

VIRGINIA CUSD #64



PARENT/STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2019-2020



Virginia CUSD #64 School Calendar 2019-2020

Tuesday, August 13	Teacher Institute (No Student Attendance)
Wednesday, August 14	Teacher Institute (No Student Attendance)
Thursday, August 15	First Day of School
Monday, September 2	No School—Labor Day
Friday, September 13	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 1-4)
Friday, October 11	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 5-8)
Friday, October 11	End of First Quarter (41 Days)
Monday, October 14	No School—Columbus Day
Monday, October 21	Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-7:00 PM
Thursday, October 24	Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-7:00 PM
Friday, October 25	No School
Friday, November 8	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 1-4)
Wednesday, Nov. 27—Friday, Nov. 29	No School—Thanksgiving Break
Friday, December 13	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 5-8)
Thursday & Friday, December 19 & 20	Semester Exams
Friday, December 20	End of Second Quarter (45 Days)
December 21—January 5	No School—Winter Break
Monday, January 6	Teacher Institute (No Student Attendance)
Tuesday, January 7	School Resumes for Students
Friday, January 17	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 1-4)
Monday, January 20	No School—Martin Luther King Day
Friday, February 14	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 5-8)
Monday, February 17	No School—Presidents' Day
Friday, March 13	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 1-4)
Friday, March 13	End of Third Quarter (47 Days)
Monday, March 23	Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-7:00 PM
Thursday, March 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences—3:30-7:00 PM
Friday, March 27	No School
Friday, April 10—Monday, April 13	No School—Spring Break
Tuesday, April 14	School Resumes
Friday, April 24	School Improvement Day—11:20 AM Dismissal (Periods 5-8)
Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday, May 12, 13, 14	Semester Exams
Friday, May 15	End of Fourth Quarter (41 Days)
Friday, May 15	Teacher Institute (No Student Attendance)
Thursday, May 21	8 th Grade Graduation
Friday, May 22	High School Graduation
May 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	Emergency Days—to be added on in the event of emergency day usage

First Quarter	41 Days + 2 Institute Days	43
Second Quarter	45 Days + 1 P/T Conference Day	46
Third Quarter	47 Days + 1 Institute Day	48
Fourth Quarter	41 Days + 1 P/T Conference Day + 1 Institute Day	43
Proposed Emergency Days		<u>5</u>
Total Days		185

Mid-Term Dates: September 13, November 8, February 7, and April 9

Regular Bell Schedule

1st period – 8:00-8:43 a.m.
2nd period – 8:46 – 9:29 a.m.
3rd period – 9:32 – 10:15 a.m.
4th period – 10:18 – 11:01 a.m.
5th period – 11:04-11:47 a.m.
6th period – 11:50-12:33 (JH Lunch)/11:50-12:20 p.m. (HS Class)
6th period- 12:23-1:06 p.m. (JH Class)/ 12:36-1:06 p.m. (HS Lunch)
7th period – 1:09 -1:52 p.m.
8th period - 1:55-2:38 p.m.
Activity Period – 2:41-3:02 p.m.

Late Start Schedule

****No Early Bird Classes***

1st period – 10:00-10:31 a.m.
2nd period – 10:34-11:05 a.m.
3rd period – 11:08-11:39 a.m.
4th period – 11:42-12:13 p.m.
5th period – 12:16-12:47 p.m. (JH LUNCH/HS CLASS)
5th period - 12:50-1:21 p.m. (HS LUNCH/JH CLASS)
6th period – 1:24 – 1:55 p.m.
7th period – 1:58 – 2:29 p.m.
8th period – 2:32 – 3:02 p.m.

****No Activity Period***

PREK Morning Class will not be in session.

Prek Afternoon class will be as scheduled.

Breakfast will not be served when using the late start schedule.

Virginia CUSD #64
651 S. Morgan Street
Virginia, IL 62691
Phone: 217-452-3363
www.virginia64.com

Administration:

Gary DePatis, Superintendent

Mekelle Neathery, Principal

Board of Education:

*Casey French, Board President; Gary Bell, Vice President; Kara Lynch, Secretary
Joanie Bell, Dustin Fritsche, Stephanie Hobrock, Matt Werner*

To the Virginia CUSD 64 Parent/Guardian and Students:

This handbook is designed to explain and clarify the policies and procedures at Virginia Schools. We ask that all parents and students read and become familiar with the information so that they can be fully informed and aware of the expectations for this school year. While we know that this handbook cannot address all your questions, we encourage you to contact the Virginia CUSD 64 Administration for clarifications if you have further questions.

Students: Please note that this handbook also serves as your hall pass. ALL students are required to have it on a daily basis within the classroom and when necessary, in the hallway during class periods. Your first handbook will be provided by Virginia CUSD 64. Subsequent copies will be made available at an additional cost to the student.

The rules, procedures and policies listed in this handbook are not inclusive of all the rules necessary to effectively run a school. When events occur that may not be referenced in this guiding document or in written board policy, administration, faculty and staff will act in accordance with sound professional judgement and best practices. By placing the needs of the students as the primary measure against which decisions are weighed, each issue will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and the business of educating students will be the primary focus of all stakeholders. Should the need arise, new rules, policies and procedures may be added and adopted.

Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!!

Over the past 2 years we have seen a lot of changes. Some new staff and some classrooms being moved around to different places. While these changes are not as dramatic as building a new facility, the staff has worked hard to implement these changes in an effort to make for a better educational experience for the students of Virginia CUSD 64.

We will continue to work to support our students to the best of our ability and do everything that we can to make their education the best it can be.

For those students that are new to Virginia, we welcome you to the Redbird Family and to those returning welcome back!! We are looking forward to a great school year for everyone!

"ONCE A REDBIRD, ALWAYS A REDBIRD!!!!"

Gary DePatis

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: General Information and Notices	page #
Virginia CUSD 64 Chain of Command	4
1.30 General School Information	4
1.40 Visitors	4
1.50 Equal Opportunity and Gender Equity	5
1.60 Animals on School Property	5
1.70 School Volunteers	5
1.90 Emergency School Closings	5
1.100 Video and Audio Monitoring System	6
1.110 Accommodation Individuals with Disabilities	6
1.120 Students with Food Allergies	6
1.130 Care of Students with Diabetes	6
1.140 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention	7
1.150 Accommodating Breastfeeding Students	8
Chapter 2: Attendance, Promotion and Graduation	
2.10 Attendance	8
2.11 Tardies	8
2.12 Elementary Tardy Policy	8
2.13 Jr. High and High School Tardy Policy	8
2.20 Absences	8
2.21 Absences EXCUSED	8
2.30 Release Time for Religious Instruction and Observance	9
2.40 JH/HS Make-Up Work	9
2.50 Truancy	9
2.60 Grading and Promotion	10
2.70 JH/HS Homework	12
2.80 Exemption from Physical Education	12
2.90 Credit for Non-District Experience and Course Substitutions	13
2.100 Homebound/Hospitalization	14
2.120 Graduation Requirements	14
Chapter 3: Student Fees and Meal Costs	
3.10 Fees, Fines and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees	15
3.20 School Lunch Program	16
Chapter 4: Transportation and Parking	
4.10 Bus Transportation	16
4.15 Bus Conduct	17
4.20 Student Drivers	18
Chapter 5: Health and Safety	
5.10 Required Health Examinations and Immunizations	19
5.20 Student Medication	19
5.30 Guidance and Counseling	20
5.40 Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct	20
5.50 Communicable Disease	21
5.60 Head Lice	21
Chapter 6: Discipline and Student Conduct	
6.10 General Building Conduct	21
6.20 Student Dress Code and Student Appearance	22
6.30 Student Discipline	22
6.40 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment	26
6.45 Sexual Harassment & Teen Dating Violence Prohibited	27
6.50 Cafeteria Rules	28
6.60 Field Trips	28
6.70 Access to Social Networking Passwords and Websites	29
6.80 Student Use of Electronic Devices	29

Chapter 7: Internet, Technology and Publications	page #
7.10 Internet Acceptable Use	30
7.20 Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications	31
7.30 One-to-One Program	32
Chapter 8: Search and Seizure	
8.10 Search and Seizure	32
Chapter 9: Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities	
9.10 Athletic Rules and Code of Conduct	33
9.20 Attendance at School Sponsored Dances	33
9.30 Student Athlete Concussions/Head Injuries	33
9.40 School Classes, Clubs, and Organizations	33
Chapter 10: Special Education	
10.10 Education of Children with Disabilities	33
10.20 Discipline of Students with Disabilities	34
10.30 Exemption from PE requirement	34
10.40 Certificate of High School Completion	35
10.50 Access to Classroom for Special Education Observation or Evaluation	35
Chapter 11: Student Records and Privacy	
11.10 Student Privacy Protection Surveys by Third Parties	35
11.20 Student Records	35
11.30 Student Biometric Information	37
11.40 Military Recruiters & Institutions of Higher Learning	37
Chapter 12: Notices and Disclosures	
12.10 Teacher Qualifications	38
12.20 Standardized Testing	38
12.30 Homeless Child's Right to Education	38
12.40 Sex Education Instruction	38
12.50 English Learners	39
12.60 School Visitation Rights	39
12.70 Pesticide Application Notice	39
12.80 Mandated Reporter	39
12.90 Unsafe School Transfer	39
12.100 Sex Offender Notification Law	39
12.103 Unsafe School Choice Option	39
12.105 Student Privacy	40
12.105 Sex Offender and Violent Offender Community Notification	40
12.130 Parent Notices Required by ESSA	40

Chapter 1: General Information and Notices

Virginia CUSD #64 Chain of Command

Virginia CUSD #64 strives for effective communication with all stakeholders in the District in order to assure that all students are effectively served. To ensure parent concerns or issues are heard by the appropriate individual most capable of resolving the issue at the point of origin, and provide a direct and timely response, the Board of Education asks that parents follow the procedure outlined below:

1. If a concern arises, a parent or community member should contact the teacher, supervisor, coach or staff member directly involved with the concern. The board recommends a 24 hour waiting period. This can reduce or eliminate emotion that can be a barrier to resolution.
2. If step 1 is completed, and the issue/concern was not fully addressed, then the principal or athletic director should be contacted.
3. If steps 1 and 2 are completed, and it is believed that the issue/concern warrants yet further discussion, then the district superintendent should be consulted.
4. Only after completing steps 1, 2, and 3 should a representative of the school board be contacted. Board members will refer concerns back to steps 1, 2 and 3 before taking action at the board level.

1.30 General School Information

Hours of Operation 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Students may enter the building at 7:30 a.m. and are expected to leave the building upon dismissal. Students in the building before and after these hours should be under the direct supervision of a faculty member. Unsupervised students will be asked to leave the building. Students shall not be dropped off prior to 7:30 a.m. unless prearranged with and supervised by a teacher or administrator.

District Office Hours

Administrative Office hours on regular School Days are from 7.30 A.M. until 4.00 P.M.

Admissions of Students

Children are required to furnish a certificate of birth at the time of kindergarten or first grade enrollment. Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1. New students to the district must present a certificate of birth at the time of registration as well as a report of Good Standing from the previous school, if that school is in Illinois.

Resident Students/ Tuition Free Education

Only student residents of Virginia Community Unit School District #64 may attend school tuition free. A student's residence is the same as that of the parent/guardian who has legal custody of the student as defined by law. A person who enrolls a non-resident student to attend schools in this District will be responsible for tuition charges for the duration of that student's school attendance. Proof of residency and legal custody may be required by school officials including, but not limited to, voter registration information, utility bills, tax returns, proof of home ownership and/or rental information.

Student Transfers

Students transferring from Virginia Schools to another school district must obtain a withdrawal form from the office. All debts must be cleared before transferring. A good standing form and current academic/health records will be sent upon receipt of a request from the new school.

Change of Address and Telephone Numbers

Any change in home address, personal and work telephone numbers, or cell number of parents and guardians of a student should be given to the school office. Your assistance can prevent an extensive delay in making contact with family in case of an emergency

1.40 Visitors

In order to ensure the safety of students and that the learning environment is free of distraction the following protocol is to be observed by any visitor entering the school during school hours:

- A. Enter only through the office doors by the Elementary or High School Office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their purpose.
- B. All visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting.
- C. Approved visitors must take a name tag identifying themselves as a guest. The tag is to be worn on the outer layer of clothing in a clearly visible location.
- D. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their destination without disturbing or disrupting students/classes.
- E. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior. Parents may visit the school. Prior arrangements (at least twenty-four hours in advance) will ensure that the staff will have materials ready for them. All visitors must first report to the office upon arrival. For security purposes, visitors may be required to show identification and wear I.D. tag.

Unauthorized Persons In The Building

School employees may request any persons in the school building or on the grounds, which are owned or leased by the Board and used for school purposes and activities, to identify both who they are and the nature/purpose of the visit. A person who refuses to provide such information is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor and will be asked to leave. Individuals refusing to comply are subject to arrest.

1.50 Equal Opportunity and Gender Equity

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religious beliefs, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy. No student shall, based on sex or sexual orientation, be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities. Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact: Superintendent Gary DePatis at (217) 452-3085.

1.60 Animals on School Property

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

1.70 School Volunteers

All school volunteers must complete the "Volunteer Information Form" available in the office and be approved by the school principal prior to assisting at the school. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the building principal. Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor badge before going to their destination.

1.90 Emergency School Closings

School closings for any reason prior to the start of the school day will be announced as soon as possible. If bad weather or other emergency occurs during the day, please listen to local media stations for possible early dismissal information. Parents will be notified through the School Messenger parental notification system. Notifications will come via cellular phone, home phone, work phone and/or email alerts. In case of bad weather and other local emergencies, WICS-Channel 20, WTAX, WDBR, WLFZ, WQQL, WYMG, WABZ, and KHQA TV Channel 7 will also be contacted regarding school closings or early dismissals.

Notifications will also be posted on the district website, www.virginia64.com. For your child's safety, make certain your child knows ahead of time where to go in case of an early dismissal. Early dismissal for an emergency will result in automatic cancellation of all after-school functions, with the exception of tournaments that are out of the control of the district.

Two Hour Delayed Start

The two (2) hour late start option may be used when the early morning weather issues are forecast to clear to allow staff and students to travel to school safely. For example, early morning fog that will lift or a wind chill factor that will improve by waiting 2 hours.

A few important factors to remember if a two hour delayed start is utilized:

- All buses will run 2 hours later than normal. (i.e. if normal pick up time is 7:15 a.m. then students will be picked up at 9:15 a.m.)
- School will be dismissed at the regular time (3:02 p.m.)
- Morning Pre-K Session will be cancelled. Afternoon Pre-K class will operate on their regular schedule.
- There will be no breakfast served at school.
- Lunches will be provided at normal times.
- Early Bird classes will be cancelled.
- All morning meetings, clubs, practices will be cancelled.
- ALL JH and HS classes will meet on a shortened schedule; there will be no activity period.
- Evening activities will remain scheduled unless otherwise notified.
- A delayed start day is considered a complete day of school.

1.100 Video and Audio Monitoring System

A video/audio monitoring system may be in use on school busses and in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

1.110 Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

1.120 Students with Food Allergies

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules. If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the Virginia Administrative Office. Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed supports so that your student can access his/her education as effectively as students without disabilities. Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. The school district may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.

1.130 Care of Students with Diabetes

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the school principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- A. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.

- B. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- C. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan. (1.120.e) Available in the school office.
- D. Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

1.140 Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school district. The school district can help point families and students to resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including a copy of school district's policy, is posted on the school district website. Information can also be obtained from <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-yourself/youth/> or at the Suicide Prevention Resources Center website <http://www.sprc.org/sites/default/files/resource-program/Families.pdf>

1.150 – Accommodating Breastfeeding Students

Students who choose to breastfeed an infant after returning to school are provided reasonable accommodations. A student who is a nursing mother may take reasonable breaks during the school day to express breast milk or breastfeed her infant. Reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to:

1. Access to a private and secure room, other than a bathroom, to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant.
2. Permission to bring onto school campus a breast pump or other equipment used to express breast milk.
3. Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk.
4. Access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely.
5. Reasonable breaks to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child.
6. The opportunity to make up work missed due to the student's use of reasonable accommodations for breastfeeding.

Complaints regarding violations of this procedure should be made to the District's Complaint Manager or Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

Chapter 2: Attendance, Promotion, and Graduation

2.10 Attendance

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of a child between 6 (by September 1st) and 17 years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he/she resides the entire time school is in session. Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

Any student absent for any part of the school day, excused or unexcused, will not be allowed to participate in any scheduled activity that school day (or if absent on a Friday, the weekend) unless proper documentation or communication is received by the administration.

2.11 Tardies

Tardiness is defined as any late arrival of a student beyond the scheduled time that school begins. When students arrive late, they disrupt classes and forgo opportunities to learn. Further, they unfairly interfere with other students' opportunities to learn. Promptness is essential to student success.

2.12 Elementary Tardy Policy

If your child arrives to school late, you must take your child to the office to get an admission slip. If your child must leave early, please send a note to the classroom teacher. Students are allowed three tardies before a letter is sent to the parent. At the 6th tardy, the truant officer may be notified and further action may be taken

2.13 Jr. High and High School Tardy Policy

Students will be considered tardy for class if not in the classroom before the tardy bell. The following progressive steps (each quarter) will be utilized:

- 1st offense – warning
- 2nd offense – Lunch Detention
- 3rd offense – Lunch Detention
- 4th offense – 30 minute Detention
- 5th offense (and subsequent) – 1 hour after school detention

2.20 Absences

There are two types of absences: EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED. Excused absences include: illness, observance of a religious holiday or event, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional or physical health or safety, attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS[1], or other reason as approved by the building principal. Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Board of Education, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment.

A student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teachers prior to any excused absences and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by the student prior to his or her return to school. All other absences are considered unexcused. Pre-arranged excused absences must be approved by the building principal.

The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence. In the event of any absence, the student's parent or guardian is required to call the school before 8:00 a.m. to explain the reason for the absence. If the office has not received notification by 9:00 a.m. on the day of a student's absence, a school official will contact the parent. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the student will be required to submit a signed note from the parent or guardian explaining the reason for the absence upon return. Failure to do so shall result in an unexcused absence. Upon request of the parent/guardian, the reason for an absence will be kept confidential.

At 5 absences (excused or unexcused) a letter is sent to the parents to alert them of their child's attendance. Virginia School District is required by law to notify the Regional Truancy Officer on the 3rd, 6th, and 9th days of unexcused absence. To be counted present for a full day, students must be present for 300 minutes. A half day requires students to be in attendance between 150 and 299 minutes. Any absence below 150 minutes results in a full day absence.

2.21 Absences EXCUSED

From the 1st through the 5th absence in a semester a parent phone call alerting the office for the reason of the absence is sufficient to consider the absence EXCUSED. ***IMPORTANT: Regardless of whether any of the initial 5 absences in the semester were excused with authorized forms of documentation other than a parent call (Dr's. note, court papers, visitation brochure) after the 5th absence in a semester a parent phone call is not sufficient to excuse the student's absence. Therefore, the 6th absence and beyond in a semester will be unexcused unless the provisions outlined in Section 2.20, 2.30, or one of the following criteria are met:***

1. Dr. note containing ALL of the following:
 - Name of the student.
 - Date and Time student was seen (call-ins are not accepted)
 - Date and Time student is released to return to school/activity.
 - Notes must be received by the office within 3 school days.

2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Observance of a religious holiday.
4. Summoned court appearances.
5. Participation in school sponsored activities.
6. College days: Juniors are allowed two college days per year. Seniors are allowed three college days per year. A college day form must be turned into the Guidance office at least two days prior to taking the college day. College days may not be taken the last two weeks of a Semester. College days may not be taken the day immediately before or following a holiday, unless the school being visited has a published open house on that date.
7. Any circumstances that causes reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's safety or health, or other reason as approved by the administration.

Absences of three consecutive days or longer may require a doctor's note in order to be EXCUSED. Pre-arranged EXCUSED absences must be approved by the administration. **All other absences are considered to be UNEXCUSED.**

2.30 Release Time for Religious Instruction & Observance

A student will be released from school, as an Excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the administration prior to the student's anticipated absence(s). Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, assignment or other work requirement.

2.40 JH/HS Make-Up Work

If a student's absence is EXCUSED, or if a student is suspended from school, he/she will be permitted to make up any missed work, including homework and tests. The student will be permitted the same number of days as he/she was absent to turn in the make-up work. The student is responsible for obtaining assignments from his/her teachers.

Students who are UNEXCUSED from school will be assigned to an activity period to complete work that they have missed. Work or test completed and submitted to the teacher prior to or during the 1st assigned activity period following the unexcused absence will receive a maximum of 50% credit. Anything submitted after the 1st assigned activity period or during the 2nd assigned activity period would receive a maximum of 25% credit on assignments/test. No credit will be give for work submitted after the 2 assigned activity periods.

2.50 Truancy

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district. When a student is scheduled to be at school and his/her whereabouts are unknown to the school, it creates a safety issue. In addition, a student's education suffers when school is missed. Students who miss more than 1% but less than 5% of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are truants. Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause are chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Appropriate school discipline
- Referral to the Regional Truant Officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney

A student who misses 15 consecutive days of school without valid cause and who cannot be located or, after exhausting all available support services, cannot be compelled to return to school is subject to expulsion from the school.

NOTE: A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State law.

2.60 Grading and Promotion

Students will receive grades based upon the following scale:

100%-96%	A
95%-93%	A-
92%-90%	B+
89%-87%	B
86%-84%	B-
83%-81%	C+
80%-78%	C
77%-75%	C-
74%-72%	D+
71%-69%	D
68% and below	F

The following numerical values will be assigned letter grades when calculating GPA.

Letter Grade	Non-Weighted Class GPA	Weighted Class GPA
A	4.000	5.000
A-	3.666	4.666
B+	3.333	4.333
B	3.000	4.000
B-	2.666	3.666
C+	2.333	3.333
C	2.000	3.000
C-	1.666	2.666
D+	1.333	2.333
D	1.000	2.000
F	No Credit	No Credit

The following classes are categorized as weighted classes at Virginia CUSD 64:

Anatomy, Honors English III & IV, AP English, Calculus, Physiology, Psychology, Micro/Macro Economics, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, College Algebra, Chemistry, AP Chemistry, Physics, Spanish III & IV, AP Government, and classes scheduled through Lincoln Land Community College.

NOTE: *No Illinois Virtual School courses will be weighted.*

Classification of Students

Classification of students will be decided upon at the beginning of each semester.

Seniors must have at least 21 credits

Juniors must have at least 14 credits

Sophomores must have at least 7 credits

Junior High Retention Policy/Procedure

If a Junior High (6th, 7th or 8th Grade) student is found to be a candidate for retention a Retention Hearing will take place. At the Hearing, a Retention Review Team consisting of the core instructors (English/ Lit/ Math/Science/ Social Studies) the Special Education teacher (if student has an IEP) and the Administration will review evidence including, but not limited to: grades, standardized test scores, performance on assessments, effort, attendance, student skill level and any extenuating circumstances which directly impact that student's ability to be successful if promoted or retained.

A student will be considered for retention (or summer school, if applicable) and a Retention Hearing may take place when any of the following occur:

- If, during a Semester, a student fails two (2) or more core classes

- OR
- If, during a School Year, the student fails a total of four (4) Semesters of core classes,
- OR
- If, during a School Year, a student fails any core class (i.e. Math) for both Semesters,
- OR
- If, during Quarters 1,2 and 3 a student has earned grade of "D" or an "F" in the same core class

Other reasonable factors may merit a Retention Hearing. It is important to note that for a student who receives special education services, factors taken into consideration include:

- Whether the student is meeting goals in their IEP,
- Recommendations from the special education teacher and
- Evidence presented by the Retention Review Team

State law and School Board policy specifically prohibit promotion to the next grade level for social reasons. Ultimately, it is the decision of the administration as to the promotion or retention of a student.

JH/HS Honor Roll and Golden Honors

The Scholastic Honor Roll is published each quarter and will list those students who have received honors. The listed conditions must be filled:

- A student must have achieved a 3.75 or higher for the High Honor Roll
- A student must have achieved a 3.25 - 3.74 for the Honor Roll with no grade below a B-.

Golden Honors

Wearing one (1) gold cord at graduation will designate senior students who achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher. Wearing two (2) gold cords at graduation will recognize senior students who achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.

Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Senior class students with the highest and second highest cumulative grade point averages over four years of consecutive enrollment in high school shall be selected as Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively. If there is a numerical grade point tie for either award, more than one student shall be selected to share that respective honor. Student grade points shall be averaged over the four years of high school enrollment and averaged to 100th of a point. High school courses taken during 8th grade year also count towards a student's cumulative high school GPA.

Semester and Final Exams.

Exams are given at the end of each semester. The campus is open during exams for the high school students. Students who are not taking an exam should not be present in the school building unless they are in a designated, supervised area, or visiting the office on official business. All doors will be closed 10 minutes after the scheduled start time. If the student does not arrive before this time, they will not be allowed into the exam and will receive a zero for the exam. Students will be released from the classroom at the end of the scheduled exam time.

No college days, field trips, or vacation days are to be taken during exams. Students can arrange to take the exam at a different time if extenuating circumstances occur, but it must be approved by the high school administrator and with the instructor.

If a student fails to take an exam, he/she fails that course for that semester. If the course is required, it must be taken again in order to receive credit for the class.

Exam Exemption

Seniors Semester Exam Exemption (December):

Must have an 'A-' in the class for the Semester AND must have NO Unexcused Absences for the Semester

Seniors FINAL Exam Exemption (May):

Must have an 'A-' in the class for the Fall Semester as well as an 'A-' in the class for the Spring Semester AND must have NO Unexcused Absences for the Year

Juniors FINAL Exam Exemption (May):

Must have an 'A-' in the class both Fall and Spring Semesters AND NO Unexcused Absences for the Year

2.70 JH/HS Homework

Homework is used as a way for students to practice and demonstrate competency in concepts they have learned in the classroom. The time requirements and the frequency of homework will vary depending on a student's teacher, ability, and grade level. If a student is present, all assigned class work is due on the date/time established by the instructor. Under extenuating circumstances, students may request additional time if pre-arranged with and approved by the instructor. However, if assigned work is not turned in by the teacher-established deadline, the student will have up to one week to submit it to the teacher. If the student does not submit the completed assignment within the week, he/she will be assigned to an activity period to complete the assignment. Credit for the late work is subject to the following guidelines:

Up to 1 week beyond teacher-established guideline – 75% maximum credit

Assigned to the 1st Homework Activity Period – 50% maximum credit

Assigned to the 2nd Homework Activity Period – 25% maximum credit

No credit will be given for work submitted after the 2nd assigned activity period.

2.80 Exemption from Physical Education

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse because of medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request.

A student in 7-8 may submit a written request to the building principal requesting to be excused from physical education courses because of the student's ongoing participation in an interscholastic or extracurricular athletic program. The building principal will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.

A student in grades 9-12 may submit a written request to the building principal requesting to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated below.

1. Ongoing participation in an interscholastic athletic program;
2. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade)
3. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the student being unable to graduate (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade).

Students with an Individualized Education Program may also be excused from physical education courses for reasons stated in Handbook Procedure 10.30.

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practices Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits the School District from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District.

Students who have been excused from physical education shall return to the course as soon as practical. The following considerations will be used to determine when a student shall return:

1. The time of the year when the student's participation ceases; and
2. The student's class schedule
3. The student's future or planned additional participation in activities qualifying for substitutions for physical education, as outlined in section 10.30 of the student handbook.

2.90 Credit for Non-District Experiences and Course Substitutions

Credit for Non-District Experiences

A student may receive high school credit for successfully completing any of the listed courses or experiences even when it is not offered in or sponsored by the District:

1. Distance learning course, including a correspondence, virtual, or online course.
2. Courses in an accredited foreign exchange program.
3. Summer school or community college courses.
4. College courses offering dual credit courses at both the college and high school level.
5. Foreign language courses taken in an ethnic school program approved by the Illinois State Board of Education.
6. Work-related training at manufacturing facilities or agencies in a Tech Prep Program
7. Credit earned in a Vocational Academy.

Students must receive pre-approval from the building principal or designee to receive credit for any non-District course or experience. The building principal or designee will determine the amount of credit and whether a proficiency examination is required before the credit is awarded. Students assume responsibility for any fees, tuition, supplies, and other expenses. Students are responsible for (1) providing documents or transcripts that demonstrate successful completion of the experience, and (2) taking a proficiency examination, if requested. The building principal or designee shall determine which, if any, non-District courses or experiences, will count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities.

Substitutions for Required Courses

Vocational or Technical Education; Registered Apprenticeship Program.

A student in grades 9-12 may satisfy one or more high school courses or graduation requirements by successfully completing related vocational or technical education courses if:

1. The building principal approves the substitution and the vocational or technical education course is completely described in curriculum material along with its relationship to the required course; and
2. The student's parent/guardian requests and approves the substitution in writing.

Credit Recovery

A student who fails a course may make up the failed credit in one of the following ways:

1. Retake the class when it is offered again at Virginia CUSD 64.
2. Enroll and successfully complete a VHS approved comparable course through the Illinois Virtual High School.
3. Enroll and successfully complete a correspondence course or summer school offered by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools by May 15th of the next year. It is the student's responsibility to provide proof of passing grades.

Guidelines for Credit Recovery Courses

- Registration for any credit recovery course must be pre-approved and take place with the School Counselor/Director of Student Services.
- The student and/or his/her family are responsible for all fees and supplies for the class.
- The building principal must approve the course in advance.
- Students placed in online credit recovery courses will take all assessments associated with the credit recovery course at the school in a setting allowing for them to be physically supervised by a certified Virginia CUSD 64 staff member.
- Credit recovery courses will be counted toward the student's final GPA and count toward graduation requirements.

Illinois Virtual School (IVS): Enrichment and Partial Fulfillment of Graduation Requirements

General Study for enrichment & partial fulfillment of graduation requirements may be available to students who meet the following criteria:

- Registration for any IVS course must be pre-approved and take place with the School Counselor/Director of Student Services before or within the first two weeks after the beginning of a Semester.
- Approved IVS courses will be a part of the student's class schedule and count toward graduation requirements.
- Only Junior and Senior level student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are permitted to take an IVS course.
- Course is not be one offered and available to the student through the normal Virginia Schedule.
- IVS Course Fees (up to \$125) may be paid by Virginia CUSD #64 for pre-approved courses only. Any additional cost beyond \$125 associated with the course is the responsibility of the student and student's family.
- Students must drop any IVS course within 5 days or the cost of the course will fall to the student and student's family.
- All IVS credits earned will be calculated in the student's final GPA.
- Students failing IVS courses are responsible for all fees including the course registration fee.

Dual Credit & Advanced Placement

AP/Dual credit courses are offered to Juniors and Seniors. Students who take dual credit will earn credit from Lincoln Land Community College. Students may also take online classes in math or social science for credit. Virginia CUSD #64 will pay \$75 per credit hour toward tuition for LLCC classes. If the student does not receive credit for the class, then Virginia CUSD #64 must be reimbursed. The student must complete the VHS application to be eligible for a dual credit class.

2.100 Homebound/Hospitalization

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or advance-practice registered nurse anticipates his or her absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital. A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy will be provided home instruction, correspondence courses, or other courses of instruction before (1) the birth of the child when the student's physician indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction, and (2) for up to 3 months after the child's birth or a miscarriage. For information on home or hospital instruction, contact the school office.

2.120 Graduation Requirements

As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma, each pupil must complete the requirements listed below. A total of 27 credits are needed to graduate.

In addition to the successful completion of the required courses listed below, students must also:

1. Pass an examination on patriotism and principles of representative government, proper use of the flag, methods of voting, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Participate in the State assessment required for graduation.

English	4 Credits
Science <i>**Only ONE science class from the Agricultural Department may count as a science credit for graduation.</i>	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits
Civics <i>Must pass Constitution & Illinois Test with a 68% or higher. (Class of 2020)</i>	½ Credit
Consumer Education	½ Credit

American History <i>Must pass Constitution & Illinois Test with a 68% or higher. (Class of 2021 and beyond)</i>	1 Credit
World History	1 Credit
World Geography	1 Credit
Fine Art	1 Credit
Driver's Education	½ Credit
Foreign Language OR Vocational Education	1 Credit
Physical Education	3 ½ Credits
Health	½ Credit
Electives	4 ½ Credits

The above requirements do not apply students with disabilities whose course of study is determined by an Individualized Education Program or students who are exempted from participation in certain courses in accordance with State law. Required courses may be adjusted based on conflicts with the master schedule and for transfer students after a credit evaluation has taken place.

Chapter 3: Student Fees and Meal Costs

3.10 Fees, Fines & Charges; Waiver of Student Fees

The school establishes fees and charges to fund certain school activities. Some students may be unable to pay these fees. Students will not be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of their parent or guardian to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver does not exempt a student from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and/or equipment. Applications for fee waivers may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. These forms are available in the office (Form 3.10.e1). A student is eligible for a fee waiver if the student currently lives in a household that meets the income guidelines, with the same limits based on the household size, that are used for the federal free meals program. The building principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- An illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Seasonal employment;
- Emergency situations; or
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

Within 30 days, the building principal will notify the parent/guardian if the fee waiver request has been denied, along with the appropriate appeal process. If you have questions regarding the fee waiver process, you may contact the school office.

Pursuant to the Hunger-Free Student's Bill of Rights Act, the school is required to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks. Students may not be provided with an alternative meal or snack and the school is prohibited from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for or owes money for a meal or snack.

Fees for 2019-20 School Year

All students who qualify for free lunch and are deemed eligible under National School Lunch Program guidelines may have required registration fees waived. Students who qualify may not be discriminated against or punished in any way (including the lowering of grades or exclusion from classes) for failure to

pay fees for textbooks, workbooks, or courses. These restrictions do not apply to such fees or charges, which are levied for failure or refusal to return district property or for damaged property. All students not exempt under this policy must pay the required fees.

Textbooks and Supplies Fees

All basic texts are rented from the school for one year. Students are responsible for the care of rented texts from the time they take them until they are checked back in. Students withdrawing from school must return rented books on the day they leave. Students are responsible to pay up to the full replacement cost for any lost books (class texts or library books) as well as those damaged as a result of neglect or misuse. Fees for damaged books are determined by prorating the price of the book at the end of the year. The rates of payment and fines will be determined on a five-year text life. Library rates will be based on book condition and cost of replacement for the book. Fees are to be paid within thirty (30) days of the date they become due. Fees may be waived for those students whose parents/guardians are unable to afford them.

Grades K-5	Grades 6-12
Textbooks/Workbooks: \$100.00	Textbooks/Workbooks: \$110.00
Chromebook/iPad Usage: \$10.00	Chromebook Usage (grades 6-8): \$10.00
	Chromebook 1-to-1 Rental (grades 9-12): \$50.00
	Driver's Education Fee: \$125.00
	Foods Class: \$25.00
	PE Uniform (shorts and shirt): \$15.00 (shirt only): \$7.00
	Extra Curricular Fee: \$50.00 per student with a max of \$150 per family

A student handbook will be provided by Virginia CUSD 64 for all students in grades 6-12 at the beginning of the year or their enrollement. Replacement cost for additional student planners is \$5.00. The replacement fee for the utilization of the 1-to-1 devices (Chromebooks) will be \$250. Additional fees will be assessed to the student/family for damages to technology devices provided by Virginia CUSD 64.

3.20 School Lunch Program

Breakfast is served every school day from 7:30 a.m. to 7:55 a.m. A student may purchase breakfast for \$1.30 per day. Lunch is served every school day from 11:00 a.m. to 1:06 p.m., except when there is a 11:30 a.m. or earlier dismissal. A student may bring a sack lunch from home or may purchase a school lunch: K-5 \$2.10; 6-12 \$2.50; Adult \$3.00; Milk \$.40. Ala carte items or extra items are also available for students to purchase but will not be available unless there is positive balance in the account.

Free or reduced price meals are available for qualifying students. For an application, contact the school office. Completed applications should be returned to the office for review of compliance with federal guidelines to determine eligibility.

Chapter 4: Transportation and Parking

4.10 Bus Transportation

The district provides bus transportation to and from school for all students living 1.5 miles or more from the school. A list of bus stops will be published at the beginning of the school year before student registration. Parents must, at the beginning of the school year, select one bus stop at which a student is to be picked up, and one stop at which a student is to be dropped off. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned. The superintendent must approve exceptions in advance.

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the building principal.

Students are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus. Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for violating school rules or for engaging in other gross disobedience or misconduct. The school board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus.

A student who is suspended from riding the school bus and who does not have alternative transportation to school shall be allowed the opportunity to make up all missed work for equivalent academic credit. It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternative transportation to school.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are also expected to observe the following:

1. Dress properly for the weather. Make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, etc. on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed to lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
2. Arrive on time at the bus stop, and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.
3. Stay away from the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board. Enter in single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.
4. Take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms, and head inside the bus.
5. Talk quietly on the bus. No shouting or creating loud noises that may distract the driver. Tablets, iPods®, iPads®, smart phones, and other electronic devices must be silenced on the bus unless a student uses headphones.
6. Help keep the bus neat and clean. Keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.
7. Always listen to the driver's instructions. Be courteous to the driver and other students. Sit with your hands to yourself and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers. Remain seated, keeping your hands, arms, and head inside the bus at all times.
8. Wait until the bus pulls to a complete stop before standing up. Use the handrail when exiting the bus.
9. Stay out of the danger zone next to the bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. Take five giant steps away from the bus and out of the danger zone, until you can see the driver and the driver sees you. Never crawl under a bus.
10. If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal and then cross in front of the bus. Cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
11. Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

Video and audio cameras may be active on buses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus.

Only bus students are to ride the buses. Non-bus students wishing to ride home with a bus student must make prior arrangements by obtaining a bus pass from the office after producing written instructions from the parent(s)/guardian(s). Bus drivers will make regularly scheduled stops only. Any change from your regularly scheduled, designated pick up or drop off **MUST** be requested in writing for review and approved by the Superintendent. For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact the school office.

4.15 Bus Conduct

Students are expected to follow all schools when riding the school bus. A student may be suspended from riding the bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to, the following:

1. Violating any school rule or school district policy.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.

4. Repeated use of profanity.
5. Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor.
6. Such other behavior as the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.

If a student is suspended from riding the bus for gross disobedience or misconduct on a bus, the School Board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons.

A student suspended from riding the bus who does not have alternate transportation to school shall have the opportunity to complete or make up work for equivalent academic credit. It shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternate transportation.

4.20 Student Drivers

Students who drive to school have a great responsibility for the safety of themselves and others. Extreme care must be taken in the school parking lot and the streets around the school. All students will register their cars in the High School office. Students will register one car and an emergency vehicle (this vehicle must be one of the family cars and not that of another student unless there is a family relationship).

Students may park their vehicles in the designated student parking lot located across from the Jr/Sr High School Entrance between 7:00AM and 7:00PM. Vehicles must be parked in accordance with all standard conventions of parking including distance and relative position to other vehicles as well as honoring a speed limit of 10 mph. Vehicles should be driven safely and must yield to pedestrians. Vehicles parked outside designated parking spots or not in accordance with standard conventions may be ticketed or towed at the discretion of the school, at the vehicle owner's expense. Students driving recklessly in the parking lot may be subject to disciplinary action including loss of driving privileges.

The lots designated for school staff and visitors are located on the west side of the school on Job St. and MAY NOT be used by students at any time. Student vehicles parked in these lots may be ticketed/towed at the discretion of administration.

The school is not responsible for student vehicles, any possessions left in them, or anything attached to the vehicles. **STUDENTS PARK THEIR VEHICLES ON OR NEAR SCHOOL PROPERTY AT THEIR OWN RISK.** Students should be aware that vehicles are not protected in any way while in the parking lot, and items of value should not be left in or near the vehicle while unattended.

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in cars parked on school grounds. School lots may be searched by contraband dogs, administration, and police officers. Students should be aware that items and spaces on school grounds are subject to search and view by others, and that prohibited items discovered during the course of a search may result in discipline, including, but not limited to, expulsion from school. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in the fire lanes at ANY TIME. Fire lanes are clearly marked. Vehicles in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.

Video cameras may be active in parking lots and may be used for the purposes of investigation into student misconduct. Discipline for misconduct includes disciplinary measures in the student discipline code and/or withdrawal of parking privileges.

Parent/Visitor Parking

The school has limited locations available for school visitor parking. Those dropping off and picking up children may do so in the designated drop off area(s) between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., and after 3:02pm. Students entering the building after 8 a.m. should enter through the door of the Elementary or High School/Middle School office to receive an admission slip.

Chapter 5: Health and Safety

5.10 Immunization, Health, Eye & Dental Examination Required Health Examinations and Immunizations

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases within one year prior to:

1. Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
2. Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
3. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). Students between the age of one and seven must provide a statement from a physician assuring that the student was "risk-assessed" or screened for lead poisoning. Failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

Eye Examination

All students entering kindergarten or the school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

Dental Examination

All students entering kindergarten, second, sixth and ninth grades must present proof by May 15 of the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to present proof allows the school to hold the child's report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

Exemptions

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

1. Medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
2. Religious grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
3. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
4. Eye examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
5. Dental examination requirement if the student's parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

5.20 Student Medication

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a "School Medication Authorization Form." No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is submitted.

by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess an epinephrine injector (EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form. The school and district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton misconduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication or epinephrine injector or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student's parent/guardian must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and/or asthma inhaler, or the storage of any medication by school personnel. Students who are diabetic may also self-carry and self-administer diabetic testing supplies and insulin. Students who are diabetic must also have a Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school.

Designated Caregiver Administration of Medical Cannabis

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act allows a parent/guardian of a student who is a minor to register with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a designated caregiver to administer medical cannabis to their child. A designated caregiver may also be another individual other than the student's parent/guardian. Any designated caregiver must be at least 21 years old and is allowed to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a child who is a student on the premises of his or her school or on his or her school bus if:

1. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
2. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the District; and
3. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a *School Medication Authorization Form – Medical Cannabis*,

Medical cannabis infused product (Product) includes oils, ointments, foods, and other products that contain usable cannabis but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis is prohibited.

After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver shall immediately remove it from school premises or the school bus. The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the District or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school employee shall not be required to administer the product.

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she required administration of the product during school hours.

5.30 Guidance & Counseling

The school provides guidance and counseling for students' social and emotional needs as well as to assist in exploring career and post-secondary educational options. The school's counselors is available to students who require additional assistance. The guidance counselor is available to assist students in identifying career options consistent with their abilities, interests, and personal values. Students are encouraged to seek the help of the counselor to develop class schedules that meet the student's objectives. High school Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to receive college and career-oriented information. Representatives from colleges and universities, occupational training institutions and career-oriented recruiters, including the military, may be given access to the school campus in order to provide students and parents/guardians with information

5.40 Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct

Safety drills will occur at times established by the administration. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of

three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement drill to address an active shooter incident, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. Drills may not be preceded by a warning to the students.

5.50 Communicable Disease

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases. Parents are required to notify the administration if they suspect their child has a communicable disease. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian. The school will provide instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease. A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

5.60 Head Lice

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by designated school personnel and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested students are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

Chapter 6: Discipline and Student Conduct

A. Citizenship and Moral Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of every student to know and abide by the policies in the school handbook.
2. Students will respect constitutional authority.
3. Students will recognize that citizenship in a democracy requires respect for the rights of others.
4. Students will maintain the highest standards of Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Courtesy and Citizenship.

B. Rights

1. To attend school.
2. To express opinions respectfully verbally or in writing.
3. To expect that school will be a safe place.

C. Responsibilities

1. To become informed of and adhere to reasonable rules and regulations found in the school handbook.
2. To respect the rights and individuality of other students and school administrators and faculty.
3. To refrain from libel, slanderous remarks and obscenity in verbal and written expression.
4. To dress and groom in a manner that meets reasonable standards of health, cleanliness and safety, and free from distraction.
5. To be punctual and present in the regular or assigned school programs.
6. To refrain from disobedience or misconduct of behavior that disrupts the education process.
7. To maintain the best possible level of academic achievement.
8. To respect the exercise of authority by school administrators and teachers in maintaining discipline in the school and at school sponsored activities.

6.10 General Building Conduct

1. Learning and instruction are the priorities and students should be in class and on-task first and foremost. Be engaged and on task.
2. All persons will demonstrate respect to each other at all times.
3. Student resources (i.e. calculators, computers, novels, technological equipment vending machines) will be handled with care and respect.

4. Students will spend minimal time outside of the classroom during instructional time and will have a valid pass when in the hallway.
5. Food will be consumed in designated areas only and will not be allowed in the classroom unless part of a designated activity.
6. Chewing gum is prohibited within the learning environment.
6. All individuals will clean up after themselves.
7. Lockers are provided for student belongings. Backpacks are to be kept in lockers not in classrooms. Students may only bring to class a small purse and/or the district provided bag for transporting the district one-to-one device to class. Other bags are to be stored in the lockers and are prohibited from being in the classroom.

6.20 Student Dress Code and Student Appearance

Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well fitting manner while on school property and/or in attendance at school sponsored activities. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a substantial disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.
- Hats, coats, bandannas, sweat bands, headphones and sunglasses may not be worn in the building during the school day.
- Hairstyles, dress, footwear and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted in the shop, laboratories, or during physical education.
- Clothing with holes, rips, tears, (above mid-thigh) and clothing that is otherwise poorly fitting, showing skin and/or undergarments may not be worn at school.
 - Bare-midriff tops
 - Spaghetti straps and halter tops (sleeves past the seam with a minimum of one inch is required)
 - Pajama Pants
 - Extremely baggy clothing
- The length of shorts or skirts must be appropriate for the school environment. (mid-thigh as measured as the halfway point from center top of inseam to top of knee)
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
- Thick/bulky jackets, coats, or other types of outdoor apparel are not allowed to be worn in the building except when arriving or leaving; they are to remain appropriately stored at all times.
- Student whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff or others may be subject discipline.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the building principal will make the final decision.

6.30 Student Discipline

Copies of all School District policies on behavior are available online through the School District's website or in the school office. Prohibited Student Conduct Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
 - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, medical cannabis and hashish unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*).

- b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
 - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under *Ashley's Law*.
 - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
 - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.
 - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
 - h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form. Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.
4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a "weapon" or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
 5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
 6. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member's direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
 7. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member's request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
 8. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
 9. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
 10. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
 11. Engaging in teen dating violence.
 12. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
 13. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
 14. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.

15. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
16. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
17. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
18. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.
19. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
20. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
21. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.

For purposes of these rules, the term "possession" includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student's person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student's clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school's student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student's parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours.
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school activities or school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property (c) disrupting the purpose of the event/activity.

Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop-out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.
2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.

4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension (up to a day).
7. After-school detention or Saturday detention provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified.
8. In-school suspension (more than a day).
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on or adjacent to school grounds or being present at any school activity that occurs on or off school campus where Virginia students are participating individually, as part of a Virginia school team or a co-op team before, during or after regular school hours.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

Suspicion of Being Under the Influence

If there is reasonable cause to suspect that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, staff will evaluate the student's condition. If it is believed that the student is under the influence, the student may be required to undergo further assessment. If assessment verifies use, the student and parent/guardian may be responsible for the costs associated with the tests.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student and parent when a student is returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work according to the policy found in 2.40 of the student handbook.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm but does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property

Weapons Prohibition

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

- (1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look-alikes" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or nonverbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

6.40 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation & Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important district and school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, immigration status, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, order of protection status, status of being homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.
2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.
3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.
4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;
3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or
4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include name-calling, using derogatory slurs, stalking, sexual violence, causing psychological harm, threatening or causing physical harm, threatened or actual destruction of property, or wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice of one of the characteristics stated above.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal, district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

Complaint Managers:
Mekelle Neathery
651 South Morgan Street, Virginia, IL 62691
(217) 452-3363
mneathery@virginia64.com

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions. A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

6.45 Sexual Harassment & Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Sexual harassment of students is prohibited. A person engages in sexual harassment whenever he or she makes sexual advances, requests sexual favors, and/or engages in other verbal or physical conduct, including sexual violence, of a sexual or sex-based nature, imposed on the basis of sex, that:

1. Denies or limits the provision of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or that makes such conduct a condition of a student's academic status; or
2. Has the purpose or effect of:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's educational environment;
 - b. Creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment;
 - c. Depriving a student of educational aid, benefits, services, or treatment; or
 - d. Making submission to or rejection of such conduct the basis for academic decisions affecting a student.

The terms intimidating, hostile, and offensive include conduct that has the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or discomfort. Examples of sexual harassment include touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities. The term sexual violence includes a number of acts. Examples of sexual violence include but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term teen dating violence occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

Making a Complaint; Enforcement

Students are encouraged to report claims or incidents of sexual harassment, teen dating violence or any other prohibited conduct to the nondiscrimination coordinator, building principal, assistant building principal, dean of students, or a complaint manager. A student may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:
Gary DePatis
651 South Morgan Street, Virginia, IL 62691
217-452-3085 gdepatis@virginia64.com

Complaint Manager:
Mekelle Neathery
mneathery@virginia64.com

6.50 Cafeteria Rules

Students may not leave campus during lunch, except with permission granted by administration or authorized staff. During lunch, students must proceed directly to the cafeteria or designated lunch area, and, after getting their lunch, shall immediately sit in a chair at a table. Students shall remain seated until the lunch tone rings, at which point they shall clean the area in which they are seated, dispose of any trash in the appropriate receptacle, and exit the cafeteria to their assigned location. Students shall follow all of the following cafeteria rules during lunch:

- Students shall not save seats for other students.
- Loud talking, yelling, screaming, and other disruptions are prohibited.
- Students shall not throw food, drinks.
- Students shall not trade food.
- Students shall not save places in line, cut in line, or otherwise cheat or intimidate their way into line for food service.
- Students shall remain seated while in the cafeteria except to return to the lunch line or return trays.
- Students shall not leave the cafeteria until the after the bell rings, or otherwise directed by staff.
- Students shall follow the instructions of the cafeteria aides and other staff and show proper respect toward all cafeteria personnel.
- Students shall immediately become silent when staff or presenters make announcements in the cafeteria.
- Students shall report spills and broken containers to cafeteria staff immediately.
- Food and drinks are to remain in the cafeteria and be disposed of prior to being dismissed.

Misbehavior will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's disciplinary procedures.

6.60 Field Trips

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field-trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline. All students who wish to attend a field trip must receive written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher or complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school, such as a delinquent student account of \$40 or more.

If a student is absent on the day prior to a field trip, that student will be required to have a doctor's excuse in order to attend the field trip.

Senior Trip Guidelines

The Senior Class Trip is a privilege rather than a right. Seniors must meet all trip eligibility requirements in order to attend. To be eligible for the Senior Trip, a student must be slated to graduate in Spring semester of the year of the trip. Final eligibility will be checked at the end of third quarter and must meet the same criteria as established for athletic/extra-curricular activities, including the weekly D/F list. Attendance and

grades second semester are extremely important. Students who fail to meet all academic, attendance, and eligibility requirements established by the class advisors will be removed from the Senior Trip list and forfeit all money paid. A student who has been suspended for any reason (either in or out of school for a minimum of one full academic day during second semester) will be excluded from Senior Trip and no refunds will be given.

6.70 Access to Social Networking Passwords and Websites

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

6.80 Student Use of Electronic Devices

The use of electronic devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices, except as provided herein. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following: cell phone, smart phone, audio or video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), ipod®, ipad®, laptop computer, tablet computer or other similar electronic device. Pocket pagers and other paging devices are not allowed on school property at any time, except with the express permission of the building principal.

Students are allowed to use electronic devices during non-instructional time, which is defined as before and after school. During instructional time, which includes class periods and passing periods, electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight unless: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms; (2) cheating; and (3) creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting).

The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school.

Students in violation of this procedure are subject to the following consequences:

1. First offense – The device will be confiscated by school personnel. A verbal warning will be assigned. The student will receive the device back at the end of the day in the school office.
2. Second offense – The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office.
3. Third offense – The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. Additionally, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the next 10 school days. If the student is found in possession of the device during this 10-day period, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.
4. Fourth and subsequent offense – The device will be confiscated. The student will be assigned a detention and will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Chapter 7: Internet, Technology and Publications

7.10 Internet Acceptable Use

All use of electronic network use must be consistent with the school's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These rules do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow these rules will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Acceptable Use - Access to the electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

Privileges - The use of the electronic network is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator or Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

Unacceptable Use - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;
- Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or virus free;
- Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
- Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
- Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
- Invading the privacy of individuals, that includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature including a photograph;
- Using another user's account or password;
- Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- Posting anonymous messages;
- Using the network for commercial or private advertising;
- Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
- Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

Network Etiquette - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
- Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.

No Warranties - The school and district make no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The school and district are not responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The school and district specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Indemnification - The user agrees to indemnify the school and district for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the school or district relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

Security - Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify the system administrator or building principal. Keep account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges/disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any network, including creation/use of computer viruses.

Telephone Charges - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

Copyright Web Publishing Rules - Copyright law prohibits the republishing of text or graphics found on the Web without explicit written permission. For each re-publication (on a Web site or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the Web address of the original source. Students engaged in producing Web pages must provide library media specialists with e-mail or hard copy permissions before the Web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of "public domain" documents must be provided. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the Web site displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.

Use of email - The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the School District. The School District provides email to aid students as an education tool. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student to an email account is strictly prohibited. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all electronic mail messages transmitted to external recipients. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of the authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted. Use of the School District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.

7.20 Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications

A student or group of students seeking to distribute more than 10 copies of the same material on one or more days to students must comply with the following guidelines:

1. The student(s) must notify the building principal of the intent to distribute, in writing, at least 24 hours before distributing the material. No prior approval of the material is required.
2. The material may be distributed at times and locations selected by the building principal, such as, before the beginning or ending of classes at a central location inside the building.
3. The building principal may impose additional requirements whenever necessary to prevent disruption, congestion, or the perception that the material is school-endorsed.
4. Distribution must be done in an orderly and peaceful manner, and may not be coercive.
5. The distribution must be conducted in a manner that does not cause additional work for school personnel. Students who distribute material are responsible for cleaning up any materials left on school grounds.
6. Students must not distribute material that:
 - a. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
 - b. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material: libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes copyright;
 - c. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the students' maturity level, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board policy and Student Handbook;
 - d. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use; or

- e. Is primarily prepared by non-students and distributed in elementary and/or middle schools.
- 7. A student may use the School District's Uniform Grievance Procedure to resolve a complaint.
- 8. Whenever these guidelines require written notification, the appropriate administrator may assist the student in preparing such notification.

A student or group of students seeking to distribute 10 or fewer copies of the same publication on one or more days to students must distribute such material at times and places and in a manner that will not cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities and in compliance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7.

7.30 One-to-One Program

Students participating in the one to one program will be provided a list of guidelines, obligations and expectations upon the payment of fees. Students will be aware that the fee is not all inclusive and that charges will be assessed for damages.

Chapter 8: Search and Seizure

8.10 Search and Seizure

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there. The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs. Students School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book-bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction. School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

Student Lockers:

All lockers belong to Virginia CUSD #64 and are assigned to high school and Junior high students during the school year. The school reserves the right to examine lockers and their contents, with or without the student's knowledge, for general inspection or when there is reasonable suspicion that the student has an illegal or harmful substance or article in the locker. Students are responsible for all locker contents. Lockers are assigned for the storage and protection of belongings. If the rules below are followed, everyone will benefit. Virginia Community Unit School District cannot assume responsibility for school or personal property missing or stolen from lockers. Students are expected to comply with the following:

1. Keep lockers locked at all times.
2. Use only the locker assigned to you.
3. Report lock/locker problems to the office.
4. Use only the lock supplied by the office unless you obtain permission to change it.
5. Soda, food, or wet clothing are not permitted in the locker.

Seizure of Property:

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

Chapter 9: Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities

9.10 Athletic Rules & Code of Conduct

Virginia Extra-Curricular Activity Handbook, inclusive of the Code of Conduct is available online to access information regarding our policies and procedures at: <http://www.virginia64.com/extra-curricular-handbook.pdf>

9.20 Attendance at School Sponsored Dances

All dances are for students currently enrolled at Virginia High School and their guests. Coronation is open to the general public, however, those in attendance must leave immediately after the court dance. All students and their guests are expected to abide by the rules set forth under Student Conduct in Chapter 6. Failure to do so will result in a request to leave the event. Consequences will be issued according to guidelines set forth in the student handbook.

High School Criteria:

- A student and guest must register to attend any dance at least three days in advance or by the posted deadline. Those not registered will not be admitted.
- Those attending any dance are expected to stay in the designated areas of the building. Anyone leaving the building prior to the end of the event will not be readmitted.
- No guests 21 years of age or older will be allowed to attend high school dances.
- Any student with a debt may not be allowed to attend any school related dance, or any activity associated with said dance.

Junior/Senior Prom and Rules

The Junior/Senior prom is open to Juniors and Seniors at Virginia High School and their dates. Junior and Senior status is determined as in section 2.60 of this handbook. The court member must maintain a C average to be eligible to be on the court and be in good standing in terms of debt and academic eligibility.

9.30 Student Athlete Concussions/Head Injuries

Student athletes must comply with Illinois' Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act and all protocols, policies and bylaws of the Illinois High School Association and/or the Illinois Elementary School Association before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity, including practice or competition. A student who was removed from practice or competition because of a suspected concussion shall be allowed to return only after all statutory prerequisites are completed, including without limitation, the School District's return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols.

9.40 School Classes, Clubs, and Organizations

A time is set aside so classes, clubs, and organizations can meet. Students are encouraged to participate in these activities. A list of all club/organizations is available in the office. No unauthorized organizations will be recognized or allowed to assemble during the school day.

Chapter 10: Special Education

10.10 Education of Children with Disabilities

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. The School provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the school. The term "children with disabilities" means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22nd birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of the school to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. A copy of the publication "Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities" may be obtained from the school district office.

Special Education Program and Services

Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) require a free and appropriate education for all children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21. To meet these requirements, Virginia School, in cooperation with the Sangamon Area Education Special Education District (herein referred to as SASED), provides special education programs and services. Programs and services are designed to meet the needs of students who have disabilities that adversely affect their success in a preschool or regular classroom setting. Parents, teachers, or other concerned individuals may make referrals. After a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, a committee of educational personnel determines the child's eligibility for programs and services. When a child is eligible for special education, an IEP is written which sets goals and recommends services specific to the child's unique needs. Parent/Guardian consent is required prior to the evaluation for special education placement. Parent/guardian participation is encouraged at every step. If a parent/guardian believes their child should be referred for an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education, please contact the building principal promptly to obtain and complete a referral form. Also available upon request are the complete Explanation of Procedural Safeguards to Parents of Children with Disabilities and ISBE Regulations governing special education. Additional services provided through SASED include the following: School Social Work Services, Child Find Services, Psychiatric Diagnostic Services, School Social Education Services, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Orientation and Mobility Training and Audio logical Services.

Section 504 Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate public education to each handicapped student within its jurisdiction, regardless of the nature of severity of the handicap. It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are handicapped, as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be handicapped under this policy even though they do not require service pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The act defines a person with a handicap as anyone who possesses the following:

1. Has a mental or physical impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.
2. Has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.
3. Due process rights of handicapped students and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced. The superintendent is the coordinator of the Section 504 activities for the district.

10.20 Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Behavioral Interventions Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The School Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities. Discipline of Special Education Students The District shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

10.30 Exemption From PE Requirement

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or
2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student's participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program.

10.40 Certificate of High School Completion

A student with a disability who has an Individualized Education Program prescribing special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four years of high school, qualifies for a certificate of completion after the student has completed four years of high school. The student is encouraged to participate in the graduation ceremony of his or her graduating class.

10.50 Access to Classroom for Special Education Observation or Evaluation

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child. For further information, please contact the school principal.

Chapter 11: Student Records and Privacy

11.10 Student Privacy Protection Surveys by Third Parties

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions. Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the building principal.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information

School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- Sexual behaviors or attitudes.
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
- Income other than that required by law to determine program eligibility

The student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

Instructional Material

A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

11.20 Student Records

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings (including electronic recordings made on school busses) that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes, though such electronic recordings may become a student record if the content is used for disciplinary or special education purposes regarding a particular student.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 business days of the day the District receives a request for access.

The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copy rights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. Within 10 business days, the building principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. In certain circumstances, the District may request an additional 5 business days in which to grant access. The District charges \$.35 per page for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost. These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.

2. The right to have one or more scores received on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript.

Parents/guardians or eligible students may have one or more scores on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript. The District will include scores on college entrance examinations upon the written request of the parent/guardian or eligible student stating the name of each college entrance examination that is the subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be included.

3. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that is believed to be inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper. Requests should be sent to the building principal and should clearly identify the record the parent/guardian or eligible student wants changed and the specific reason a change is being sought. If the District decides not to amend the record, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

4. The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records. Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

5. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.

The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

6. *The right to prohibit the release of directory information.*

Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:

- Name
 - Address
 - Grade level
 - Birth date and place
 - Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers
 - Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs
 - Academic awards, degrees, and honors
 - Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics
 - Major field of study
 - Period of attendance in school
- Any parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.

7. *The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student's information without your prior written consent.*

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the student's parent/guardian, or student who is 18 years of age or older, submits a written request that the information not be released without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. If you wish to exercise this option, notify the building principal.

8. *The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.*

9. *The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.*

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20202-4605

11.30 Student Biometric Information

Before collecting biometric information from students, the school must seek the permission of the student's parent/guardian or the student, if over the age of 18. Biometric information means information that is collected from students based on their unique characters, such as a fingerprint, voice recognition or retinal scan.

11.40 Military Recruiters & Institutions of Higher Learning

Upon their request, military recruiters and institutions of higher learning will be given access to students' names, addresses and telephone numbers. Parents who do not want their child's name to be released (or students over the age of 18 who do not want their name released) should contact the building principal.

Chapter 12: Notices and Disclosures

12.10 Teacher Qualification

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals by contacting the school office. Information available includes:

- If the teacher has met State certification requirements;
- If the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which State licensing criteria is waived;
- The teacher's college major;
- Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees;
- Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

12.20 Standardized Testing

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to cooperate in preparing students for the standardized testing, because the quality of the education the school can provide is partially dependent upon the school's ability to continue to prove its success in the state's standardized tests. Parents can assist their students achieve their best performance by doing the following:

1. Encourage students to work hard and study throughout the year;
2. Ensure students get a good night's sleep the night before exams;
3. Ensure students eat well the morning of the exam, particularly ensuring they eat sufficient protein;
4. Remind and emphasize for students the importance of good performance on standardized testing;
5. Ensure students are on time and prepared for tests, with appropriate materials;
6. Teach students the importance of honesty and ethics during the performance of these and other tests;
7. Encourage students to relax on testing day.

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that students in grades 3rd through 8th will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR). All Juniors in the state of Illinois participate in taking the SAT. Students enrolled in 5th and 8th grade as well as high school students enrolled in Biology II, will participate in the Illinois Science Assessment.

12.30 Homeless Child's Right to Education

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined at law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

- Continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
- Enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

12.40 Sex Education Instruction

Students will not be required to take or participate in any class or courses in comprehensive sex education, including in grades 6-12, instruction on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS; family life instruction, including in grades 6-12, instruction on the prevention, transmission, and spread of AIDS; instruction on diseases; recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse; or instruction on donor programs for organ/tissue, blood donor, and transplantation, if his or her parent or guardian submits a written objection. The parent or guardian's decision will not be the reason for any student discipline, including suspension or expulsion. Nothing in this Section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in biology. Parents or guardians may examine the instructional materials to be used in any district sex education class or course.

12.50 English Learners

The school offers opportunities for English Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to attain. Parents/guardians of English Learners will be: (1) given an opportunity to provide input to the program, and (2) provided notification regarding their child's placement in, and information about, the District's English Learners programs. For questions related to this program or to express input in the school's English Learners program, contact Mr. Gary DePatis at (217) 452-3085.

12.60 School Visitation Rights

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences. Letters verifying participation in such functions are available from the school office upon request.

12.70 Pesticide Application Notice

The District maintains a registry of parents/guardians of students who have registered to receive written or telephone notification prior to the application of pesticides to school grounds. To be added to the list, please contact the school office. Notification will be given before application of the pesticide. Prior notice is not required if there is imminent threat to health or property.

12.80 Mandated Reporter

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

12.90 Unsafe School Transfer

If a student is a victim of a violent crime that occurred on school grounds during regular school hours or during a school sponsored event, the parent /guardian may request a transfer to another public school within the district.

12.100 Sex Offender Notification Law

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child, such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board. Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property for any reason – including the three reasons above – he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children. A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.

12.103 Unsafe School Choice Option

The unsafe school choice option provided in State law permits students to transfer to another school within the District in certain situations. This transfer option is unavailable in this District because the District has only one school or attendance center. A student, who would otherwise have qualified for the choice option, or the student's parent/guardian, may request special accommodations from building principal.

12.105 Student Privacy

The District has adopted and uses several policies and procedures regarding student privacy, parental access to information and administration of certain physical examinations to students. Copies of these policies are available upon request. PRESS 6:170-AP2, Notice to Parents Required by ESSA, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and Protection of Pupil Rights Act - Contact Supt. DePatis with questions.

12.120 Sex Offender and Violent Offender Community Notification

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth. You may find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>. You may find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: <http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>.

12.130 Parent Notices Required by ESSA

Annual Report Card

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's website at www.virginia64.com

Student/Parent Handbook Acknowledgement and Pledge:

Name of Student: _____

Student Acknowledgement and Pledge

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities, and expectations. In order to keep my school safe, I pledge to adhere to all School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return to this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies, and procedures.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities, and expectations.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the School District website or in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return to this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies, and procedures.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date