this rule while working.

To be eligible for activities sponsored by the Virginia High School, a student in grades 9-12 must earn a 1.333 GRADE POINT AVERAGE. Additionally, a student cannot have an incomplete quarter grade. Students will be re-evaluated for eligibility at the mid-quarter point at which time they may become eligible if a 1.333 GPA has been achieved. If the ineligibility was the result of an incomplete grade, eligibility may be re-established once work for the incomplete grade is made up and the grade change is made in the office (student must have a GPA of 1.333 or higher with the grade change). The nine week report card grades used in calculating the honor roll will determine this eligibility. For students using the Pass-Fail system of grading, a pass grade will earn 1.5 grade points for calculating purposes. Eligibility for participation of students in grades 7-8 will be based on satisfactory progress. 9-12 grade athletes who are considered academically ineligible for the fall sports season based on 4th quarter grades will serve a 2 week/2 game penalty, whichever is greater. After serving the penalty, fall athletes will be reinstated for competition, and grades will be re-evaluated at the end of the quarter as indicated above. The Administration reserves the right to grant or deny eligibility for co-curricular activities for grades 7-12 on school conduct as well as academic progress.

A student who is dismissed or who violates the Student Code of Responsibilities is not in good standing and is ineligible for a period of time as determined by the school principal, acting on the authority of the local board of education. The League specifically recognizes by this policy that certain conduct requires penalties that may exceed those penalties typically imposed for first violations. (Bylaw 206.00 of the Minnesota State High School League Rules)
Violation of MSHSL Bylaws Section 209.00 regarding Sexual/Racial/Religious/Harassment/Violence will have the same penalties as listed below.

If an ineligible student retakes a failed course in summer school and/or in night school and brings up his/her GPA to at least 1.33 prior to the beginning of a sport or activity, that student will then regain academic eligibility for extracurricular activities.

JUNIOR HIGH ELIGIBILITY

Any student in grades 7-8 receiving a quarter grade of "F", an incomplete quarter grade, or a quarterly GPA below 1.333 will not participate in extracurricular activities. Grades will be evaluated 2 weeks after the end of quarter, at which time a student may be determined to be eligible with satisfactory progress. If the eligibility was the result of an incomplete grade, eligibility may be re-established once work for the incomplete grade is made up and the grade change is made in the office (student must have a GPA of 1.333 or higher with the grade change). If eligibility requirements are not met by the end of the two week period, the student will remain ineligible until mid-term at which point they can be re-evaluated again.

MSHSL ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in any MSHSL-sponsored activity, a student must meet all eligibility requirements set forth by the MSHSL. These eligibility requirements are listed in the MSHSL publication "Athletic Eligibility Information", which must be read and signed by each student and his/her parent/guardian prior to participating in the activity. Eligibility rules and regulations can also be viewed by going to the publication section of the MSHSL website, www.mshsl.org. In addition, a copy of the Official Handbook of the MSHSL is on file with the athletic director and high school principal, if a student wishes to review it in its entirety. Violations of eligibility bylaws of the MSHSL will result in specific penalties, which are also published in the aforementioned publications. Any students who are considered to be chronically truant from school may be suspended from extracurricular activities under MSHSL Policy 206.

EXTRACURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS

Participants in extracurricular contests must use transportation provided by the school. The only exception is in the event that parents request in writing to have their student ride with a parent, grandparent or immediate family member, in which case they assume all responsibility. No student may ride with another student under any circumstance.

HOMEcomings/SNOW WEEK ROYALTY

Any student with a MSHSL violation who has not completed serving their penalty will be ineligible for any Royal Court nominations. This includes, but is not limited to chemical violations and legal violations. The school administration will make the decision based upon a student meeting the requirements set forth by school policy and the MSHSL to clear their ineligibility for extracurricular activities. Decisions will not be appealed.

MOOD ALTERING CHEMICALS

The Minnesota State High School League recognizes the use of mood-altering chemicals as a significant health problem for many adolescents, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning and the total development of each individual. The misuse and abuse of mood-altering chemicals for some adolescents affect co-curricular participation and development of related skills. Others are affected by the misuse and abuse by family, team members or other significant persons in their lives. Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with the student's first enrollment into the Virginia High School. This includes all students in grades 7-12.

WEDNESDAY AND SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

It is the policy of the Virginia District to conclude all extra-curricular activities by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The only exception to this would be a spring weather related contest that must be made up prior to playoffs. Playoff contests could also be scheduled on Wednesday by the section committee. Sunday practices are not allowed as stated in the rules of the Minnesota High School League.

SCHOOL DANCES

Turnabout Rules

1. Tickets must be purchased in advance from the designated selling location.
2. Turnabout is open to all Virginia High School students currently enrolled in grades 10-12 girls presently enrolled in the Virginia High School may invite guests who have graduated within the last two years, regardless of home school.
3. The parent/guardian of any student who does not arrive by 8:15 PM will be notified. Students who leave early will not be allowed to return to the dance.
4. As this is a school activity, all school rules will be followed throughout the activity.
5. All students attending the Turnabout are expected to be in attendance at school the Friday before the Turnabout unless pre-excused. Students not in attendance on Friday will not be permitted to attend the Turnabout.
6. All detentions and suspensions must be served before a ticket will be issued to a student and his/her partner. Students who are not in good standing, including those with truancy and/or behavioral issues, may not be allowed to attend Turnabout.

Prom Rules

1. The PROM is given by the junior class in honor of the graduating seniors.
2. A TICKET MUST BE PRESENTED FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE PROM. Students will be informed of locations to purchase tickets in the daily bulletin.
3. Any senior or junior presently enrolled may ask a person outside of the school providing they are at least 16 years of age and classified as an 11th grader. NO ONE BELOW 11TH GRADE MAY BE INVITED. If your partner is not a student at the Virginia High School, the name, address, and grade must be given in the office. If your partner is not currently enrolled in high school, they must have graduated within the last 2 years and must be under 21.
4. Parent/guardians will be informed of any student who has not arrived to Prom by 8:15 pm. Students who leave early will not be allowed to return to the dance.
5. Due to lack of space, no spectator tickets will be issued. Please convey this information to your parent/guardians and friends. Parents may view the Prom decorations at the time specified by the Prom supervisor.
6. All school rules will be followed throughout the Prom, as it is a school activity.
7. All students attending the Prom are expected to be in attendance at school the Friday before the Prom unless pre-excused. Students not in attendance on Friday will not be permitted to attend the Prom.
8. All detentions and suspensions must be served before a ticket will be issued to a student and his/her partner. Students who are not in good standing, including those with truancy and/or behavioral issues, may not be allowed to attend Prom.
9. Formal dress is required. Inappropriately dressed students will not be allowed to attend Prom activities.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is an organization made up of students representing the student body. It furnishes responsible leadership training for student leaders. It is through this organization that student opinion and sentiment is brought to the attention of the faculty and administration.

Grades 9 -12

The Student Council consists of a total of 32 members, including a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. The membership shall be elected to the Council each spring for the following year. The qualifications that one should look for when electing their representative and officers are: good character and positive leadership ability.

Grades 7 & 8

The Student Council in grades 7 & 8 has four students from each of the grades making a total of 8. The incoming seventh grade elects their representatives in the fall, while the current 7th grade elects next year's representatives in the spring.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Virginia High School has two separate organizations, an Honor Society in which membership is based strictly upon Grade Point Average (GPA), and the National Honor Society in which the four criteria of scholarship (GPA), leadership, service and character are given equal weight in determining membership. Potential Juniors will be contacted following the second marking period and given instruction on making the appropriate application for membership.

Addendum of School Policy Links

POLICIES

The following is a partial list of selected student policies. For a complete list of policies for ISD #706, please refer to our website at www.vmps.org under “District”, “School Board”, and “Board Policies”. The blue links will bring you directly to the policy.

It is the policy of the Virginia Public Schools to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence.

[Policy 501: Weapons Policy](#)

Any student found to be in possession of a weapon on district property or at a district-sponsored activity shall be expelled from school for up to one year and may be subject to other appropriate disciplinary action.

[Policy 502: Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person](#)

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing Virginia Public School's policies against contraband.

[Policy 503: Attendance](#)

Administration and staff will inform parents of the options available to them to excuse their child from school when necessary.

[Policy 504: Student Dress and Appearance](#)

The dress and grooming of students becomes the concern of the school if it causes disruption of the educational program or is offensive or inappropriate to others. Students should dress in a manner that takes into consideration the educational environment, safety, health and welfare of others.

[Policy 506: Student Discipline](#)

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the School District's expectations for student conduct. The School District will take appropriate disciplinary action when students fail to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct established by this policy.

[Policy 514: Bullying](#)

An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on District property or at school-related functions. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying.

[Policy 515: Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records](#)

The school district recognizes its responsibility in regard to the collection, maintenance and dissemination of pupil records and the protection of the privacy rights of students as provided in federal law and state statutes.

