

OLENTANGY | LOCAL SCHOOLS

2016-17

**MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT & PARENT
HANDBOOK**



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OLENTANGY LOCAL SCHOOLS

814 Shanahan Road, Suite 100

Lewis Center, OH 43035

740-657-4050

www.olentangy.k12.oh.us

INTRODUCTION

HANDBOOK AWARENESS STATEMENT

My signature below indicates that I have received and read the contents of the Student Handbook. The student handbook can be found on the district's website <http://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us>. I understand that if I have any questions, I can contact my student's principal. Parents should inform the school of changes in residence, custody and home phone, work and emergency telephone numbers.

TEACHER _____

STUDENT'S NAME (Please print) _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GRADE _____

STUDENT ID # _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM PAGE TO YOUR TEACHER THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

On behalf of the entire staff, we take great pride in welcoming you to the middle school. It is essential that parents and students read the Student Handbook. We are more than happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have. We are looking forward to working with each and every one of you as we embrace the new school year, continue to build on a tradition of academic excellence and provide a positive learning experience.

It is a pleasure to have you as a member of the Olentangy family. We strive to foster a partnership between home and school; we look forward to working with you.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Olentangy Middle School Principals

FOREWARD

The Olentangy Local School District (OLSD) Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain board policies and procedures. Please take time to become familiar with the important information contained in this handbook and keep the handbook available for reference. Please note that the majority of information in our handbooks is standardized and applies to all students K-12. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal. This handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current board policies and administrative guidelines are available from the building principal and on the district's website.

MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION IS TO FACILITATE MAXIMUM LEARNING FOR EVERY STUDENT

VISION STATEMENT

Our students will perform at a level that surpasses or is equal to their ability in all areas of achievement. We will promote high expectations for students in all areas: academic, artistic, physical, health, citizenship and service. In a fiscally responsible manner, we will commit the resources necessary to establish and maintain:

- A respectful, caring and safe environment
- Research-based, student-focused instruction
- Information-driven decision making
- A focused and challenging curriculum
- Collaboration focused on improving student learning
- An active partnership with parents and community

SCHOOL INFORMATION

School, policy, and building information can be found on our website <http://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us>.

DISTRICT INFORMATION SOURCES

Olentangy offers a variety of ways to keep up with important news and information on our school district:

- **Website:** The district's site offers a wealth of information about Olentangy, including school closings and delays, kindergarten registration, Board of Education meeting minutes, Top News, the district Continuous Improvement Plan and curriculum maps. Make sure you regularly visit www.olentangy.k12.oh.us.
- **Email Notification System:** Receive news, announcements and updates from Olentangy straight to your email inbox. To subscribe or to manage your account, visit the homepage of the district website.
- **Social Media:** www.facebook.com/olentangylocalschools, @olentangySD and @SuperOlsd on twitter.

ONLINE ACCESS TO STUDENT INFORMATION

Students and parents are able to access information via a web-based system:

- Students use their myOLSD account to access report cards, lunch account balance, transportation information and additional individual student information. Students can access myOLSD from the Student Resources page of the district website.
- Parents can access this information via their PowerSchool account. In addition, parents can access student courses, class materials, online assignments and course calendar information via their Schoology account. Parents can access Schoology and PowerSchool on the Parents Resources page of the district website.

The district website can be found at www.olentangy.k12.oh.us. If you forget your password, please contact your building secretary.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In the event of inclement weather, school delays and closings will be posted online at www.olentangy.k12.oh.us. Delay and closing information will also be reported using an automated phone system, the email notification system, the local television stations (Channels 4, 6, 10 and 28) and the radio stations (FM Channels 92.3, 94.3, 94.7, 97.9, 99.7, 103.9, 103.5/104.3, 104.9, 105.7 and 107.9 and AM Channels 610, 920, 1490 and 1550). There may be times when it is necessary to dismiss school during the day because of an emergency. In such instances, parents will be contacted using the district's automated phone system. Parents are urged to make arrangements with a neighbor or friend so that their child will have a place to go in case of an emergency if a parent/adult is not home.

CALLING SYSTEM

To update your contact information for the calling system, please click on the "calling system information" link on the district's website,

<http://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/Page/1380>.

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

Claims of copyright infringement may be emailed to olswebmaster@olsd.us or sent by email to the Communications Department, 814 Shanahan Road, Suite 100, Lewis Center, OH 43035.

SPEAK UP! STUDENT HELP! LINE

An anonymous system for reporting bullying and other safety concerns. To report a concern, simply visit your school's website and look for one of the two "Stay Safe" or "Bullied?" Speak UP! icons. Click on the icon that applies, select your area of concern and provide a short explanation of the incident. The system will send your anonymous report to the appropriate people to address your concern. You can also call (toll free) 1-866-listen2me.

FEDERAL/STATE/LOCAL COMPLIANCE

The Olentangy Local School District complies with federal laws that prohibit discrimination in programs and activities receiving federal assistance. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 prohibits discrimination on the basis of age. Olentangy Local Schools also complies with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1994 and grants parents/guardians the right to examine children's official school records. Inquiries regarding unlawful discrimination may be directed to the principal of the building or the district compliance officer.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY

Students are encouraged to use the school's computers/network and the Internet connection for teacher-assigned, educational work. All references to schools in this policy will mean any school in the Olentangy Local School District. The term computer or computer equipment includes but is not limited to: any electronic devices, personal or school owned that is used on school property (including on district-owned vehicles) or during district-sponsored trips.

Students using computers are expected to abide by the following rules:

1. Students may only access the network and/or Internet by using their assigned network account. Use of another person's account/password is prohibited. Students may not allow other users to utilize their passwords. Students may not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of or modify files, data or passwords belonging to other users or misrepresent other users on the network.
2. Students are permitted to use networked software and school-supplied software. Programs written by the student, which are part of an assignment in a school's course of study, may be run, as required, for that course of study's requirements with teacher supervision.
3. Students may not download programs from the Internet nor may they copy programs from any removable device or other outside media. Students may not install or delete programs on the school's computers.
4. Students may not use the Internet to engage in "hacking" or other unlawful activities.
5. Students may not create keyboard macros in Microsoft Word or any other program. Macros written by the student which are part of an assignment in a school's course of study may be run, as required, for that course of study's requirements with teacher supervision.
6. Students should only use computer programs approved by the classroom teacher.
7. The school staff may review computer files or messages that are created by the student. Material may be reviewed for grading and appropriate content. It may be reviewed for any harassing or threatening material (e.g., cyber bullying), trade secret protection and/or any vulgar or obscene content.

8. Students are not to send messages over the network or participate in online “chat rooms.” Students may not use any email or instant messaging programs on a school’s computer. A student may only use Internet e-mail when a teacher instructs him/her to do so.
9. Students are not to enter the network’s operating system.
10. A teacher may authorize the copying of student-created work to a removable device or other outside media. The use of a removable device or other outside media is not permitted without permission from a teacher.
11. Students may not have food or drink when working on school computers.
12. All copyright laws are to be enforced.
13. Students are not to unplug or change any computer device or network connections.
14. Students are not to change any display screen settings.
15. Students are not to change any program’s toolbars or settings.
16. Students are not to add or delete any program icons on the desktop or Start Menu.
17. Malicious use of computers or the school’s network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computing system is prohibited. Students may not use computers or the school’s network in such a way that would disrupt their use by others.
18. Students are not to remove, modify, damage or destroy any computer or networking equipment.
19. Students are not to modify or remove any identifying labels on computer equipment.
20. Students are not to modify or remove any printer settings.
21. Students are to advise school staff when they observe any violation of the school’s policy for the use of the school’s computers.
22. Students are to advise their teacher when a school’s computer malfunctions in any way (example: a program is not opening or closing correctly). The teacher will notify the technical support staff so that the computer can be repaired.
23. The possession of; or the taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of by way of example: nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfers or other means (commonly called texting, emailing, sexting, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person possessing, taking, disseminating, or sharing nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images or photographs may be punished under this code of conduct and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.
24. Cyberbullying is the act of harassment that takes place via some method of technological media. If a student is being harassed and the effect is on the school it does not matter where the offense originates, even if off grounds, if the effect of such acts makes a transition to school grounds it is under our best judgment to take appropriate action.
25. The use of electronic devices for recording purposes must have prior approval.
26. Students are permitted to use their cellular phones or electronic devices in designated areas during designated times only. Designated times and areas will be determined at the discretion of the building administration. Students using their cellular phones or electronic devices at times other than designated or in locations other than designated may be subject to school discipline. Contents of cell phones or electronic

devices may be searched if there is a reasonable suspicion that it may have been used in an activity prohibited by the Code of Conduct. At the building leadership's discretion, students' confiscated cellular phones or electronic devices may only be returned to their parent or guardian.

27. OLSD will provide access to filtered Internet and my.olsd.us platform (Schoology, PowerSchool, Google Drive) email via wireless access for personal computing devices belonging to students for educational purposes. Please note OLSD will not be able to provide technical support for personal computing devices. Students are not allowed to circumvent the Internet filter or click-through warnings. Personal computing devices are not to be attached to the OLSD network other than the wireless network provided for student use. Computing devices that have been determined to be a threat to the network integrity will be immediately removed from the network and will not be allowed back on until the technology department is assured that the cause for removal has been resolved. Passkeys are not to be shared with others. OLSD will not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property whether it be by accidental or malicious means including but not limited to other users, viruses, malware, spyware or bot traffic. Violators will be subject to disciplinary actions, removal from wireless network and/or confiscation of equipment. As a condition to using OLSD's wireless network, students should have no expectation of privacy in their use of the network, and by signing the handbook awareness statement specifically understand and agree that their personal computing device may be confiscated and searched anytime school officials have reasonable suspicion of violations of the technology usage policy or any other board policies, guidelines or laws. Students will receive the wireless passkey from a teacher or the school office upon submission of the handbook awareness statement with the appropriate signatures.

Exceptions to the above rules are permitted only under direct teacher supervision.

Violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to detention, Wednesday School, Saturday School, Suspension Alternative Program and/or suspension. Violations also may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities and/or other legal action may be pursued.

Technology Usage Agreement: If you do NOT desire for your child to use district-provided technology while at school, please submit a letter to your building principal. In the event that we do not receive this information, ALL students will be permitted to use district-provided technology according to the provisions listed in the Technology Usage Policy.

ATTENDANCE

GENERAL ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOURS

- Hyatts Middle School, Orange Middle School, and Shanahan Middle School are in session from 7:40 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Berkshire Middle School and Liberty Middle School are in session from 8:05 a.m. – 3:10 p.m.

If a student is absent from school, a parent must notify the attendance office to inform the school of their student's absence. Without this notification, Ohio law requires that the school contact parents by phone or letter to inform them of the student's absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

The following conditions may excuse a student from school attendance:

1. Personal illness or injury (a medical verification note may be required by the school principal)
2. Family illness - an emergency situation requiring the student to be absent from school
3. Quarantine of the home by local health officials
4. Death of a relative (limited to three days unless reasonable cause can be shown for a longer absence)
5. Observance of a religious holiday consistent with student's established creed or belief

Students returning to school after an absence may bring a written note from their parents or guardian stating:

1. The dates of absences;
2. The reason for the absences;
3. The parent or guardian signature; and,
4. The parent or guardian phone number.

The student should report to the attendance office the day he/she returns to school. **All students must obtain an *Admit Slip* the day of return.** Absences documented with medical verification notes for each date absent will be excused.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Any student absences that cannot be confirmed with a medical note or parent contact upon or prior to the student's return to school may be subject to the following consequences:

1. On the first offense a student may be issued a detention.
2. On the second offense a student may be issued a Wednesday or Saturday School.
3. On the third offense a student may be issued In-School Detention.
4. On the fourth or subsequent offenses a student may be issued Out of School Suspension.

Any of the above consequences may be waived upon the submission of a written excuse for the absence(s) in question.

Students may be permitted to complete/submit work missed due to an unexcused absence for full credit.

Students leaving school because of illness or other excused reason still require parent confirmation. After repeated absences, a doctor's note may be required to excuse future absences. Parent and or doctors' notes may be accepted by fax or e-mail in the main office. Admit slips for absences should be obtained before the start of the school day. Failure to follow Attendance Guidelines may result in school discipline. It is the responsibility of the school to report all attendance concerns to the Juvenile Court. A court officer will follow procedures to ensure the regular attendance of all students.

TARDINESS

Students shall arrive at school and be in the classroom for each of their assigned classes at the properly scheduled time. Habitual tardiness, according to Ohio law, is truancy and will be treated as such.

- Tardy – Up to ninety minutes late to school
- After school begins, students are required to report to the attendance office immediately upon arrival to obtain an *Admit Slip*.
- Each student will be permitted one tardy per quarter.
- On the second, third and fourth unexcused tardies in a quarter, a detention may be issued.
- On the fifth, sixth and seventh unexcused tardies in a quarter, a Wednesday or Saturday School may be issued and a parent conference may be requested.
- On the eighth and subsequent unexcused tardies in a quarter, an In-School Detention or similar consequence may be assigned, and a parent conference may be requested.

ABSENCE GUIDELINES

- Tardy- Students who arrive within 90 minutes of the school starting time will be considered tardy:
- Half-Day Absence- Students who are in school for more than 90 minutes but less than 3 hours and 20 minutes will be considered a half-day (1/2 day) absent.
- Full-Day Absence- Students who are in school for less than 3 hours and 20 minutes will be considered a full-day absent.
- Early Departure- Students who leave within 90 minutes of the end of the day will be considered a PM tardy.

FIVE CLASS PERIOD RULE

This policy designates five class periods as the maximum number of absences to be permitted in any one course during a nine-week grading period. If this number is exceeded, the student may receive a grade of "F" in that class for the nine-week grading period, or be subject to other consequences as outlined in the code of conduct.

Exceptions to the Five Class Period Rule (these absences do not count against the total):

- Absence verified by medical documentation for each date absent
- Observance of a religious holiday consistent with student's established creed or belief
- Death in the immediate family, limited to three days unless extenuating circumstances exist and absence is approved by the principal
- School-related absence – participation in a school-related activity (such as a field trip)
- Court appearance, with documentation
- Emergency circumstances, with principal's approval
- In-School Detention (ISD)
- Suspension Alternative Program (SAP)

ILLNESS WHILE AT SCHOOL

If a student should become ill or injured during school, s/he must ask his/her teacher for a pass to the clinic. The school must obtain parental permission in order for a student to be released from school due to illness. Prior to leaving the clinic for home, students and/or parents must sign out in the attendance office. If the student is sent home from school by the clinic staff for medical reasons, the absence for that school day will be counted as excused and will not count against the Five Class Period rule. Parents are requested to report all communicable diseases to the clinic. Being ill in the restroom for any extended period of time will not be accepted as an excuse to miss class. If a student is too ill to report to the clinic, notify the school office as soon as possible.

EARLY DISMISSAL OF STUDENTS

Middle and high school students seeking an early dismissal should report to the attendance office before first period with a parent note stating the reason and time to be excused. The student will be given a pass that is to be shown to the classroom teacher before signing out. The reason for early dismissal must be explicit in order to be considered excused. In case of a medical appointment, the student should turn in a doctor's note upon their return to school in order for it to be excused. Students must never leave the school building without permission and/or without signing out in the attendance office with parent approval. Failure to follow this procedure may result in school discipline.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR DAY PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in a school day extra-curricular/co-curricular activity, students must be in attendance four periods of the school day, not including lunch. A block scheduled class is equal to two regular class periods. Field trips, Alternate Learning Experiences, concurrent enrollment, medical/dental appointments and special family situations may be excused by an administrator.

ATTENDANCE CONSEQUENCES

The teacher should notify the main office in writing after the student has been absent from class three times in a nine-week grading period, but it is the student's responsibility to be aware of the number of days s/he has missed in each class. Upon the sixth absence, the teacher will notify the main office that a student has missed six class periods and may fail for the nine-week grading period, or be subject to other consequences as outlined in the code of conduct.

A student who has failed due to absences may serve one Saturday School to reduce one absence. Only one absence day per school year can be eliminated in this manner. The student must contact the principal or principal's designee within five school days after the end of the grading period to schedule a Saturday School. All other situations may be taken before the review panel.

REVIEW PANEL

Parents or students may request that a review panel examine their case if, in their opinion, there were extenuating circumstances that caused the student to exceed five absences in a class. A review panel will consist of a building administrator and four teachers chosen by the building administrator. The review will not take place until a Saturday School make-up has been arranged. The request for review must be received within five days after the end of the grading period.

SPECIAL ABSENCES: ALTERNATE LEARNING EXPERIENCE (ALE) AND STUDENT VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Olentangy Board of Education recognizes that educational experiences are not limited to those taking place within the building. It is desirable to afford students the opportunity to take advantage of an unusual opportunity to learn, provided those experiences have obvious educational benefits. Students may be required to submit a report or journal of their experience. Students are also permitted to take vacation with their family during the school year. ALE and student vacation absence days count toward the Five Class Period/Day Rule.

If approved, school absences due to an ALE or vacation will be considered excused and schoolwork missed during the experience may be made up. Teachers will not be required to give homework assignments prior to the absence. Upon receiving an ALE or vacation request, the building administrator will do one of the following:

1. approve the request;
2. give conditional approval to the request; or
3. deny the request.

Requests that would cause a student to exceed the Five Period Class/Day Rule may be conditionally approved by the building administrator pending the student satisfactorily completing all academic course work. It should be noted that additional days absent, counting toward the Five Class Period/Day Rule, within the grading period of the ALE or vacation could cause the student to fail the nine-week grading period or be otherwise impacted (e.g. Third Grade Guarantee).

ALE will not be approved for longer than 10 days. Absences that are not approved for an ALE or vacation may be marked as unexcused.

To be granted an ALE, the student will meet all the criteria listed below:

1. Submit a request on the designated form one week prior to the proposed absence, this form is available on the district website as well as in the main office;
2. document a valid learning content to the alternate experience, if applicable; and
3. demonstrate satisfactory attendance history.

An ALE or vacation request will not be approved for applications submitted after the experience, if there are academic concerns, for experiences that fall within district testing windows. An ALE or vacation request may be denied at the discretion of the building principal. Multiple ALEs and vacation requests are discouraged from being submitted in the same academic year.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

When withdrawing from Olentangy Local Schools, a parent or guardian must be present, sign the Withdrawal Sheet, and the following must be met:

1. All fees are paid, including library fines, etc.;
2. Books are returned in satisfactory condition; and
3. Assigned work is completed.

You must provide the address of the new school and your family's forwarding address. Your child's records will be sent within 14 days of our receiving a request for records from the new school.

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT

Curriculum, instruction, and assessment must be aligned with the board-adopted courses of study that are derived from the current state and national standards. Instruction delivered face to face, in an online format and/or in a blended format, is intended to maximize student learning and facilitate mastery of those standards. A course grade should reflect the content knowledge that a student knows and is able to demonstrate through the use of formative and summative assessments aligned to the instructional program.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The Board of Education furnishes all necessary instructional materials. For identification, each book is numbered. Each student is responsible for all instructional materials loaned to him or her, and is expected to return all instructional materials at the end of participation in the course. Students will be responsible to pay for any instructional materials that are lost, destroyed, stolen or mutilated.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

School counselor services may include:

- Assistance in planning future education
- Interpretation of test scores
- Occupational information
- Career information
- Help in improving study skills
- Scheduling assistance
- Help with home, school or social concerns

A student desiring to speak with a school counselor should leave a note in the school office requesting that the counselor contact him or her as soon as possible.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students or parents may request schedule changes through the school counselor. Written permission from the parent is required for the change. Administration reserves the right to make the final decision. Band, choir and other electives may only be added or dropped at the beginning of the nine-week grading period, with the written permission of a parent/guardian and teacher. Ultimately, it is the administration's responsibility to create student schedules and to make decisions about the assignment of students to classes.

LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER

Mission and collection- It is the goal of the Olentangy School libraries to provide support for the information and reading needs of students in order to maximize their achievement. Library collections are selected by licensed teachers who are certified school library media specialists, in compliance with the Library Materials Selection Policy (OLSD Policy 2520.02). Collections are designed to support readers at all levels and abilities, engage student interests, recognize diverse cultural backgrounds, and support curriculum-based research needs. Collections include a variety of grade-level appropriate media such as books, e-books, audio books, magazines and videos. Each school maintains an electronic catalog available from their library website with age-appropriate databases linked as well.

- **Instructional support**-Librarians provide reading selection support and information literacy, media literacy and technology literacy instruction for all ability levels to meet the needs of 21st Century learners. The K-12 library curriculum is taught directly or embedded into core subjects through direct lessons or in collaboration with core subject teachers. Many of our librarians provide grade leveled reading lists to guide student reading.
- **Equipment**-Olentangy school libraries provide computers, scanners, copiers, production software, printing, recording devices, projectors and other peripherals. They also support the instructional needs of teachers and provide audio-visual equipment for classrooms.
- **Policies**-The District Computer Usage Policy and the Student Code of Conduct are followed in all libraries, and librarians' behavior expectations are similar to other classroom teachers. Students are expected to work quietly and productively and to treat other learners with courtesy and respect. Library rules, policies and procedures are posted or shared with students within each school. Library materials should be returned in good condition in a timely manner and lost materials should be paid for so that they can be replaced.

ALTERNATE EDUCATION

- **Olentangy Academy: Supporting Individualized Success (OASIS):** The Olentangy Local Schools is proud to offer OASIS, a unique, student-centric educational program for families who are looking for an alternative option to the traditional school setting. OASIS provides students with customized online learning experiences, academic support in a setting with low student-to-teacher ratio, intensified career and college preparation, readily available adult mentoring, and individualized service learning opportunities. OASIS uses best practices, including research-based methods of connecting with and supporting students in their academic and developmental growth.
- **Jon Peterson/Autism Scholarship program**
The Board of Education authorizes the superintendent/designee to develop guidelines for compliance with Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Section 3301-103-04 related to the issuing of credits toward graduation and the issuance of a diploma for children in grades nine through twelve who are participating in the Jon Peterson or Autism scholarship program. OAC 3301-103-04 requires that this issue be addressed and decisions be documented on the student's current IEP.
- **Olentangy Academy: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**
The STEM program at Olentangy Academy is focused on an integrated, transdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning. Students will be working with local business and industry on design challenges to provide authentic, hands-on learning experiences that are directly connected to what they are learning in their math, science, English, and engineering course. Students will start their day at Olentangy Academy and in the afternoon will be transported back to their home high school for lunch and three additional periods. Applications for Olentangy Academy are due at the end of January and are available on all middle school and high school websites.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT BELOW THE NINTH GRADE

Olentangy Local Schools will award credit for all high school courses taken prior to the ninth grade. In most instances, a grade of "P" (passing) benefits a student's cumulative grade point average. Therefore, students will receive a grade of "P" on their high school transcript for each high school course taken. If, prior to the end of the first semester of the student's senior year, the student and parent wish to change the "P" grade into an academic letter grade, the student and parent must request this change in writing. Upon written request, the "P" grade will be replaced with the final grade issued on the student's 8th grade report card.

Per Ohio law, students new to the district desiring such credit must provide their respective counselor the following documentation on their previous school's letterhead: 1) that the course which credit is being pursued was a high school course; and 2) that the course was taught by a teacher who held the appropriate secondary teaching license/certificate for the course.

Students electing to re-take any course will not receive high school credit or a grade for the course below the ninth grade.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS (CCP)

Students in grades 7-12 may enroll full- or part-time in a post-secondary institution to take courses for high school and/or college credit. A post-secondary institution or college is defined as any state-assisted college or university described in the Ohio Revised Code or any nonprofit institution holding a certificate of authorization. Detailed information is available at <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp>.

Students interested in College Credit Plus (CCP) must meet all of the following criteria:

- A. Submit an intent form (found at <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp>) to the school counselor by April 1st
- B. Attend a mandatory meeting with high school officials explaining the program
- C. Apply to and attain acceptance from the college/university
- D. Meet a minimum grade point average required by the college

Students may choose option A or B as their post-secondary experience:

Option A: Students may enroll in college courses for college credit only. The student is responsible for paying tuition, fees, textbooks etc.

Option B: Students may enroll in college courses for both high school and college credit. Under this option, the student's enrollment will be financed by the local school district if the course is completed. However, the high school reserves the right to predetermine eligibility of a course for high school graduation requirements. For a college course to be counted as a required graduation credit, the student must get approval of the high school principal or designee before registering for the course. If the course is a three -semester hour course or greater, one Carnegie unit of credit will be granted. Grades received in the courses elected for high school credit will be included in the GPA and these credits will appear on the student's record.

Student Code of Conduct in CCP Settings: Students enrolled in CCP courses remain responsible for their behaviors like traditionally enrolled students according to Olentangy policy. In addition, CCP students are also accountable to the code of conduct of the post-secondary institution in which they are enrolled.

RELEASE TIME FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Students may be provided "released time" from school to attend a course in religious instruction conducted by a private entity off District property, provided that the following requirements are met, such students will not be considered absent when the:

- A. student's parent or guardian gives consent in writing;
- B. sponsoring entity maintains attendance records and makes them available to the District;
- C. sponsoring entity provides and assumes liability for the student; and
- D. student assumes responsibility for any missed school work.

Students shall not be excused from a core curriculum subject course to attend Released Time instruction. For more information, please refer to Board policy 5223 - Released Time for Religious Instruction.

HOMEWORK

The Board of Education acknowledges the educational validity of out-of-school assignments as adjuncts to and extensions of the instructional program of the schools. "Homework" shall refer to those assignments to be prepared outside of the school by the student or independently while in attendance at school. The superintendent shall develop rules for the assignment of homework according to these guidelines:

- A. Homework should be a properly planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing the learning experience of the school.
- B. Homework should help students learn by providing practice in the mastery of skills, experience in data gathering, and integration of knowledge, and an opportunity to remediate learning problems.
- C. Homework should help develop the student's sense of responsibility by providing an opportunity for the exercise of independent work and judgment.
- D. The number, frequency, and degree of difficulty of homework assignments should be based on the ability and needs of the student and take into account other activities which make a legitimate claim on the student's time.
- E. As a valid educational tool, homework should be assigned with clear direction and its product carefully evaluated.
- F. The schools should recognize the role of parents by suggesting ways in which parents can assist the school in helping a student carry out assigned responsibilities.
- G. Homework should always serve a valid learning purpose; it should never be used as a punitive measure.

When a student is absent from school, homework requests must be received by 10:00 a.m. in order to be fulfilled by 2:00 p.m. of the same day.

FIELD TRIPS

The Board of Education recognizes that field trips, when used for teaching and learning integral to the curriculum, are an educationally sound and important ingredient in the instructional program of the schools (OLSD Policy 2340). In order for your child to benefit from these activities, appropriate behavior from all students is necessary. Olentangy Local Schools reserves the right to prohibit students from attending field trips because of disruptive behavior.

Parent permission slips will be signed in advance. Students will travel by school vehicles. The Board of Education authorizes the incidental transportation by private vehicle of students of the district. This includes occasional transportation for field trips, outings, and the like. Routine transportation, however, shall be subject to all requirements listed in Board Policy 8560 and relevant administrative guidelines. Students will be released during the course of the trip to parents or guardians only. These releases should be arranged in advance by submitting a written request to the teacher or adviser in charge of the trip. In addition, parents will be asked to sign out their child at the time of departure. Siblings are not permitted to attend field trips with chaperones.

STUDENT AVERAGE

The student average is computed by using the GRADING SCALE below. The point value for each letter grade earned as a quarter grade is averaged to determine the student quarter average. Only the current quarter grades are used in determining this average.

GRADING SCALE

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING SCALE						
Letter Grade	Percentage	Point Value		Letter Grade	Percentage	Point Value
A	93-100%	4.00		C	73-76%	2.00
A-	90-92%	3.67		C-	70-72%	1.67
B+	87-89%	3.33		D+	67-69%	1.33
B	83-86%	3.00		D	63-66%	1.00
B-	80-82%	2.67		D-	60-62%	0.67
C+	77-79%	2.33		F	0-59%	0.00

GRADING INFORMATION

An “incomplete” is sometimes necessary in order to give students a chance to make up work missed due to illness. Work missed during absences may be made up (see attendance policy for details). Students should take the responsibility for contacting teachers for make-up work.

GRADE CARDS

All student grade cards will be made available electronically to parents and students for quarterly grade reporting. A paper copy will not be mailed home unless specifically requested. Grade progress is available through PowerSchool. Interim dates are posted on the school calendar.

ACADEMIC RECOGNITION ROLLS

The middle schools will honor students for the following standards of achievement (based on their cumulative GPA):

- Distinguished Roll 3.75-4.00
- Honor Roll 3.50-3.74
- Merit Roll 3.00-3.49

Academic rolls will be calculated after each quarter. Students earning a grade point average of 3.75 or higher without any D’s, F’s or I’s, will achieve the Distinguished Roll. Students earning a grade point average of 3.5 - 3.74 without any D’s, F’s, or I’s will achieve the Honor Roll. Students earning a grade point of 3.0 - 3.49 will achieve the Merit Roll.

RETENTION

Students who fail two or more year-long academic subjects will be retained unless, in the judgment of the teachers, counselors and the principal, circumstances would warrant assigning them to the next grade. Any student planning to attend summer school for credit to make up failed courses must obtain prior approval of their program from the principal. Only programs held at a school and taught by a certified teacher will be approved.

A student who fails the first semester and passes the second semester of a yearlong course shall receive the full credit of the course if recommended by the teacher and approved by the principal. A student who passes the first semester and fails the second semester shall fail that course and receive no credit if lack of effort is determined to be the cause of the failure.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION / MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORT (RTI/MTSS)

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a framework for providing high quality curriculum and instruction to all students and intervention support for some students. RTI integrates assessment, instruction, and intervention within a multi-level prevention system to maximize student achievement and reduce behavioral problems. The purpose of the multi-level prevention system is to help the student be more successful.

A Student Data Meeting is one component of the Response to Intervention framework. A Student Data Meeting brings together a team of dedicated professionals whose purpose is to ensure that high quality specific instruction is matched to meet the needs of an individual child. This may include the building principal, school counselor, school psychologist, support staff, intervention specialist, and the child's classroom teacher. The team is flexible based on the child's needs and therefore may have a range of team members. Children are referred to the Student Data Team for different reasons. A child may be experiencing academic, social/emotional, or health concerns. Referrals typically occur when a child is not making adequate progress toward grade level expectations despite interventions that teachers and parents put in place. If you have concerns about your child's progress please contact your child's teacher. For questions regarding the RTI/MTSS process please contact the building principal.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS GIFTED SERVICES

The state of Ohio requires school districts to identify students for potential areas of giftedness. Students are identified as gifted in cognitive ability, specific academic areas, and/ or visual/ performing arts areas through state approved assessment procedures. Olentangy Local Schools provides a continuum of services to support the varying instructional needs of gifted learners. Students with one or more areas of gifted identification receive supports from the General Education teacher, which may include differentiated instruction, enrichment opportunities, and guidance support. Students who are identified as gifted in both cognitive ability AND specific academic areas of reading and/ or math, receive additional gifted services. The Gifted Coordinator and General Education teachers collaborate to provide direct services in the areas of English/ Language Arts (ELA) and Math with the instructional supports listed above and may also include, cluster grouping, co-teaching, small group resource room instruction, and subject/ whole grade acceleration.

Please visit <http://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/administrative-departments/curriculum-instruction/gifted-services/> for additional details regarding the gifted identification process, criteria, and services.

POLICY ON ACADEMIC ACCELERATION, EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN, AND EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards will vary from student to student. The Olentangy Board of Education believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. For some advanced learners, this can best be achieved by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments, and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers. The Olentangy Acceleration Policy provides students with opportunities for possible accelerated placement through early admission to kindergarten, individual subject acceleration, whole-grade acceleration, and early graduation from high school.

A teacher, administrator, gifted education specialist, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or parent/ legal guardian of the student may submit referrals for possible accelerated placement to the school principal. A student may refer himself, herself, or a peer through a district staff member who has knowledge of the abilities of the student. Accelerated placement is a team decision and includes a review of classroom performance and standardized testing history, information regarding student work habits, motivation and desire for acceleration, and possible additional assessments as needed. The acceleration process evaluates the academic, social, and emotional readiness of students in order to determine a placement to best meet the needs of the whole child.

Copies of referral forms for evaluation for possible early entrance, whole-grade acceleration and individual subject acceleration are available to district staff and parents at each school building and are also available on the district website at <http://www.olentangy.k12.oh.us/administrative-departments/curriculum-instruction/gifted-services/>.

HEALTH

HEALTH REGULATIONS

Your child must meet county and state health regulations for entrance to school, including compliance with state immunization laws. The school nurse checks health records each year and will send you a reminder of the required immunizations your child still needs.

Students will be excluded from school if the immunization schedule is not completed within 14 calendar days after the student's first day of school. Written statements of objection to immunizations due to parent's or guardian's philosophical or religious reasons are filed in the student's health folder. Medical exemption for immunization must be signed by the child's physician.

Parents are required by state law to fill out an Emergency Medical Authorization Form. These are kept on file in the office and used in emergency situations.

The Olentangy Board of Education wishes to cooperate fully with students, parents and the medical profession to ensure that students receive any required medication during the normal school day at the time that it is required. It is preferred that medications be administered to students at home; however, it is also recognized that certain circumstances may necessitate administering medications during school hours. Guidelines have been established to maintain control of authorized drugs within the schools and to ensure the health and welfare of students. In accordance with O.R.C. 3313.713, all medications unless medically prescribed to self-carry must be kept locked in a storage place and administered by school personnel. Effective July 1, 2011, only employees of the Board who are licensed health professionals or who have completed a drug administration training program conducted by a licensed health professional and considered appropriate by the Board may administer to a student a drug prescribed for the student.

A Physician's Medication Procedure Request Form and Parent's Medication Procedure Request Form must be completed, signed and on file in the office before any medication, including over-the-counter and essential oils will be given by the clinic staff. Children are NOT permitted to transport any medication to school. All medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian and must be locked in a storage place unless medically prescribed to self-carry. This is critical to the health and safety of all children. In rare instances, a student may be allowed to carry certain prescription medications (e.g., asthma inhalers). If the physician deems it medically necessary for the student to carry a medication with him/her, the Physician's Medication Procedure Request Form must be signed and contain those instructions.

Middle and high school students are permitted to carry a one-day's supply of non-prescription medication, including essential oils, to self-administer if a Parent's Non-Prescription Medication Request form is signed by the parent and on file in the school office.

A parent note is required for elementary students to use cough drops at school. Cough drops must be supplied by the parent or guardian, kept in the clinic and administered by the clinic staff.

Medication forms are available in the school office and on the district website, and expire at the end of each school year.

In cases of communicable disease, a letter may be sent home and/or a notice may be passed on to the school community via email informing parents that a situation exists in their child's classroom. Because of the contagious nature of these conditions, it is important that you call the office if you find your child has been diagnosed with a

communicable disease. If your child has head lice, it will be necessary for you to bring him/her to be checked in at the clinic to verify that he/she has no live lice before he/she can be readmitted to school. The school nurse or designee will make the final decision on re-admittance to school.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

In accordance with Ohio Department of Health requirements and guidelines, school health staff conducts periodic health screenings to detect abnormalities in hearing, and vision. Health screenings may also be conducted when a concern arises. A permission slip will not be sent home for parent permission in advance of the screening. Parents may opt out by notifying the school nurse in writing.

ILLNESS/INJURY

It is important that students are not sent to school if they experience (d) a fever (100°F or above), vomiting, diarrhea and/or a persistent cough within the last 24 hours. It is advisable to keep a child home until the child is symptom-free for 24 hours without benefit of any medication. If a child returns to school and remains ill, parents will be called. If you and the other people on your emergency contact list are unavailable, and therefore unable to be reached, please designate a person we can call temporarily in the event of an illness or accident and notify the office of this change in writing.

CONCUSSIONS

Should a student exhibit signs, symptoms or behavior that is consistent with a concussion or head injury, they shall be removed from P.E. participation. School staff will notify the parent and will recommend an assessment by a physician or health care provider. The student may return to P.E. class with written clearance from the physician or health care provider that it is safe for the student to return to P.E. class.

MEDICAL CONCERNS

Notify the school nurse of any health concerns that impact your child's school day. If your student is transported to school by bus, the bus drivers should also be provided with this information. Each year Food Service must have an updated statement from your physician documenting the specific food allergy and acceptable substitutes in order to make accommodations within the National School Breakfast and/or Lunch Program.

HAND WASHING PROTOCOL

Hand washing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds is very important to prevent illness and communicable diseases. It is Olentangy district policy that students and staff will wash their hands at various times throughout the day including but not limited to after using the restroom, before eating, or after sneezing or coughing. When soap and water are not available, disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The image a school portrays is often determined by the behavior of its students and the physical appearance of the building. We must all - students, teachers, administrators, support staff and community members - show pride by doing our share to make the high school a better place in which to learn and work. One of the main goals of the Olentangy Local Schools is to develop self-discipline in all students and maintain an appropriate educational atmosphere.

The following code of conduct rules apply to all activities in the district, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student is at any school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events, or off the school grounds if the situation is initiated at school. Students shall be given due process before a disciplinary action is taken.

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Student Code of Conduct / Student Discipline Code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but where such conduct is connected to activities or incidents controlled by the Board. Conduct regardless of where it occurs, under the supervision of a district official/ employee or directed at a district official/employee or their property is subject to discipline.

A violation of any rule may result in discipline including, but not limited to:

- After-school, morning, or lunch detention
- Referral to school counselor
- Saturday or Wednesday School
- In-School Detention (ISD)
- Suspension Alternative Program (SAP)
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- Emergency removal
- Court referral
- Expulsion
- Permanent exclusion
- Compensatory payment of damages
- Loss of bus privileges
- Loss of credit for assigned work or tests
- Assigned work related to the offense
- Loss of other privileges

Participation in extra-curricular activities, including interscholastic sports, is a privilege and not a right. Students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel for offenses or violations of the Student Code of Conduct or Athletic Code of Conduct. Students prohibited from participation in all or part of any extra-curricular activity are not entitled to further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policies 2431-Interscholastic Athletics and 5610.05 -Prohibition from Extra-Curricular Activities).

Notice to students: The use of video surveillance equipment may be used in the investigation of violations of the Code of Conduct and may be used by school officials for educational purposes and safety; therefore these records will remain in possession of the school/district. Students may receive discipline as a result of what is recorded.

CODE OF CONDUCT RULES

1. **Disruption of School-** Students shall not cause disruption or obstruction to the normal operation of this school or any other school or school district.
2. **Harassment, Sexual Harassment/Violence, Bullying and/or Retaliation-** Students or groups of students shall not harass, sexually harass, bully and/or retaliate against other students, school employees, persons

that are guests of the school or persons conducting business for the school. This applies to but not limited to act or acts that create a hostile environment when it interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's program. (Refer to Hazing, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, and Sexual Harassment/Violence section below)

3. **Intimidation and/or Threats-** Students shall not, through verbal, written, technological or any other means, make statements that state that physical or emotional harm may come to another person or to an institution. Bomb threats will result in a recommendation of expulsion from school.
4. **Use of Obscene Language/Materials/Actions/Gestures-** Students shall not use obscene, vulgar or profane language, make inappropriate gestures/actions or possess vulgar materials.
5. **Attendance-** No student shall fail to comply with state attendance laws including, but not limited to, truancy or tardiness from a specific class or school. No student shall leave school property or an assigned educational location once he or she has come under the supervision of a school employee, prior to specified dismissal times, without official permission.
6. **Forgery-** Students shall not misrepresent a signature on any document.
7. **Damage of Property-** Students shall not cause or attempt to cause damage of school property, including buses and bus seats, or personal property. Students shall not touch or handle another person's property without their authorization. Students must pay for any damages they cause to school equipment, materials or facilities and may be subject to additional disciplinary action. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony.
8. **Assault-** Students shall not act or threaten to act in such a way as to cause physical injury to other students, any school employee or other persons. Specific violations include but are not limited to:
 - a. Fighting/Violence
 - b. Serious bodily injury
 - c. Threats of fighting, violence, or serious bodily injury (see #3 – Threats)
 - d. Unauthorized touching, pushing, shoving, and hands on or threats to put hands on.
9. **Failure to Obey Instructions/Insubordination/Disrespect-** No student shall fail to comply with any lawful instructions or requests of teachers, student-teachers, principals or other authorized personnel during any period of time when he or she is properly under the authority of such school personnel. No student shall fail to provide information, or supply false information, when it is requested.
10. **Dangerous Weapons and Instruments-** Students shall not possess, handle, transmit or conceal any dangerous weapon or instrument on school property, in a school vehicle or at any school-sponsored activity. Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto school property, competition, extracurricular event, or other school sponsored event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law. This expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis by the superintendent.

Firearms (including starter pistols), objects that are indistinguishable from and/or represented as firearms, explosives, incendiary devices and knives (any object with a blade and a handle) are considered dangerous weapons. Other instruments/devices may also be defined as dangerous weapons depending on their use or intended use. Should a student have knowledge of a weapon or dangerous instrument on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity and not report it to a school employee,

the student may be held to the same disciplinary measures as that of the perpetrator. (Refer to O.R.C. 2923.122.) Specific violations include but are not limited to:

- a. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of a firearm
 - b. Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm that is inoperable but that can be readily operated.
 - c. Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.
 - d. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of any explosive, incendiary or poison gas
 - e. Use, possession, sale, distribution or knowledge of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm or explosive, incendiary or poison gas (including knives and any other object with a blade and a handle)
 - f. A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purpose, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.
 - g. A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.
 - h. Any object that is used to threaten harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, and jewelry.
 - i. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of objects that are indistinguishable from and/or represented as firearms, explosives, incendiary devices and knives.
11. **Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs-** Students shall not possess, use, transmit, conceal, make arrangements to sell or purchase, or use the aforementioned items immediately prior to or during school or a school function. Look-alike drugs and drug paraphernalia are included and will be dealt with accordingly. (See Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Prevention Guidelines in the Code of Conduct section.) Specific violations include but are not limited to:
- a. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of intoxicating alcoholic beverages
 - b. Use, possession, sale, distribution, or knowledge of drugs other than tobacco or alcohol
12. **Tobacco-** Possession, consumption, distribution, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes or similar devices in school, on school grounds, and at any interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or other school-sponsored event is prohibited. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, clove cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. Paraphernalia used for the consumption of tobacco

products is prohibited. Per Senate Bill 218, administrators may refer violators of the tobacco policy to the Delaware Juvenile Court.

13. **Theft-** Students shall respect the personal ownership rights of others. Students shall not take ownership of items of others. The principal may exercise the prerogative of reporting thefts to local authorities.
14. **Academic Dishonesty-** Students shall not give or receive unauthorized information regarding class work or class activities, misrepresent the results of researched or laboratory assignments, or give or receive unauthorized assistance on assignments. Use of electronic translators without permission is a violation of this rule. Repeated violations may result in failure of academic subjects.
15. **Driving (applicable to High School only) -** Students driving a vehicle on school property shall follow the rules and regulations established for this privilege.
16. **Dress Code-** Refer to the Dress Code, in the Code of Conduct section.
17. **Inappropriate Display of Affection-** Students shall refrain from displays of affection. Students are not to hold hands, hug, kiss or demonstrate other similar acts of affection. In unusual circumstances involving sorrow or extreme joy, hugging is natural and acceptable.
18. **Unauthorized or Unsupervised Areas-** Students may not be in areas for which they have not been authorized or areas that are unsupervised.
19. **Hazing (Initiations) -** Initiations of any sort are prohibited. Initiations and/or hazing are those activities into which students are coerced in order to become part of a group or activity or to avoid harm.
20. **Technology Misuse/Abuse-** Computers/technology is provided for student use for teacher assigned work in courses or programs at the high school. Students may not use cell phones except in designated areas and at designated times. (Refer to the Code of Conduct section - Technology Usage Policy.)
21. **Violation of Bus Rule-s** Students must follow all bus rules as outlined in the Code of Conduct section – Bus Rules.
22. **General Misconduct-** Students shall refrain from throwing objects, or being abusive or excessively disruptive in their behavior. Respect the rights and feeling of others.
23. **Gross Misconduct-** Repeated violations of the Code of Conduct.
24. **Other violations-** Other conduct violations not covered in the above rules.

HAZING, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING, AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT/VIOLENCE

Hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, and sexual harassment toward a student, whether by other students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student is at any school-sponsored, school-approved, or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse. Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of intimidation or harassment to any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Harassment, intimidation or bullying is any intentional written/graphic, verbal, electronic, or physical act having reasonable intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule, or humiliate that a student has exhibited toward another particular student or students more than once and the behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student(s). It would

include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyber bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, hazing, and dating violence. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender. It would include, but not be limited to, unwelcome propositions, unwanted physical and/or sexual contact, verbal expressions, patterns of conduct intended to create discomfort and/or humiliation, boundary invasions, and sexual violence. Sexual harassing creates a hostile environment when it interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's program. It may be a single or isolated incident. Title IX protects against retaliation of reporting such acts. For more information about the District's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence procedures, please see Board Policy #5517.03.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy. Prohibited activities of any type including those activities engaged in via computer and/or electronic communications devices are inconsistent with the educational process and are prohibited at all times. No administrator, teacher or other employee of the District shall encourage, permit, condone or tolerate any hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment activities. No student, including leaders of student organizations, may plan, encourage or engage in any hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment.

Administrators, teachers and all other District employees are particularly alert to possible conditions, circumstances or events that might include hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment. If hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment is discovered, involved students are informed by the discovering District employee of the prohibition contained in this policy and are required to end all hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment activities immediately. All hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying, or sexual harassment incidents are reported immediately to the building administrator or appropriate administrator. An investigation will result and shall include documentation of the event, response and strategy for protecting the victim.

If the investigation finds an instance of hazing, harassment, intimidation, bullying/cyberbullying by an electronic act or otherwise and/or sexual harassment, has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/ or disciplinary action. This may include suspension or up to expulsion for students, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials. A victim of sexual harassment has the right to file criminal and/or Title IX complaints simultaneously. A student does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint or may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. For more information about the District's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence procedures, please see Board Policy #5517.03.

If, during said investigation, the Principal or appropriate administrator believes the reported misconduct may have created a hostile learning environment and may have constituted unlawful discriminatory harassment, said will report the act of to one of the Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers so that it may be investigated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Policy 5517.

Retaliation against any person who reports/thought to have reported or otherwise participates in an investigation/inquiry related to a complaint of aggressive behavior, bullying, or sexual harassment is prohibited. Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying, aggressive behavior, and/or sexual harassment for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports or retaliation may result in disciplinary action.

The superintendent/designee must provide the board president with a semiannual written report of all reported incidents of bullying and post the report on the district's website. For more information, please refer to board policy 5517, 5517.01. The district's policy and consequences for violations of the policy shall be sent annually to each student's custodial parent or guardian. The statement may be delivered electronically.

CONFIDENTIALITY IN REGARDS TO SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The district respects students' privacy and will only disclose information regarding alleged sexual violence to individuals who are responsible for handling the school's response, the student's parents (if the student is a minor or dependent under Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code), or otherwise required by law. Students or parents sometimes ask that the student's name not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrators or that no investigation or disciplinary action be pursued to address the alleged sexual violence which may limit the District's ability to respond fully to the incident, including pursuing disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator.

For more information about the District's Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence procedures, please see Board Policy #5517.03.

PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (TITLE VI)

The Olentangy Local School District is committed to having an environment free from all discrimination, including harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The district prohibits harassment, intimidation, or bullying on in the school environment, including all academic, extracurricular and school-sponsored activities. A student who violates this prohibition will be subject to the potential penalties set forth in the DISCIPLINE section of this handbook.

A staff member, any student or student's parent or legal custodian who believes that a student has been subjected to harassment, intimidation, or bullying on the basis of race, color or national origin may seek resolution of his/her complaint through the district's complaint procedures.

For more information about the district's prohibition against discrimination and complaint procedures, please see Board Policy #5517.02.

SCHOOL'S RIGHT TO SEARCH

Lockers, desks or storage places provided for student use are, and remain at all times, property of the Olentangy Local School District Board of Education. These areas and the contents, therefore, are subject to a random search at any time, pursuant to board policy. Random searches of lockers and vehicles may include the assistance of dogs trained to detect the presence of drugs. Administrators are authorized to conduct reasonable inspection of school property or of students and items brought upon school grounds, including vehicles, when there is reasonable cause to believe that a student may be in possession of evidence that a law or a school rule has been violated. In addition, the contents of a cell phone or other electronic devices may be searched if there is a reasonable suspicion that it may have been used in an activity prohibited by the Code of Conduct.

SECURITY RECORDINGS

The Olentangy Local School District may record security footage on district property. This footage, which is recorded for the protection and welfare of the school community, typically contains images of many students, as well as district employees and other persons.

Security footage contains personally identifiable information about students. State and federal laws generally prohibit the release of this information, and the district has *not* designated the footage as “directory information” that may be disclosed without the prior written consent of the students’ parents or guardians.

Security footage, and the personally identifiable information contained on the footage, will be disclosed only when authorized by law or when the disclosure is made to school officials with legitimate educational interests. The footage otherwise will not be disclosed to any person.

DISCIPLINE OPTIONS

- **DETENTION**

Detention is generally served after school for a duration of 30-45 minutes. At times, detention can be served in the morning if arrangements are made. Students are notified of the infraction and are to serve the detention on the “to be served” date listed on the detention slip. The parents will receive a copy of the detention slip, which will be sent home with the student. Transportation home after detention is the responsibility of the student/parent. All school rules apply while serving detention. Failure to serve assigned detention may result in further disciplinary action.

- **LUNCHTIME DETENTION**

Occasionally it becomes necessary to discipline a student for violating the established school rules or Code of Conduct. In an effort to deter such actions and hold students accountable for their behavior, detention during lunchtime may be assigned. Students are to report to the assigned room for the entire lunch period with the detention slip signed by the parent or guardian. Cafeteria privileges for that day are lost. Failure to return the signed detention slip or failure to serve the detention may result in the assignment of an After-School Detention.

- **SATURDAY OR WEDNESDAY SCHOOL**

Students may be assigned to a Saturday or Wednesday School. Please refer to the Saturday or Wednesday School form for specific times and directions. Saturday and Wednesday School guidelines follow:

1. Absence from an assigned Saturday or Wednesday School, without prior approval of an administrator, may result in a suspension.
2. Students are to sign in upon arrival.
3. Students are to bring schoolwork.
4. Talking is not permitted.
5. Appropriate breaks will be determined by the monitor.
6. Parents will be notified of assigned Saturday or Wednesday School and students are also to inform parents.
7. No sleeping will be permitted.

- **IN-SCHOOL DETENTION (ISD)**

1. Students serving In-School Detention shall be permitted to make up and receive credit for assignments during In-School Detention.
2. Students are to bring schoolwork.
3. Parents will be notified of In-School Detention.
4. In-School Detention days will *not* apply toward the Five Class Period Rule.

5. Guidelines for ISD will be issued and discussed upon assignment of the student to this detention.

- **SUSPENSION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM (SAP)**

Suspension Alternative Programs may be assigned for students in order to allow them to make up work missed during a suspension.

1. Students must successfully complete each full day, including community service work in area parks or other designated areas, and any other program components.
2. Besides work (e.g., picking up litter in the parks) students will have a short break, lunch and a study session.
3. Upon completing the program, students will have earned the right to make up work missed while serving SAP.
4. The Delaware Area Career Center (DACC) bus will take students from their home school at about 7:10 a.m. and drop them off at the pick-up point at the DACC to be picked up by Juvenile Court personnel. At the completion of the day, students will be dropped off at the DACC and take the OLSD bus back to their home high school. The bus will arrive at the student's home school prior to the student's normal dismissal time.
5. The program supervisor will transport the students to the work area.
6. Students will receive credit for participation based on their work performance and overall behavior.
7. Students may be required to repeat any segment of the program if they only earn partial credit.
8. The supervisor will report the student's behavior to the school and to the probation counselor, if applicable.
9. Students must dress appropriately for the weather and wear hard shoes. Students should bring their own lunch, including a drink.
10. Students must follow all school and juvenile court policies.
11. Suspension Alternative Program days will not count toward the Five Class Period Rule as long as the evaluation from the SAP supervisor is satisfactory.

- **OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)**

The principal or the principal's designee may suspend a student from school for a period of up to ten (10) days for violation(s) of the Code of Conduct.

1. Parents will be notified of the suspension and may be asked to take the student home. The student may not attend school through the length of the suspension.
2. Students will be permitted to make up class work, quizzes, tests, papers, and/or major projects missed while serving Out of School Suspension for full credit.
3. Parents will be notified of the student's rights to appeal.
4. Suspensions may cross semester lines and may be carried from one school year to the next.
5. All Out-of-School Suspensions may apply to Five Class Period Rule.
6. Students may not attend any school functions, home or away, while serving OSS.
7. Students are not permitted on school grounds while serving OSS.

- **EMERGENCY REMOVAL**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, then the superintendent, principal or assistant principal or personnel employed to directly supervise or coach a student activity, may remove the student from the school premises. If school personnel make an emergency removal, reasons will be submitted to the principal in writing as soon after the removal as practical. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from a

curricular or extracurricular activity for less than 24 hours and is not subject to suspension or expulsion, the due process requirements do not apply.

If either suspension or expulsion is contemplated, then a due process hearing will be held within three school days after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reason for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be given to the student as soon as practical prior to the hearing. The student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, superintendent or designee and has the right to challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain his/her actions. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. Within one school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent, guardian or custodian of the student and treasurer of the Board of Education. This notice will include the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student or parent to appeal to the superintendent or his/her designee.

If the superintendent or principal reinstates a student prior to the hearing for emergency removal, the teacher may request and will be given written reasons for the reinstatement. The teacher cannot refuse to reinstate the student.

In an emergency removal, a student can be kept from class until the matter of his/her misconduct is disposed of either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

- **PERMANENT EXCLUSION**

In accordance with the law, the Board of Education may seek to permanently exclude a student, 16 years of age or older, who has been convicted of or adjudicated delinquent for the reason of the following offenses:

1. carrying a concealed weapon or conveying or possessing a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance on property owned or controlled by a board of education or at an activity held under the auspices of this board
2. possessing, selling, or offering to sell controlled substances on property owned or controlled by a board of education or at an activity under the auspices of this board
3. complicity to commit any of the above offenses, regardless of where the complicity occurred

In accordance with law, any student, 16 years of age or older, who has been convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing the following offenses may be subject to permanent exclusion:

1. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration
2. murder, manslaughter, felonious or aggravated assault
3. complicity to commit offenses described in paragraphs A and B, regardless of where the complicity occurs

The above statement of policy on permanent exclusion is to be posted in a central location in each school as well as made available to students, upon request. Please see district policy for additional information.

- **EXPULSION**

If all other attempts to modify student behavior are unsuccessful, or a serious violation of the Code of Conduct is committed, the student may be recommended for expulsion from school. If a student is

expelled, the length of the expulsion may be up to 180 school days and may extend into the following semester or school year. Schoolwork missed as a result of expulsion may not be made up.

O.R.C. 3313.662 permits the state superintendent of public instruction, upon the request of a local board of education, to permanently exclude certain pupils from attending any public school in the state under certain conditions. To permanently exclude would mean to forever prohibit an individual from attending any public school in this state that is opened by a city, local, exempted village or joint vocational school district.

The superintendent may permanently exclude a pupil if the pupil is convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for committing, when he was age 16 or older, any of the following offenses or acts (hereinafter, "predicate offenses") that would be offenses if committed by an adult, on property owned or controlled by a school board or at an activity held under the auspices of a school board:

1. Illegal conveyance or possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance on school premises.
2. Carrying a concealed weapon, municipal ordinance substantially similar to that offense, or aggravated trafficking, trafficking in drugs, or trafficking in marijuana involving the possession of a bulk amount or more of a controlled substance or the sale of a controlled substance.
3. Aggravated murder, murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, felonious assault, aggravated assault, rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration, if the victim is an employee of the school board.
4. Complicity in any violation described in items 1, 2 or 3 above, that was alleged to have been committed in the manner described in items 1, 2 or 3 above, regardless of whether the act of complicity was committed on property owned or controlled by, or at any activity held under the auspices of a school board, including extra-curricular activities, the joint vocational schools and post-secondary options locations.

DUE PROCESS AND RIGHT OF APPEAL

When a student is being considered for an out-of-school suspension by the superintendent, principal, or other administrator:

- 1 The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
- 2 The student will be afforded an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.
- 3 An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.

Students may be permitted to make up class work, tests, papers, and/or major projects missed while serving Out-of-School Suspension for full credit.

If the assigned school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting or be subject to appeal.

The pupil, parent, guardian, or legal custodian may file an appeal of the administrative decision to suspend or expel a pupil to the Board of Education or designee by filing a notice of appeal in writing with the treasurer within 14 calendar days of the formal written notice of suspension or expulsion to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the pupil. Failure to timely file an appeal in this manner waives any right to appeal the suspension or expulsion.

COURT REFERRAL

Referral to Delaware County Juvenile Court may be used when other disciplinary actions have not been effective. The two most common reasons for referral are truancy and unruliness. The parents will receive a warning notice that students are going to be referred and notice when they are referred.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG PREVENTION GUIDELINES

It is the primary objective of Olentangy Local Schools to assure that the education of all students proceeds in an efficient, orderly and non-disruptive manner. Possessing, using, actual or attempted transmitting, buying, selling or supplying of mood-altering chemicals or look-alike substances or paraphernalia on school premises is an obstacle to that objective and an interference with the rights of other students to receive quality academic instruction. While student drug education and referral to counseling resources will continue to be made available, such measures should be viewed as instructional or rehabilitative and will not ordinarily be considered as an alternative to the disciplinary measures specified in Section 9.

1. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING STUDENTS

Students of Olentangy Local Schools, while on school property or at a school-sponsored activity, shall not possess, use, transmit, buy, sell, supply or attempt to do so with a mood-altering chemical of any kind prior to or during the school day, at any school-sponsored activity or event or at any time while on school premises.

a) Definitions

- i "Possession" includes, without limitation: holding in the student's hand, retention on the student's person or in purses, wallets, lockers, desks or any other personal possessions, or vehicles parked on school property or at school functions.
- ii "Use of mood-altering chemical" is defined as manifesting signs of chemical misuse such as staggering, reddened eyes, odor of chemicals, nervousness, restlessness, memory loss, abusive language, falling asleep in class or any other behavior not normal for that particular student, or a preponderance of evidence that a student has used a mood-altering chemical.
- iii "Tobacco" includes any product containing tobacco or nicotine that is smoked, chewed, inhaled or placed against the gums.
- iv "Mood-altering chemical" Includes, without limitation, alcohol, marijuana, inhalants, ecstasy or other club drugs, depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, narcotics, over-the-counter medications (including any over-the-counter pain medications containing aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, or any other pain relievers, any cough or cold medications, etc.), substances such as *Wite Out*, glue, toxic markers and caffeine pills. Prescription drugs are included in this, unless authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and kept in the original container that states the student's name and directions for proper use, according to school policy. See Medication section of this policy. This list is intended for example only and not as an exclusive list.
- v "Counterfeit" or look-alike drug is (O.R.C., Section 2925.01(P)) any drug that bears, or whose container or label bears a trademark, trade name or other identifying mark used without authorization of the owner of rights to such trademark, trade name or identifying mark.

- a. Any unmarked or unlabeled substance that is represented to be a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical, manufactured, processed, packed or distributed by a person other than the person that manufactured, processed, packed or distributed it.
- b. Any substance that is represented to be a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical but is not a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical or is a different controlled substance/mood-altering chemical.
- c. Any substance other than a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance/mood-altering chemical because of its similarity in shape, size and color or its markings, labeling, packaging, distribution, or the price for which it is sold or offered for sale.

b) Jurisdiction

This policy extends to use of the above:

- i On or in close proximity to any property owned, leased by or under the control of the Olentangy Board of Education, including vehicles used for the transportation of students.
- ii During normal school hours, including recess, lunch and class changes, and summer school.
- iii At any school-sponsored or sanctioned activity or event away from or within the school district.

2. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

All students are responsible for understanding the Olentangy Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Prevention Guidelines and the counseling services available to them.

3. PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Olentangy Board of Education recognizes that parents are primarily responsible for their children. The link between school and parents is the child. The effectiveness of these Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Prevention Guidelines will be assisted by the cooperative effort of the family, the school officials and the board.

4. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

All Olentangy staff members have the responsibility to report all suspected cases of drug and/or alcohol use, misuse or abuse by students to the appropriate school officials. Staff members will report to the building official alleged possession, use, actual or attempted transmitting, buying, selling or supplying of mood-altering chemicals, counterfeit or look-alike substances or paraphernalia. Staff will immediately notify the principal or principal's designee and may be required to submit a written report at a later time.

5. SCHOOL OFFICIALS RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the school officials to inform students, staff and parents about the drug and alcohol abuse policy of this school district and to share with these audiences any available pertinent information regarding the extent of the drug and alcohol problem in the school.

Except for the persons directly involved in the students' education and except as otherwise provided herein, all matters concerning reports of drug or alcohol abuse shall be and remain confidential.

When a school official has reason to believe that a student is in violation of the drug/alcohol code of conduct, the following action will be taken:

- a) The student will be informed of the alleged offense, the evidence to support the allegations and the disciplinary action that may apply.
- b) If the student is in need of medical attention, the school nurse and/or the local emergency squad will be notified to give medical attention.
- c) The parent or guardian of the student will be notified and asked to meet with the school officials. Only in the case of medical emergency or if the parent(s) cannot be reached will the person on the student's emergency call list be notified.
- d) School officials will cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies and report to them any information that would be considered beneficial in their efforts to stem the use of drugs and alcohol.
- e) Notification to the local law enforcement agency shall be in accordance with the provisions under each offense. When reported, a written record shall be made of the incident to the law enforcement official who, at their discretion, may conduct an investigation.

6. MEDICATION

The Olentangy Board of Education wishes to cooperate fully with students, parents and the medical profession to ensure that students receive any required medication during the normal school day at the time that it is required. It is preferred that medications be administered to students at home; however, it is also recognized that certain circumstances may necessitate administering medications during school hours. Guidelines have been established to maintain control of authorized drugs within the schools and to ensure the health and welfare of students. In accordance with O.R.C. 3313.713; all medications must be kept in a locked storage place and administered by school personnel unless medically prescribed to self-carry. Effective July 1, 2011, only employees of the Board who are licensed health professionals or who have completed a drug administration training program conducted by a licensed health professional and considered appropriate by the Board may administer to a student a drug prescribed for the student.

7. DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Drug paraphernalia or instruments such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, pacifiers, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits, nitrous oxide paraphernalia, rolling papers, water pipes and any other items normally or actually used for the packaging, conveyance, dispensation or use of mood-altering substances will not be permitted on any school property or vehicle and will be subject to confiscation. Possession of drug paraphernalia will be treated the same as possession of a mood-altering substance. Addiction to an illegal substance may not be used as an excuse for a violation.

8. SEARCHES

Random searches may include the assistance of dogs trained to detect the presence of drugs. If the school official has reason to believe that mood-altering or controlled substances drug paraphernalia or instruments are concealed in a school locker, on a student, in a purse, wallet, book bag or in a student's vehicle, the following applies:

- a) **Locker Search:** Lockers supplied by the school and used by the students are the property of the board of education. Therefore, student lockers and the contents of the lockers are subject to random search at any time without regard to whether there is a reasonable suspicion that any locker or its contents contains evidence of a violation of a school rule or criminal status.
- b) **Personal Searches:** The school official may ask a student to reveal any illegal or dangerous item(s) suspected of being on his person, in a purse, wallet or book bag. If the student refuses, the school official may ask the student or the student's parent for permission to conduct a search. The school official, at their discretion, may call the local law enforcement agency to investigate.
- c) **Student Vehicle:** When illegal or dangerous items are suspected to be in a student's vehicle on school property, permission of the driver or owner will be secured to search the vehicle. If permission to search the vehicle is denied, the local law enforcement agency may be called to search the vehicle.

9. OFFENSES AND DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The actions set forth below will be considered routine disciplinary measures for each category and occurrence of offense. It is intended that the penalties delineated below shall be considered the standard penalty to be imposed for the offenses described. In incidents where extreme violations occur, the specified actions may be waived by the school official in favor of stronger measures such as longer suspensions (not to exceed ten days), expulsion or other appropriate action. Similarly, the school official may at the hearing consider matters in mitigation of the routine disciplinary measures.

School officials will follow the process below when handling level II & III offenses:

- a) The rapid eye movement test may be administered for screening purposes. If the screening is positive, it will be recommended that the parents seek professional guidance with a certified chemical dependency counselor. Also, an investigation will be conducted by the legal authorities as to the source of the drug.
- b) Parents will be notified immediately and the student may be removed from classes or the school event.
- c) Law enforcement officials may be notified and, at their discretion, conduct an investigation. In any instance in which it is illegal for a school official to possess or dispose of a mood-altering drug, law enforcement will be notified. School officials will notify law officials in the jurisdiction in which the offense occurs. School officials may file charges in the appropriate court.
- d) Parents will consult with the principal or the principal's designee.

Following are the level of offenses that are prohibited and the consequences that will result from the student's decision not to abide by the school policy.

Violations are cumulative within grades 7-12.

Tobacco

- Use or possession of tobacco, nicotine or paraphernalia used to consume tobacco products

Level I Drug & Alcohol Offense

- Possession, use or application of any mood-altering chemical, as defined above

Level II Drug & Alcohol Offense

- Actual or attempted transmitting, selling, supplying or purchasing of mood-altering chemicals, counterfeit or look-alike substance or paraphernalia

Offenses	Tobacco Consequences	Level I Drug & Alcohol Consequences	Level II Drug & Alcohol Consequences
First Offense	Two Wednesday/Saturday Schools ¹	Ten days out of school suspension ²	Ten days out of school suspension ² with a recommendation for expulsion
Second Offense	Three days In-School Detention ³	Ten days out of school suspension ² with a recommendation for expulsion	Ten days out of school suspension ² with a recommendation for expulsion
Third and Subsequent Offenses	Five days Out-of-School Suspension ⁴	Ten days out of school suspension ² with a recommendation for expulsion	Ten days out of school suspension ² with a recommendation for expulsion

Suspension/Discipline Reduction Options:

¹ Two Saturday Schools may be reduced to one at the discretion of the administrator if student/parent agrees to enroll in and complete an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor as specified in Section 10.

² Ten day out of school suspension may be reduced to 5 days at the discretion of the administrator if student/parent agrees to enroll in and complete an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor as specified in Section 10.

³ Three days of In-School Detention may be reduced to two at the discretion of the administrator if student/parent agrees to enroll in and complete an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor as specified in Section 10.

⁴ Five days Out-of-School Suspension reduced to three days In-School Detention at the discretion of the administrator if student/parent agree to enroll in and complete an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor as specified in Section 10.

10. SELF-REFERRAL

Students have the opportunity for a voluntary referral procedure to seek information, guidance, counseling and/or assessment in regard to the use or possession of tobacco, alcohol and other controlled or non-controlled substances. The student or his/her immediate family may make voluntary referrals.

For an alcohol and/or controlled substances/mood-altering chemicals referral, the student must have, within five days, an appointment for an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor and notify the principal or principal's designee of the appointment. The student must participate in the assessment process (the cost of any and all assessment will be the responsibility of the student and/or parents) and

follow the counselor's recommendations to completion. If treatment or counseling is recommended it must be with an Ohio-certified chemical dependency counselor. The student must waive his/her rights of confidentiality so that verification of this assessment and a written report can be given to the principal or principal's designee.

For a tobacco referral, the student must, within five days, provide verification of enrollment in an out-of-school tobacco education/cessation program approved by the principal or principal's designee. Parents must sign a release of information to the principal/principal's designee so that the student's progress in the program can be followed and written verification of completion given to the principal or principal's designee. The student must complete the program or receive the original discipline.

Voluntary referrals will not carry violation consequences on the first offense only. Voluntary referral must occur prior to any report of violations. Involvement by law enforcement officials negates the option of voluntary referral. The student may use the option of voluntary referral once in his/her career at Olentangy Local Schools.

Any subsequent violations will be enforced as a second or subsequent violation. If the student requesting the voluntary referral opportunity does not complete the assessment recommendations by the established time schedule, the violation consequence will be put into effect immediately.

DRESS CODE

The Olentangy Local School District is committed to providing a safe, friendly learning environment for its students. Attire is not only a reflection of the individual student, but also of the general learning environment. Therefore, students have the responsibility to wear clothing that projects a positive attitude of pride in self, school and the community. Students are required to wear appropriate, comfortable and safe clothing that is neat, clean and in good taste. No article of clothing shall be worn that distracts from the educational process. Olentangy Local Schools views the Dress Code as a serious issue and expects parents to promote the observance of this policy. **Building administrators have the final decision as to the appropriateness of all clothing and attire.**

Following are guidelines for students:

1. Vulgar, illegal (including alcohol, drugs, tobacco) and/or sexually oriented statements or suggestions on clothing are not permitted. Any dress or statement that may cause a hostile, intimidating, degrading, offensive, harassing or discriminatory environment is prohibited.
2. Hats (or other head coverings) and sunglasses will not be permitted to be worn inside the school building unless approved by a principal, a physician and/or the school nurse.
3. Chains and/or studded accessories are prohibited and may be confiscated until the end of the school year. Accessories that increase a student's risk for accidents are not permitted.
4. Shorts and skirts will be no shorter than the middle of the thigh.
5. Shirts and tops will be no lower than one inch below the collarbone, must have sleeves and must be long enough to be tucked in.
6. See-through clothing and clothing that has excessive rips, tears or holes are not permitted. All undergarments are to be covered.
7. Oversized clothing, which compromises the safety of students, is not permitted.

8. Appropriate and safe shoes or sandals will be worn at all times.
9. Coats are to be worn to and from school only and must be placed in student lockers. Students should be prepared for variations in temperature by having a sweatshirt and/or sweater.
10. Students may be permitted to carry book bags, backpacks, and/or other large bags during the school day at the discretion of school administration.

Some school programs, such as industrial arts, laboratory activities, physical education and interscholastic athletics may require special hair care, clothing, footwear or restrictions on jewelry to ensure the health and safety of all students.

Failure to comply with the Dress Code guidelines is considered to be an insubordinate act and will be treated as such.

Following are the procedures for violations of the high school Dress Code:

1. First Offense: The student will be sent to the main office. Student will change clothes or will be sent home to change his/her clothes. Inappropriate accessories will be confiscated. If the student is sent home, this absence will be treated as an unexcused absence. Any class work missed during an unexcused absence may be made up for full credit. Student may be placed in ISD until appropriate clothing can be obtained.
2. Second Offense: Same as 1st offense. In addition, the student may be assigned to detention. Parents will be contacted.
3. Third Offense: Same as 1st and 2nd offense. In addition, the student may be assigned to Saturday/Wednesday School.
4. Further Offenses: The student may be suspended from school.

BUS RULES

Notice to students: The use of video surveillance equipment may be used in the investigation of violations of the Code of Conduct. Please refer to the Security Recording section of this handbook for additional details. Students may receive discipline as a result of what is recorded.

The following bus regulations are considered recommended guidelines to correct behaviors that could create an unsafe environment.

Administrative responsibility prior to the first written conduct report:

Building administrators will assure that each student receives a copy of the Student Handbook (with Bus Rules included) at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment of a new student.

It is our privilege and pleasure to furnish students with the safest transportation possible as they travel between home and school and on school-related trips. In order to protect all students riding Olentangy school buses, safety precautions are a must! **Your help is needed because safety is everyone's responsibility!**

All students are to understand that the bus driver is in charge of the bus at all times. Any student who repeatedly violates the safety precautions and/or conduct rules may be denied the privilege of riding the bus and is subject to other disciplinary action to be determined by the principal and/or transportation director.

To that end, the following conduct rules are called to your attention:

1. To provide maximum safety, direct procedure requires all students to arrive at the bus stop five (5) minutes

before the bus is scheduled to arrive. If a student is not at the designated place of safety (at least 20 or more steps away from the bus stop), the bus is not required to wait. Pupils shall arrive at the bus stop before the bus is scheduled to arrive. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08 C4)

2. Students must wait quietly in a location clear of traffic and away from the bus stop. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
3. Student behavior at bus stops must not threaten life, limb or property of any individual. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
4. Each pupil shall be assigned a designated place of safety on the residence side of the roadway on which the vehicle is scheduled to stop. The driver must account for each pupil at the designated place of safety before leaving. Pupils are not to proceed to their residence until the school bus has departed the area. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08 B6)
5. The driver must use an approved hand signal and eye contact with students outside the bus at any stop where students must cross the roadway in front of the bus. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08 C.6)
6. Students must go directly to an available or assigned seat. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
7. Students must remain seated, keeping aisles and exits clear. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
8. Students must observe classroom conduct. All school rules apply on the bus. Obey the driver promptly and respectfully. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
9. Students must be courteous and respectful to fellow students and to the bus driver.
10. Students must not engage in loud talking or laughing, excessive horseplay, or fighting.
11. Unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and might result in a serious accident.
12. Students must not use profane or abusive language. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
13. Students must refrain from chewing gum, eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
14. Students must not use tobacco or related products on the bus. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
15. Students must not have alcohol or drugs in their possession on the bus except for prescription medication required for student. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
16. Students must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
17. Students may carry on the bus only objects that can be held in their laps. No living creatures are permitted. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
18. Students must treat bus equipment as one would treat valuable furniture in his/her home. Vandalism will not be tolerated. Keep the bus clean and sanitary.
19. Students must not extend any part of their bodies out of the bus windows. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
20. Students are to remain absolutely quiet at railroad crossings until the bus has completely crossed and the driver says it is OK to talk. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)
21. Students must leave or board the bus at locations to which they have been assigned unless they have written parental and administrative authorization to do otherwise. (Ohio Law 3301.83.08)

Driver’s responsibility prior to the first written conduct report:

1. Drivers will confer with the student and/or change the student’s seating assignment.
2. Drivers are strongly urged to call parents (doing so is a proven, effective way of managing student behavior).

Level I (Minor Infractions): Level I behaviors are those that disrupt the driver’s concentration, or behavior that may cause harm to the student or others.

Some other Level I infractions are:

- Loud talking (at any time) or talking at railroad crossings
- Moving around the bus/out of the seat
- Pushing/touching/disrupting others
- Repeated tardiness to the bus
- Disrespect to other students or the driver
- Harassment of other students
- Not following the reasonable request of the driver
- Use of profanity
- Possession of a match or lighter
- Eating or drinking (food or gum) on the bus
- Tampering with emergency equipment or doors
- Littering/throwing objects from the bus
- Any other infraction of the building’s student behavior code

Level II (Major Infractions): Level II behaviors are those that are severe in nature or that directly or indirectly endanger the student or other students, the driver or the public. Some examples are:

- The threat of violence to the driver or other school employees
- The use of profanity directed to the bus driver
- Igniting a match or lighter
- Possession of an incendiary device (smoke bomb, fire cracker, cherry bomb, sparkler, etc.)
- Fighting/assault
- Possession of a weapon
- Vandalism or arson
- Theft
- Inappropriate physical contact
- Any action resulting in injury or threat of injury

Recommended Consequences for Level I & II Bus Rules Infractions:

Middle School	Level I	Level II
First Written Report	Principal Action	3 days off bus
Second Written Report	3 days off bus	5 days off bus
Third Written Report	5 days off bus	10 days off bus
Fourth Written Report	10 days off bus	Expelled

Follow-up Communication – Following the disciplinary action taken with a student, it is the administrator’s responsibility to inform the parent and the assistant transportation supervisor of the disciplinary action taken. It is then the assistant transportation supervisor’s responsibility to inform the driver of that action.

BUS PASSES

A request from a parent/guardian is required in order for a student to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop. The request must be submitted at the beginning of the school day to the appropriate designated party. The student will receive a prepared pass before the end of the school day. If a student does not have a Bus Pass, he/she cannot ride home on a different bus or get off at a different stop. Students will not be dropped off at other than board-approved bus stops. Bus passes will be approved contingent upon available seating, timeliness of request, and/or discretion of the building administrator.

CAFETERIA RULES

The following common courtesies are expected of our students during lunch:

- Moving ahead of others in the lunch line is unacceptable.
- Loud talk and noise are not appropriate behavior.
- Throwing food, paper or other items is unacceptable.
- All trash/trays in your area must be disposed of properly.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Pay for all food.
- Ask permission to leave your seat (elementary and middle school).
- A signed pass must be presented to leave the cafeteria (high school).

Students may use designated restrooms during lunches. Designated restrooms will be different in each building. Students will be permitted in the school store during lunch periods to purchase items. After visiting the store, students are to return to the commons.

CONCEALED CARRY

Unless otherwise authorized by law, pursuant to Ohio Revised code section 2923.122, no person shall knowingly possess, have under the person's control, convey or attempt to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a school safety zone.

DANCES

For high school, dances are open to district students only with the exception of prom and homecoming(s). All dances are open to students in grades 9-12 only. All other guests must be pre-approved by the administration. Some dances may be designated as advance ticket sales only.

For middle school, only students from the sponsoring middle school will be admitted. No guests will be allowed. Also, the sponsoring organization is expected to assist with cleanup after the dance.

Expectations for both middle and high school students include appropriate dancing (administration has a right to determine what is appropriate or not), beverages and food are not permitted in the gym, once students leave they are not permitted to return, and chaperones are required at all school dances.

HALL PASSES

No student may be out of his assigned classroom without an agenda or an approved pass.

PARENTAL SUPERVISION AT EVENTS

The Olentangy Local Schools sponsors many events which families are encouraged to attend. For reasons of safety, a parent or a responsible adult designated by the parent should accompany elementary students. Elementary and middle school students should be under the supervision of an adult at all times on these occasions. School rules for behavior apply whenever students are on school property.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS AND ELSEWHERE ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

Animals permitted in schools and elsewhere on District property shall be limited to those necessary to support specific curriculum-related projects and activities, those that provide assistance to a student or staff member due to a disability, those that serve as service animals as required by Federal and State law, or those that conduct random searches for illegal substances. All animals must meet veterinary requirements set forth in the State law and County regulation/ordinance.

The student's need for and use of a service animal must be documented in the student's individual education plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. A service animal is the personal property of the student and/or parents. The Board of Education does not assume responsibility for training, daily care, health care, or supervision of service animals. The Board of Education does not assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage arising out of or relating to the presence or use of service animals on District property or at District-sponsored events. For more information, please refer to board policy 8390-Animals on District Property.

DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN

In case of an emergency, district personnel will follow the District Safety Plan. This plan specifies steps to be followed should an emergency arise that threaten the well-being of students, staff and the public while utilizing school property. In addition to the steps outlined in the District Safety Plan our staff routinely trains on many of these procedures. The drills include fire, tornado and lockdown drills.

In the event of a lockdown, parents will be notified via an email notification. If the situation causes a delay in the start of the school day or a change in release time, parents will be notified using the district's automated calling system.

- To create or update an email notification, please visit the communication department's page on the district website.
- To learn more about the calling system, please visit www.olentangy.k12.oh.us.

FEES

A list of course and workbook fees is available on the district's website. You may log into PowerSchool to view/pay your student's fee accounts and any outstanding fees.

Payments should be made in full by credit card online or by cash/check/money order to the school office. To view your fee account and make payments online, please go to your PowerSchool parent account and select *Lunch and Fee Payments*. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to "Olentangy Local Schools." We appreciate your prompt attention to school fees.

At the discretion of the building principal, and upon approval from the treasurer's office, students dropping a class, leaving the district early or enrolling late may have their fees adjusted in cases where the district does not incur additional costs or another funding source is identified. As an alternative to a refund, the fee may be transferred to the student's food service account or pay to participate fees upon the building secretary receiving permission from the parent to do so.

Students with carryover delinquent fees of any kind from the previous school year are precluded from participation in fall extracurricular activities. Delinquencies in the current school year will preclude the student from participating

in winter and spring extracurricular activities. Eligibility will be restored once all fees have been paid, or a payment plan has been established and the first payment has been received.

FEE COLLECTIONS AND FEE WAIVERS

If you are financially unable to pay your fees, you may obtain a fee waiver application in the school office. Eligibility for the fee waiver is determined by the number of adult wage earners in the family and their combined income. This information, along with adult family members' social security numbers, must be given in writing to the school office in order to be considered for fee waiver.

The Olentangy Local School District outsources the collection of Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) checks to the Nexcheck service. The district is happy to accept checks as payment but every check must include your name, address and phone number. Please keep in mind that when a check is provided as payment, it is an authorization by the check writer to either make a one-time electronic transfer from the account or to process the payment as a check transaction. In doing so, the check writer also authorizes Nexcheck to collect a \$34.50 fee through an electronic fund transfer from the check writer's account if the payment is returned unpaid.

If you receive a notice from your bank about a non-sufficient funds check, contact Nexcheck at (800) 639-2435.

Students with carryover delinquent fees of any kind from the previous school year are precluded from participation in fall extracurricular activities. Delinquencies in the current school year will preclude the student from participating in winter and spring extracurricular activities. Eligibility will be restored once all fees have been paid, or a payment plan has been established and the first payment has been received.

FOOD SERVICE

Olentangy schools participate in the National School Lunch Program, providing nutritious, well-balanced lunches meeting the Federal and state guidelines including but not limited to the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The lunch program provides meals at free or reduced prices for qualified students. Applications are available on the district website or at any school office. You may apply at any time during the school year.

Olentangy also participates in the School Breakfast Program at select elementary schools and all middle schools and high schools. Please check with your school to determine if breakfast is offered. The free and reduced price program also applies to breakfast.

Information regarding the breakfast and lunch program, including menus and prices, is available on the district website. Information can be found by selecting "Food Service" under the "Department" heading.

Students may pay with cash or they may utilize the debit card system which allows parents to put money on the student's account in advance to pay for their child's lunch. Deposits may be made online through the district website, or checks may be sent to school with the student.

If your child has a medically documented food allergy, Olentangy Food Service will work with you to make the necessary accommodations. Please contact the cafeteria manager at your school or the Food Service Department at 740-657-4053.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Student fundraising by approved school organizations, (those whose funds are managed by the treasurer) may be permitted in school by the principal. Any fund-raiser that involves the sale of food items and/or beverages to students that will be consumed on the school campus during the school day to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the day must comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines set forth in Policy 8550, Competitive Foods. Fundraisers also include giving away goods or services, but suggesting a monetary donation. Student fundraising by approved school organizations off school grounds may be permitted under administrative guidelines of the superintendent.

INTRADISTRICT TRANSFERS

The Board of Education will permit any student (grades K - 12) to apply for attendance at their school of choice based upon criteria established by the school administration (OLSD Policy 5113.01).

The specific criteria shall be consistent with state law and shall include:

- application procedures, including deadlines for application and for notification of acceptance or rejection of students;
- establishing district capacity limits by grade level, school building, staffing levels and educational program;
- student safety in one building as opposed to another can be a basis for transfer;
- the process must ensure that proper racial balance is maintained;
- notification that parents must provide transportation for their students;
- students entering Grades 9 - 12 will forfeit athletic eligibility for one year.

Complete information about intradistrict transfers is available by contacting the district offices at 740/657-4050 or by visiting the Olentangy Local Schools website: www.olentangy.k12.oh.us.

LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS

Subject to availability, a locker may be assigned to each student at the beginning of the school year. Each student is responsible for cleaning and maintaining his or her locker. All lockers remain the property of the school and are subject to search at any time. Student must pay for lost or damaged locks, if applicable. The only locks that may be used are school locks, except in a short-term emergency situation approved by the homeroom teacher or principal. In order to protect personal belongings, each locker must be kept locked and the combination numbers used only by the assigned student. Students are advised not to share lockers or combination numbers. Students must provide their own combination lock for gym lockers that are not equipped with built-in locks. Students violating the locker policy are subject to the Code of Conduct.

LOST AND FOUND

Found items are kept in a lost and found location. Found items that are identified with the child's name will be returned. With this in mind, please remember to label your child's clothing. Parents or students are encouraged to check the Lost and Found for missing items. Items not claimed will be given to a charitable organization.

PARTIES

No parties are to be held during the school day unless permission is granted by the principal.

POSTERS / COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The principal will approve only those posters/announcements publicizing school events. A community bulletin board may be used by the community groups, businesses, etc., upon obtaining the approval of the principal. All announcements must have an adviser's signature and be approved ahead of time. Flyers from non-profit organizations, district boosters, PTOs are reviewed for posting to the district's website and if approved may be accessed on the district's One-Stop Flyer Shop webpage.

PROCEDURES TO RESOLVE PARENT/TEACHER DISAGREEMENTS

Whenever a complaint is made directly to the board as a whole, a board member as an individual, the superintendent, principal or other administrator, it will be referred to the appropriate building administrator. A teacher who is the object of a complaint will be informed promptly.

A. Step No. 1 - Direct Conversation.

If a parent or community member (complainant) has a disagreement or misunderstanding with a teacher, the complainant should address the concern to the specific teacher directly involved with the circumstances surrounding the concern. The staff member will meet with them as soon as possible, but in no case longer than five calendar days after the teacher has been notified of the concern (subject to change by mutual agreement).

B. Step No. 2 - Fact and Possible Resolution.

If the complainant or the teacher is not satisfied with the outcome of Step No. 1, or the complainant or teacher is unwilling to meet independent of an administrator, a meeting with the teacher, appropriate administrator, and complainant will be arranged at a mutually convenient time, but in no case more than five calendar days after the meeting in Step No. 1. This step is to be informal and verbal. No further action will be taken beyond Step No. 2, unless the complainant submits in writing a signed and dated statement of facts giving rise to this concern, the name of the teacher involved, and the remedy sought.

C. Step No. 3 - Formal Process.

If a complainant's concern is not satisfactorily resolved at either the first or second level, the complainant should then refer this concern to the superintendent in writing. At that time another meeting will be arranged at the convenience of the complainant and staff member directly concerned, but in no case more than 10 calendar days (subject to change by mutual agreement). The staff member has the right to be at all meetings with or without a representative as he/she so determines. Copies of the disposition will be sent to the board.

D. Dispositions.

Dispositions at Step 3 will be sent in writing to all parties within 10 calendar days of the meeting with reasons stated.

E. Repeat Concerns.

If a complainant believes there has been a repeat of the previous concern, they may go directly to Step No. 3 - "Formal Process."

F. Relation to Other Procedures.

This Article does not limit or affect the actions or procedures available to the administration and/or board based on an investigation of alleged misconduct and an administrative or board conclusion based on that investigation that action adverse to the teacher is warranted. Any such action against the teacher is subject to applicable laws and other articles of this Agreement.

RELEASE OF STUDENT PHOTOS AND WORK ONLINE

The Olentangy Local School District believes it is important to share accurate and timely information about the district with stakeholders. In addition, many online tools provide educational opportunities for student learning. As such, from time to time the district may share student information with the public in a web-based environment such as, but not limited to, the district's website, YouTube, Twitter or Facebook.

The district's Web Guidelines allow for the following student information to be used online at the middle and high school levels:

- Student's first name and last initial only;
- Student photographs; and,
- Student work (such as, but not limited to, artwork, podcasts, blogs, writing samples, videos, etc.).

If you do not want your student's information used in web-based environment, simply submit a written request to the Communications Department. Requests should be directed to Olentangy Local School District, Attn: Communications Department, 814 Shanahan Road, Suite 100, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035, (740) 657-4050.

RELEASE OF STUDENT PHOTOS, MEDIA INTERVIEWS

During the year, the Olentangy Local Schools often have the opportunity to photograph students in a variety of school-related activities. Student recognition programs, academic and fine arts programs are a few examples of these activities.

As such, these photographs may be used in communication tools such as the district newsletter and community postcard and in communications with the media such as allowing interviews or photographs with students. The district reserves the right to deny media requests for student interviews at any time.

Highlighting achievements in our schools is an integral part of reporting responsibly to our community and is a way of sharing in the success of our schools and students. However, it is our primary goal to respect your privacy.

Parents have the right to submit a written request to the Communications Department directing the district not to release directory information, including the information as listed above. The written request or any questions should be directed to the Communications Department, Olentangy Local School District, 814 Shanahan Road, Suite 100, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035, (740) 657-4050.

RELEASE OF STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students 18 years or older certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights, which are fully explained in Olentangy Board of Education Policy and Regulations include:

- The right to inspect and review the student's education records.
- The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that are believed to be inaccurate and the right to a hearing if the request is not honored.
- The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an alleged violation of FERPA.

- The right to consent to the disclosure of personally identifiable information within the student's records, unless disclosure is otherwise authorized by law or unless disclosure is made to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school 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 school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
- The following is designated as "directory information," which may be disclosed without prior written consent: a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight, if a member of an athletic team, dates of attendance, date of graduation, and awards received.

Parents have the right to submit a written request to the Communications Department, preferably within two weeks after the first day the student is enrolled in a school year, directing the district not to release directory information concerning their child to third parties. Examples of third parties include PTOs, Booster organizations and the media. According to Ohio Revised Code, public schools are prohibited from releasing directory information to third parties who intend to use the information for profit-making ventures. The written request or any questions should be directed to the Communications Department, Olentangy Local School District, 814 Shanahan Road, Suite 100, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035, (740) 657-4050.

RIGHTS REGARDING SURVEYS

Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), parents have the right to prohibit their child from participating in surveys.

Rights afforded parents include:

- to inspect for a time period of two weeks, upon request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to students;
- to know of arrangements to protect student privacy in a survey, including the right to opt out, if it includes questions regarding political affiliations, religious practices or other questions as outlined in PPRA;
- to receive reasonable notice at the beginning of each school year that their child may be involved in Board-approved third party surveys.

Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the school district in advance of any survey being distributed to their student (OLSD Policy 2416 and 8330).

STAFF GIFTS

The Board of Education considers the presentation of gifts to professional staff members by students and their parents an undesirable practice because it tends to embarrass students with limited means and gives the appearance of currying favor. Such compensation includes, but is not limited to, cash checks, stocks, or any other form of securities, gifts and other such things of value (more than \$25).

The superintendent may approve acts of generosity to individual staff members in unusual situations. However, at no time may a staff member accept compensation from any other source, other than the Board, for the performance of his/her duties, any other act or service in his/her public capacity, for the general performance of the duties of his/her public employment, or as a supplement to his/her public compensation...

UNAUTHORIZED USE OF THE BUILDING

Students are not to remain at school after dismissal unless they are part of a school activity supervised by a teacher, adviser or coach. Any student using the building without authorization and supervision will be referred to the local police authorities. No students will be permitted to use the building when school is not in session without authorization and supervision and will be subject to school disciplinary action. Students who remain after dismissal to use outdoor recreational facilities do so at their own risk. The school district assumes no responsibility for them. These students are not permitted to re-enter the building.

VALUABLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school will NOT accept responsibility for the loss of personal property. Personal property items are to be turned off, kept out of sight, and not used during the school day unless authorized by building policy. The use of any personal property that is contrary to building policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the item(s). At the building leadership's discretion, confiscated items may only be returned to a student's parent or guardian.

VISITORS

We welcome visitors to our school. You must enter through the front door and sign the visitor register. You are also required to wear visitor identification. To maintain the high quality of our educational program we ask that parents give the teacher advance notice and classroom visits be limited to approximately 30 minutes.

If there is a valid reason that a visitor must come to school with one of our students, this will be considered by the principal or assistant principal. The student must submit a *Request for Student Visit* form three school days prior to the visit and must be responsible for the behavior of the visitor while at school. The visitor is to sign-in at the school office.

VOLUNTEERS

Certain programs and activities can be enhanced through the use of volunteers who have particular knowledge or skills that will be helpful to staff members responsible for the conduct of those programs and activities. Each volunteer is required to abide by all board policies and district guidelines while on duty as a volunteer (including, but not limited to, the volunteer's obligation to keep confidential and not release or permit access to any and all student personally identifiable information to which s/he is exposed except as authorized by law). Furthermore, all volunteers who work or apply to work unsupervised with children on a regular basis will need to display appropriate behavior at all times, and they may be required to provide a set of fingerprints so that a criminal records check can be conducted prior to their service. For additional information, please refer to OLSD policy 3120.09 or contact your building secretary.

CO/EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities are available to middle school or community students who meet eligibility requirements. Students should be attentive to announcements of meetings for these activities. Students may be removed from these activities for violations of the Code of Conduct.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

According to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA), for a student to be eligible, he/she must be passing subjects the preceding nine-week grading period that earn a minimum of five credits or its equivalent toward graduation. All grades must, when combined, result in a GPA of at least 1.5, based on a 4.0 scale. Furthermore, they must be enrolled in 5 classes, not including physical education/activity courses, during the 9 weeks in which they are a participant. An athlete will be eligible or ineligible for the next grading period beginning with the fifth school day after the end of each grading period. Eligibility or ineligibility would remain until the fifth school day after the end of the next grading period. All incoming freshmen need to have passed at least five classes and attained at least a 1.5 GPA during the previous grading period.

***Important note: See the Athletic Handbook or OHSAA for details about athletic rules and regulations.*

PAY TO PARTICIPATE

Olentangy Local Schools has adopted a policy that requires an \$80 fee per sport for participation in interscholastic athletics. Please refer to the Athletic Handbook or on the district's website for the fee structure. There is also a \$25 fee for participation in co-curricular or extracurricular activities. The student fees are to defray only a part of the expenses of our activity programs. Fees for activity participation are to be assessed for one full year.

Payments should be made in full by credit card online or by cash, check, or money order to the school office. To view your fee account and make payments online, please go to your PowerSchool parent account and select *Lunch and Fee Payments*. If you are paying by check, please make it payable to "Olentangy Local Schools." We appreciate your prompt attention to school fees.

For athletics, all fees are non-refundable after the first game and paying the fee does not guarantee an athlete's playing time. The payment deadline is before the first scrimmage or game. The athlete may not be allowed to participate until the fee or any previously owned pay-to-participate fees are paid.

If you receive a notice from your bank about a non-sufficient funds check, contact Nexcheck at (800) 639-2435.

Students with carryover delinquent fees of any kind from the previous school year are precluded from participation in fall extracurricular activities. Delinquencies in the current school year will preclude the student from participating in winter and spring extracurricular activities. Eligibility will be restored once all fees have been paid, or a payment plan has been established and the first payment has been received.

SCHOOL CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The clubs at Olentangy appeal to a variety of interests and are available to middle school or community students. It is hoped that each student can find an outlet for expression in one or more of these organizations. Students can request information regarding specific clubs and organizations by visiting the main office.