

WEST LAURENS HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

**DR. DEWANA KEMP
PRINCIPAL**

**3692 HIGHWAY 257
DEXTER, GA 31019**

TELEPHONE: 478-875-1000

FAX: 478-875-2860

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:
<http://www.lcboe.net/2/Home>**

THIS AGENDA BELONGS TO:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____


Laurens County School District 2020-2021 School Calendar											
July 2020					August 2020					July 1,2,3, 2020	Central Office Closed
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	July 29- Aug 3, 2020	Teachers Pre-Planning Days
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7	August 4, 2020	First Day for Students
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14	September 7, 2020	Labor Day Holiday
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	October 12-13, 2020	Columbus Day Holiday
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	October 14, 2020	Teacher In-Service
27	28	29	30	31	31					November 23-27, 2020	Thanksgiving Holidays
September 2020					October 2020					December 18, 2020	Last Day 1st Semester (1/2 day for students)
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	December 21-31, 2020	Christmas Holidays
	1	2	3	4				1	2	January 1, 2021	New Year Holiday
7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9	January 4-5, 2021	Teacher In-Service
14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16	January 6, 2021	First Day 2nd Semester
21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23	January 18, 2021	MLK, Jr. Holiday
28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30	February 15, 2021	President's Day Holiday
November 2020					December 2020					March 12, 2021	Teacher In-Service
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	April 5-9, 2021	Spring Break Holidays
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	May 21, 2021	Last Day of School (1/2 day for students)
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	May 21, 2021	ELHS Graduation
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	May 22, 2021	WLHS Graduation
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	May 24-25, 2021	Teachers Post Planning Day
30					28	29	30	31		May 31, 2021	Memorial Day Holiday
January 2021					February 2021					<p style="text-align: center;">Laurens County School District 467 Firetower Road Dublin, Georgia 31021 Telephone: (478) 272-4767 Fax: (478) 277-2619 www.lcboe.net</p> 	
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F		
				1	1	2	3	4	5		
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12		
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19		
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26		
25	26	27	28	29							
March 2021					April 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F		
1	2	3	4	5				1	2		
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9		
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16		
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23		
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30		
May 2021					June 2021						
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F		
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4		
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11		
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18		
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25		
31					28	29	30				
Beginning of Semester											
Pre & Post Planning Days											
Staff & Student Holidays											
Staff Holiday											
Teacher In-Service Days											
End of Semester - 1/2 Day for Students											
Last Day of Work, 200 day, 210 day											

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**WEST LAURENS HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2020-2021**

Administration

Dr. Dewana Kemp, Principal
Mr. Tim Allen, Assistant Principal
Mr. Ernest Holmes, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Megan Respert, Assistant Principal

Secretaries:

Mrs. Amanda Waldrep
Mrs. Marcy Smith
Mrs. Marci Baggett
Mrs. Kay Knight
Ms. Courtney Rozier

School Phone:

(478) 875-1000

School Address:

West Laurens High School
3692 Hwy 257
Dexter, GA 31019

School Colors:

Royal Blue & White

School Website:

<http://www.lcboe.net/2/Home>

Guidance Counselors:

Mrs. Holly Passmore
Mrs. Sherrie Malone
Mrs. Constance Johnson

Social Worker:

Marquita Timmons

Security Officer:

Deputy Bobby Brantley

Fax Number:

(478) 875-2860

Office Hours:

7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Mascot

Raider

Alma Mater

*Hark! The sound of Laurens voices,
Fair and ever true.
Sing thy praises, count thy blessings,
Guide us ages through.
Oh West Laurens, ever onward -
True we'll ever be.
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater!
Hail! Oh, hail to thee!*

MISSION STATEMENT:

Laurens County Schools are student-centered communities of learners that challenge students to become independent critical thinkers, problem solvers, and contributing citizens.

VISION STATEMENT:

Rigor, Relevance, Relationships ... every teacher, every student, every day!



***Note: This year's 2020-2021 Student Handbook SUPERSEDES all other Student Handbooks.**

Federal Law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin (Title VI of the civil Rights Act of 1964); sex (Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Ed Act of 1990); or disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) in educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Employees, students, and the general public are hereby notified that the Laurens County Board of Education and West Laurens High School do not discriminate in any educational program or activities or in employment policies.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to an exciting year of learning at West Laurens High School! We are thrilled to have you join our family for the 2020-2021 school year. We believe that every child entrusted to our care deserves a quality education. The responsibility to teach all students so they can attain their maximum education potential is a challenge that we accept. Our faculty and staff are committed to making this year a great experience for all students as we strive to produce lifelong learners who are healthy and productive members of society.

We have designed this handbook to provide important information regarding our programs and services, as well as our policies and procedures. Please take time to read the handbook thoroughly and discuss this information with your child. We strive to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. To do this, we will utilize our school website, Facebook page, Remind, and SchoolCast to get information out in a timely manner.

Please feel free to contact any member of our school staff if you have any questions or concerns. Each teacher has a planning period, and our secretaries will be glad to assist you with a visitor's schedule and pass. Our administrative staff is also available to assist you with any concerns you may have regarding students.

Sincerely,

Dewana Kemp
Principal

PREFACE**EFFECT OF STUDENT HANDBOOK**

The policies, rules and regulations shown in the WLHS School Handbook are regulatory in nature and are not to be construed to give rise to any substantive or vested rights. The Board of Education, the Superintendent, and the Principal reserve the right to amend, suspend, repeal, modify, or revoke the policies, rules, and regulations at any time as to any student or related person without incurring any obligation with respect to the old or existing policy, rule, regulation, or administrative procedure.

The ultimate administrative responsibility for WLHS is vested in the Principal who must treat each situation, whether disciplinary or administrative, from the perspective of what is in the best interest of the individual student concerned, the other students in the school, and the ongoing education mission of the school and of the Laurens County School System.

REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

8:05	Bell Rings for students to report to class
8:10 – 9:42	1 st Period
9:42 - 9:50	Break
9:55 – 11:25	2 nd Period
11:30 – 1:25	3 rd Period & Lunch
	1 st Lunch 11:30 – 11:55
	2 nd Lunch 12:00 – 12:25
	3 rd Lunch 12:30 – 12:55
	4 th Lunch 1:00 – 1:25
1:30 – 3:00	4 th Period

CLUB BELL SCHEDULE (FRI.)**HOMEROOM BELL SCHEDULE (THUR.)**

8:05	Bell Rings for students to report to class
8:10 – 9:38	1 st Period
9:38 - 9:53	Club/Homeroom
9:53 – 9:58	Break
10:03 – 11:29	2 nd Period
11:34 – 1:29	3 rd Period & Lunch
	1 st Lunch 11:34 – 11:59
	2 nd Lunch 12:04 – 12:29
	3 rd Lunch 12:34 – 12:59
	4 th Lunch 1:04 – 1:29
1:34 – 3:00	4 th Period

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

At the beginning of 1st period of each school day, WLHS will conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for no more than 60 seconds with the participation of all the pupils therein assembled. The activity complies with the 1994 Georgia General Assembly Legislation (SB 396).

PART 1 SCHOOL PROCEDURES

*All school procedures and disciplinary guidelines in this handbook will be upheld by the school administration unless circumstances dictate a change.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL (see also MAKE-UP WORK and ATTENDANCE)

When a student is absent from school, the parent or guardian is expected to provide the school with a written excuse upon the student's return.

The note should state:

- Student's full name
- The date(s) absent
- The reason for the absence
- The parent or guardian's name
- A telephone number where the parent or guardian may be reached.

Personal illness, family illness, death of a close relative, or other absences approved by the principal are considered excused absences. After being absent, a student must turn in a note and get an excuse from the student admission area in the lunchroom before 8:05. The student will sign upon receiving the excuse from the administration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements are given twice each day. Students are expected to be in their classrooms at 8:05 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prepared to listen to the morning and afternoon announcements. It is the student's responsibility to listen to the announcements and to respond as needed.

AP CLASS

Advanced Placement Classes are offered. Please check with your guidance counselor. You also may want to go on-line @ <http://apcentral.com> for more information.

ASPEN PARENT PORTAL PROGRAM

Aspen is a web-based program which allows parents to view a child's schedule, attendance, and grades. Parents should call the school for information about how to register for this program. Once a parent has registered, he may log into the program from the school's web site at: <http://www.lcboe.net/2/Home>

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are held during the year for the benefit of the student body. Student behavior at an assembly should be refined and courteous. All students should give the speakers and/or performers their undivided attention. Gestures of appreciation should be in the form of applause. Rudeness, inattention, or other poor behavior will be subject to disciplinary actions.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate on any athletic team, a student must be on track for graduation. A student is required to pass classes that carry at least 2.5 Carnegie Units counting toward graduation the semester immediately preceding participation.

Exception: First semester ninth grade students.

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, a student must not have reached his 19th birthday prior to May 1st, preceding his year of participation. Students who participate on an athletic team will not be required to take weight lifting as a condition of participation. Students may take weight lifting only five of the eight semesters. See the athletic director if you have any concerns.

ATTENDANCE

Any time a student is absent for 5 straight days, a doctor's note will be required to excuse such absences. After 8 absences (any combination of excused and unexcused) students will be required to have a doctor's note. No credit will be granted in any class to a student with more than 8 absences. In order to receive credit for a course after more than 8 absences, a student must appeal to a school committee. The student must come to the office and request an appeal form. A record of proceedings will be kept, and due process given at each level of appeal.

ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS BEGINS THE FIRST DAY THE STUDENT ENTERS SCHOOL FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR.

ATTENDANCE POLICY AS PER GEORGIA AND LAURENS COUNTY GUIDELINES

Effective 1-14-98 for Grades 9-12

Attendance has a vital bearing on educational progress. It should not be encouraged to the point of keeping children who are sick in school but should be insisted upon to the point of maintaining interest and facilitating progress. The professional personnel staff has the responsibility to enforce the compulsory attendance law applying to children between the ages of seven (7) and sixteen (16).

The following State Board policy will be used regarding student excused absences:

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangering a student's health or the health of others.
2. A serious illness or death in a student's immediate family necessitating absence from school.
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency including pre-induction physical examinations for service in the armed forces.
4. Celebration of religious holidays, necessitating absences from school.
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
6. A period not to exceed one day is allowed, at the discretion of the local unit administration, for registering to vote or voting in a public election, applicable to student 18 years or older.

Upon returning to school after an absence, the student will have no more than three (3) days to present the necessary documentation to have any absence excused. After three days the absence will be declared unexcused and a grade of zero will be recorded. Absences could affect the student's achievement as well as the privilege to attend school. Notification will also be made to the school social worker and/or attendance officer. In cases of extended illness, the parents should contact the administration to determine whether the student should be placed in the hospital/homebound program

The following State of Georgia attendance policy will be used regarding students' attendance:

1. Students under 16 years of age will be referred by the system social worker and/or attendance officer to The Department of Juvenile Justice each time they reach multiples of 5 unexcused absences.
2. If the above methods do not correct the student's attendance problems, the student may be referred to a tribunal with the principal and social worker's recommendation for action.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Credits need to promote to the next grade level:

6 to 10th

12 to 11th

17 to 12th

Students are required to complete four years of class time to be eligible for graduation. Students are required to take seven courses in each of the four years and must follow all attendance requirements for all four courses in order to meet the eight-semester rule. The graduation requirement for all students is 24 credits.

Students must also follow the academic requirements of the track they are in. Please speak with your counselor about your specific requirements.

Attendance will be taken each day in each class. Students must attend seventy (80) minutes of the ninety (90) class minutes in order to be counted present for the period in a block class. Students will not be penalized for meeting with the counselor, school social workers, or other persons, if the meeting is deemed necessary by the school administration. School sponsored activities do not count against student's attendance, but students must complete make-up work assigned by the teacher.

After one or more days absent, students are required to bring a note signed by the parent/guardian or a doctor's statement explaining the reason for the absence. Excuses should be presented on the first day a student returns to school BEFORE 8:05. Excuses will not be accepted after the third day following an absence. If no legal excuse has been brought by the third day, the absence will be considered unexcused. After being absent, a student must turn in his/her note and get an excuse from the student admission area in the main hall. The student will sign upon receiving the excuse from the administration. Students will be given an admittance permit stating the reason for the absence and whether the absence is excused or unexcused. This permit is to be presented to **all** subject teachers for their signatures. It is the **student's responsibility** to see that an appropriate documentation of each absence is delivered to each teacher. The student's fourth period teacher will collect the permit and turn it in to the principal's office. If WBL students leave campus before the end of the day, their classroom teacher will collect the permit.

Absences accumulated prior to enrolling at West Laurens High School by transferring students **will count** toward the maximum absences allowed. Students who encounter long-term illnesses may be eligible for the Hospital/Homebound Program and should make application for this program when they anticipate being absent six (6) or more days due to personal illness.

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

The Baccalaureate Service for graduating seniors is held at New Bethel Baptist Church on the Sunday before Graduation at 4 P.M. Seniors who wish to attend must sign up in the office the week before the service. Students must wear the W.L.H.S. official graduation cap and gown to the service.

BAND

See the West Laurens High School Band Handbook and the Band Director.

BATHROOMS

Please help keep your bathrooms clean. We have installed stall doors in all our bathrooms for your privacy. Try to help keep our bathrooms clean. Please help by flushing after every use and reporting any act of vandalism you may witness. Remember, it's your tax money that pays for school repairs!

BREAK

Break is from 9:40-9:45 each day except for club/homeroom days. Due to the large number of students in our building, it is imperative that students not stand in the middle of the hall and block traffic flow.

Please go outside or stand against the walls in the halls. Do not leave book bags or any other personal items in the halls. Break is a privilege and it can be taken away!

BUS NOTES

If a student needs to ride another bus home from school, the student must bring a signed note from home. The note must have a phone number where parent can be reached. The note must be turned in to the office **first thing in the morning** and a Laurens County Bus Form will be issued for that day. Students PLEASE do not wait until time to board the bus to get a bus form!!!

CAR RIDERS/DRIVERS

Students may park their vehicles on school property only in areas designated for student parking. Students must apply to the assistant principal for permission to park a vehicle in the student parking area. The application form is included on page 47. Parking permits will cost \$15.00. Vehicles in the parking area without a parking permit are subject to be towed at the owner's expense.

The standard rules of proper use of an automobile will apply at all times. Students who endanger others by improper use of their vehicles will be denied parking privileges. Students must follow all State and Local driving laws. Students should not use the areas set aside for faculty or visitor parking. Students may drive only highway- approved vehicles on campus (no lawnmowers, 4 wheelers, dirt bikes, etc.).

Students are not allowed to enter the parking lot during the regular school day unless given permission by the principal, assistant principal, or school resource officer. Permits must be displayed at all times to park on campus. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

Students have 5 minutes to enter and exit the parking lot in the mornings. Students should be out of the parking lot by 3:40 p.m. in the afternoons. All school, county, and state driving laws must be followed at all times. Students should follow the parking lot lanes and should not cut through the parking lot.

Drivers should not cut across the parking lot, make U-turns, weave in and out of lanes, or in any other way endanger students or other drivers. PLEASE FOLLOW THE SIGNS!!!

* **Note:** Students will need an attendance verification form from the office before a driver's license test will be administered at the State Patrol Office.

CHANGING CLASSES

Students should change classes quickly and quietly. Students should take the shortest approved route from one class to the other. Students should not stand around in the middle of the halls or go to their cars. Before school, after break, and after lunch, students should begin moving to their classes when the first bell rings and continue moving to their classrooms. Running in the halls, loitering, and horseplay are not permitted. Please, do not block the hall!

CLUBS (SCHOOL SPONSORED)

School sponsored clubs (excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events) are those under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school that organize and meet for common goals, objectives, and purposes. State law requires that parents have the right to withhold permission for their students to participate in any school sponsored club or organization designated by them. The following school sponsored clubs will be in operation during this school year, for which information is provided regarding the name of each club, its purpose, faculty sponsor and a description of past or planned activities. You, as the parent/guardian, have the right to withhold in writing your permission for your student's participation in any club or organization. For your convenience, a form is included in this handbook if you do not wish for your student to participate in the club you have designated on the form. If a club is added during the school year, you will be provided information on the club and your written permission will be required prior to your student's participation.

CLUB SCHEDULE

Students who participate in club activities, competitions, or field trips must be passing three of their courses at the time of the activity, competition, or field trip (see FIELD TRIPS). If a special 5th Friday club meeting is needed, the sponsor must let the Principal know before 4th Friday day clubs. Clubs should meet only on the assigned dates. If a special meeting is called, a student should not miss a regularly scheduled club meeting to attend a called meeting. Only students who are **not** in a scheduled club meeting may attend special called meetings.

CLUB SCHEDULE**1st Friday**

	<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>
FCA	Mrs. Newsome	Lunchroom
Drama	Ms. Edie Daniel	106
Anchor Club	Mrs. Lawhorn	Media Center
TSA	Mr. Helton	410
FCCLA	Mrs. Scott/Mrs. Thomas	409

2nd Friday

FFA	Mrs. Jackson/Mr. Harris	Lunchroom
Student Council	Mrs. Donna Robinson	312
Art	Mr. Carson	408
Y-Club	Mrs. Seymour	Media Center
Spanish Club/Honor Society	Mrs. Derochie/Mrs. Raffield	301

3rd Friday

BETA	Mrs. Patisaul/Ms. Faulk	Lunchroom
Poetry	Ms. Frazier	108
FBLA	Mrs. Snell	Media Center
“True Blue” PBIS Team	Mrs. Floyd	216
Best Buddies	Mrs. Faircloth/Mrs. Brown	Chorus Room

4th Friday

National Honor Society	Mrs. Tyler	206
GAMA	Mrs. Smith	101
Skills USA	Mr. Johnson/Mrs. Johnston	Lunchroom

CLUB OFFERINGS**Anchor Club**

Anchor Club is a very active community service organization. Our purpose is to educate all of Laurens County about brain related injuries and preventative care. Each year the Anchor Club presents the Brain Minders Puppets to the elementary and Pre-K classes of Dublin and Laurens County schools. The program teaches the students about wearing helmets and preventing brain injuries. Club members volunteer at the Carl Vinson Veteran’s Hospital each year during the Veterans Day Program. Students also decorate the bulletin boards at the Veteran’s Hospital each month. At our State convention, we learn new ways to serve others and have a lot of fun while participating in education activities. Anchor Club was established at WLHS in 2003. Since our foundation, West Laurens has won many 1st place state honors and held key positions at the state level. Anchors attend West Laurens, East Laurens, and Dublin High School. The Pilot Club of Dublin sponsors the Anchor Club. Over \$3,000 in scholarships to teachers and students are awarded each year by the Anchor and Pilot organizations.

Beta Club

The West Laurens High School Beta Club is open to College Preparatory Students in grades 10-12 who have demonstrated high achievement by maintaining a cumulative average of 90 or above in their academic (HOPE average) courses. The club is affiliated with National Beta Club, www.betaclub.org. Dues are \$20 per year. The Beta Club motto is "Let us lead by serving others." The club is involved in service projects. Recent projects have included writing letters and sending care packages to our military servicemen, sponsoring Honors Night, and supporting Relay for Life. Any senior Beta Club member who is an honor graduate and who has been active in the Beta Club during his/her senior year is entitled to wear the Beta Club Stole at graduation and to have a Beta Club seal on his/her diploma.

Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Georgia FCCLA is a nonprofit student organization for young men and women in family and consumer sciences education through grade 12. FCCLA offers members "The Ultimate Leadership Experience." The variety of programs and projects expand personal leadership potential by targeting career skills, emphasizing family ties, and developing a commitment to service. This integrated approach builds bridges between home, school, and community. FCCLA activities are specifically designed to break down the walls separating technology/career and academic learning. Interdisciplinary approaches target different learning styles, from individual projects that strengthen critical thinking and decision-making skills to team projects and cooperative learning activities. The mission of FCCLA is to promote personal growth and leadership development through family and consumer sciences education. Focusing on the multiple roles of family member, wage earner, and community leader, members develop skills for life through—character development; creative and critical thinking; interpersonal communication; practical knowledge and vocational preparation.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

FBLA is the largest student business organization in the world with 250,000 members. The first chapter was established in Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1942. FBLA prepares students for "real world" professional experiences. Members gain the competitive edge for college and career success. FBLA-PBL Mission Our mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. FBLA-PBL Pledge I solemnly promise to uphold the aims and responsibilities of Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda and, as an active member, I shall strive to develop the qualities necessary in becoming a responsible business leader. FBLA provides innovative leadership and career development programs that bring business and education together in a positive working relationship to achieve results. ANYONE who wants to be a success in the future can join. Membership will provide you with over 30 Challenging competitions including Web Page Design, Computer Applications, Business Math, Public Speaking, Job Interviews, Career Preparation Opportunities, Leadership Development & Achievement, Friendship & Fun, Outstanding Leadership Conferences, Community Service Experience, Informative Publications and many more!

Science Club

Science Club was started in the early 1980's under the leadership of Brinson Hughes. It is student-led to promote scientific inquiry and increase student participation in science activities outside the classroom with experimentation in the sciences including chemistry, biology, biotechnology, physics, and robotics engineering. Students in the club compete in Science Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, Science Problem Solving Bowl, and/or Science Fair. All students are expected to compete in one event during the school year. Many members tutor students during the school year as part of their service pledge. Science Club meets the second Wednesday of each month and any other times necessary to practice for competition or play with science! An all-school recycling program is planned with future guest speakers from the Hatch

Nuclear Power Plant, Department of Natural Resources, and Sheriff's Department. Community service is a component of Science club's charter, and plans are developing to host a community-wide Science Fest for young children and their parents to increase their awareness of and participation in science.

SkillsUSA

Skills USA is a national nonprofit student organization that serves students enrolled in career and technical education training programs. SkillsUSA's mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers and responsible American citizens. Skills USA complements technical skills training with instruction in the employability skills that make a well-rounded worker and citizen. Founded in 1965, Skills USA has developed nearly 10.5 million workers through active partnerships between employers and educators. Our SkillsUSA members grow as individuals and discover new abilities by setting their own goals, electing officers and planning and carrying out projects within our school chapters. SkillsUSA members work with their instructors and community leaders. Whether planning a career day or a community service project, our SkillsUSA activities are learning experiences because students direct them. Our chapter focuses on the needs of our campus and community. The seven areas of our program of work are: professional development, community service, employment, SkillsUSA Championships, public relations, social activities, and ways and means.

Student Council

The WLHS Student Council has a proud tradition as a service club, make up of student leaders who have been involved in various community and school projects. For example, in 2003-2004, Student Council spearheaded the involvement of WLHS in the Laurens County Relay for Life. Since that time, this worthy cause has become a school-wide effort, and our campus has hosted the event for the last two years.

During the 2004-2005 school year, Student Council began implementing a number of changes. We planned for and conducted elections in September 2005. Representatives from each class as well as from the student body as a whole will be elected each year to represent those constituencies. These offices make up the leadership of the WLHS student population. As Student Council continues to evolve, our desire is to be conspicuous ambassadors for WLHS. Within the organization, there is an ongoing effort to develop the leadership skills of our members, and to represent our school in a positive manner on campus and in the community.

Poetry

The purpose is to allow students the opportunity to write, share, and critique poetry. The club is open to any student who enjoys writing, reading, and studying poetry. Our meetings are informal and usually consist of reading poems (published and unpublished), reading biographies of a chosen poet, exploring different types of poetry, discovering the art of creating poetry, and sharing original work. Dues: \$5.00 annually. Goals: To read, appreciate and analyze published works of English and American poets. To explore different types of poetry; To examine and participate in the art of creating poetry; To provide an artistic outlet for student expression; To promote the verbal communication of students' original works of poetry Activities. The club will hold meetings on the specified Wednesday each month. The club will work towards holding a quarterly open mike night to allow students the opportunity to share their original works of poetry. The club will seek occasions to volunteer in the Laurens County Community.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

History of National FFA Organization: The National FFA Organization started in 1928 as the Future Farmers of America. This organization started in Kansas City, Missouri as a farm club for America's high school boys taking agriculture education classes. As the farming industry changed along with the public-school system demographics, the FFA changed also. In 1965, the Black American farm organization, NFA, joined with the FFA. In 1969, female students joined FFA for the first time. It is estimated that nearly 55% of

FFA members in the US are now female. In 1987, the Future Farmers of America changed its name to the National FFA Organization. Since only 2% of high school students are going into production agriculture, the focus of FFA changed from production farming to leadership training. There are nearly 500,000 high school FFA members nationwide with over 25,000 members in the state of Georgia. WLHS chartered an FFA chapter in 1971 as part of the Georgia FFA Association. On average, WLHS FFA has 200 members per year. FFA is a vital part of agriculture education at WLHS. FFA's Mission Statement: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of its members by developing their potential for personal growth, career success, and premier leadership through agriculture education

Activities Enjoyed by FFA Members:

Competitions & Career Dev Events	Super Saturday	Floral Design
Membership Fridays & Socials	National Fair Trip	Agriculture Expo Trip
Tractor Operation & Maintenance	Fair Projects for GA. Nat. Fair	Floriculture & Plant Id
Livestock Showing & Judging	Fruit Sale & Fundraiser	Agriculture Sales
Community Service Project	National Chapter Application	National Convention
FFA Summer Leadership Camp	Parliamentary Procedure	Forestry
Nursery Landscape & Plant Id	FFA Tailgate Party	Natural Resources
State & American Degrees	Greenhand & Career Conference	FFA Week Celebration
FFA Quiz	Environmental Natural Resources	State Convention
Skeet Shooting & Archery	Chapter Meetings	Goose Hollow Cookout
Teacher Appreciation Luncheon	Officer Training Retreat	

Spanish Honor Society/Spanish Club

Spanish Honor Society holds monthly meetings and plan service projects over comida Mexicana. Students must have an "A" for their most recently completed Spanish semester to apply.

COLLEGE DAY ABSENCES

Students must obtain written permission from the school administration BEFORE taking a college day and must show their teachers the permission slip the day before the college day is to be taken. Following the college day, the student should bring documentation from the college and obtain an excuse reading "College Day" for teachers to sign so that work may be made up. The absence will be excused when the documentation is furnished. Students may take a College Day absence only if the following criteria exist:

- Students have no more than 8 absences per year (or 4 per semester).
 - Students in the College Prep curriculum and have taken the SAT.
 - Students have written permission from the school administration.
 - Students have written parental/guardian permission.
 - Seniors shall take no more than three (3) college days.
 - Juniors shall take no more than one (1) college day.

If all the above criteria are met and proper documentation is brought back from the college, the college day will not count as an absence for the purpose of exemption.

EARLY DISMISSALS

Early dismissals must be written in the student admission area or the office area in the morning (7:40-8:00) by the school official on duty. Students must sign to receive their early dismissal form. Early dismissal forms should be returned to the office before signing out. If more than 10 minutes of the class period is missed, the student will be considered absent for that class. Students must sign out when they check out. If leaving for a medical appointment, the student should present documentation from the physician upon returning. If a student has a job and needs to leave early, he/she must enroll in C.B.E. or Youth Apprenticeship. If not in C.B.E. or Youth Apprenticeship, students must wait until car riders are dismissed. **PARENT NOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.**

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of bad weather conditions, parents/guardians are encouraged to listen to the local radio and television stations or call the Laurens County Board of Education office at (478) 272-4767. The superintendent of schools will announce by 6:00 a.m. any decision to close or delay the opening of school.

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Please refer to the LCBOE website <http://www.lcboe.net>

EXEMPTION FROM FINAL EXAMS

The following criteria are used to exempt students from final exams:

1. All students must have a 90 average in the subject he/she is seeking to exempt. No exceptions will be granted. **All Seniors may exempt with an 80 average for 2nd Semester ONLY.** There are no final exams for courses administering a Milestone test.
2. A student must have no more than four (4) absences in a class. No exceptions will be granted.
3. A student must not have been suspended (O.S.S.) during the current year.
4. If a student owes for a textbook, they cannot exempt.
5. A student cannot exempt if his/her name is on the outstanding obligation list.
6. Absences that are a result of school functions or activities will not count against the student.
7. A student must not have exceeded a total of six (6) tardies for a class.
8. If a student qualifies to exempt a class, board policy states you must allow him/her to exempt.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities are a privilege and can be taken away.

FIELD TRIPS (including club trips)

Students must be in good standings with the office before they can attend any field trips. If a student has missed 5 or more days, approval must be granted by the school administration. No student may attend any extracurricular activities if he/she is suspended or in I.S.S. If a field trip takes half a day or less, students must be present two or more class blocks to attend a school-sponsored field trip that day.

FIRE DRILLS

Directions for leaving the building during a fire or fire drill are posted in each classroom. Students are requested to become aware of these directions. During a fire drill, students are to follow the directions posted in the classroom and to go quickly to the appointed exit and area on the school campus. The signal given will be the GEMA CODE and an announcement, and/or the fire alarm.

FOOD AND DRINKS

No food or drinks in the classrooms. Students may eat and drink in the hallways and/or outside at break. Students may eat in the lunchroom during lunch but may not take food or drinks out of the lunchroom during lunch. Teachers may confiscate food or drinks brought into the classroom and are not obligated to return it!

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Effective Date: 8/95: To participate in the spring graduation exercises, students must have completed all course requirements as defined by board policy IHF. Those senior students who do not complete their requirements by the spring graduation exercise date will not be able to participate in graduation.

THE FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION THAT IS NEEDED FOR YOUR GRADUATION DAY:

1. All money and all fines owed to WLHS must be cleared before you can march. You must be cleared from the outstanding obligation list.
2. You must have passed all required classes and be cleared academically for graduation.
3. You must have no disciplinary action pending in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.
4. Please check the spelling of your name for the Graduation Program.
5. You must attend graduation practice at 8:30 A.M. on the day before graduation. This practice usually lasts for 2 to 2½ hours. Don't plan on leaving until after 11 A.M.
6. Tickets for your parents (two per graduate) may be picked up after graduation practice.
7. On Graduation Day appropriate dress will be:

Young men: White Shirt, tie, dark pants (no jeans), dark socks and dark shoes.

Young ladies: White or light-colored dress and white or light-colored shoes. No flip-flops or tennis shoes are to be worn!!!! No excessive jewelry, unusual hair color, or anything that would call special attention to an individual should be worn!!! The graduation cap and gown are considered a **uniform**. Remember this is the graduation for the entire class.

GRADUATION CAPS SHOULD NOT BE ALTERED/DECORATED IN ANY WAY.

8. On graduation morning, you are expected to be at the school, dressed, by 8:00 A.M. The class portrait will be taken in the gym at 8:10 A.M.
9. Your diploma may be picked up immediately after the graduation ceremony in the end zone with the flag and where you will throw your caps. Any student who causes a discipline problem during the graduation ceremony will not receive his/her diploma and will face legal charges and/or fines.

HALL PASSES

Students are not permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or administrator or have their student handbook with teacher permission.

HALLS

WALK on the RIGHT SIDE of the hall. Running is not acceptable in the building at any time. Gentlemanly and ladylike behavior is expected in the halls with noise held to a minimum. Loitering in the halls between classes is not allowed. Students are to go directly to their lockers and classrooms.

Please, DO NOT STAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HALL, IN DOORWAYS, or leave book bags in the halls!

HONOR GRADUATES

To be an honor graduate, a student must have a 90 or above cumulative grade point average. Final grades will not be rounded!

HONORS NIGHT

Honors Night is held each spring. Invitations will be sent to qualifying students. Students must notify the school if they plan to attend and must dress in accordance with the WLHS Dress Code.

HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND SERVICES

Please refer to the LCBOE website <http://www.lcboe.net/>

LETTERING IN ACADEMICS

West Laurens High School recognizes students who represent the school in academic competitions with other high schools in district, regional, state, national and international competitions. Criteria for earning an academic letter are available from counselors.

LOCKERS

Each student is allowed and advised to rent a locker at the beginning of the school year for \$5.00. Administrators and teachers may make periodic inspections. Students are to use only their own lockers. Lockers should not be shared. All personal items, when not in use, should be kept locked in lockers. Lockers must be cleaned out during the last week of school. Items remaining in lockers on the last day of school will be discarded.

LOST AND FOUND

The office storage area is designated for found articles. Anyone who finds a lost or misplaced article should take the article to the office as soon as possible. Students looking for lost possessions should check with the assistant principal or secretaries. If found articles are not claimed within a reasonable length of time, they will be discarded.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students may make up work missed due to any absence or school activity. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the teacher to get the missed assignments. Students have three (3) days for the 1st day missed, and 1 day for each day thereafter. For example, if a student misses 4 days in a row, the student would have a total of 6 days to make up the work. After the given number of days has expired, the student will receive a zero for any work that has not been turned in. It is the student's responsibility to arrange to make up missed work with the teacher. Teachers are not required to permit make up work during regular class time, because this will cause the student to miss even more class time. Upon returning after an absence, a student must make arrangements to make up any missed work with the teacher. The teacher will then set a time for the work to be made up. **If the work is not made up, the student will receive a zero on the work.**

MEDIA CENTER

The media center is open from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each school day. Students wishing to use the media center during class time or lunch must have a pass from a teacher. Students may borrow materials for two (2) weeks. Materials may be renewed if another person has not reserved them. If needed materials are checked out, they may be reserved for future use. A student must have a student number to check out materials. Students will be issued overdue notices if materials are not returned when due. Overdue fines will be imposed. Any lost or damaged materials must be replaced at the expense of the borrower.

MEDICATION

If a student must take medication, arrangements should be made with the attending physician so that the medication may be given at home, before and after school hours. If this is not possible, the medication must be brought to school fully labeled, in the original container from the pharmacist, and given to the school secretary for dispensing. Parents should send only the dosage of medication that is required. Students should have only very small amounts of over-the-counter medications in their possession during school hours. A student should not give or sell another student any type of medication!

MONEY AND VALUABLES

Large sums of money or valuables should not be brought to school. NEVER LEAVE VALUABLE POSSESSIONS UNATTENDED. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen valuables.

Any item that causes an interruption, is against school or state law, or is considered inappropriate for school will be taken from the student and the necessary disciplinary actions will follow. The item may or may not be returned, based on the circumstances involved.

PARENTS'S RIGHT TO KNOW/TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

In compliance with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind statute, the Laurens County Board of Education informs parents of their right to request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) and paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

(1) teacher certification, (2) college major/certification or degree(s), and/or (3) paraprofessional qualifications. If a parent wishes to request information concerning their child's teacher(s) and/or the paraprofessional(s) that provide educational services, the parent must provide a written request to the school principal.

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS

All monies owed by students must be paid. Outstanding obligations of seniors must be paid before graduation day if the student is to participate in the graduation ceremonies. Students who owe outstanding obligations may not exempt their exams.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents may check the progress of their child using the i-Parent program (see page 50). Parents may set up a conference with one or more teachers by telephoning the school office. Parents may also e-mail faculty members from our web site: www.lcboe.net/school_home.aspx?schoolID=2

PARENT PICK-UPS

Laurens County Schools provide free public transportation for county students. The buses arrive at WLHS around 8:00 in the morning and leave around 3:00 in the afternoon. If you choose for your child not to ride the bus, please be advised that you must follow all safety rules when you drive on campus.

Parents should pick up their children after buses have loaded and left the campus. Parents may not wait on the bus ramp (behind the school) or drive on the bus ramp until buses have left. Car riders will be dismissed, around 3:00. Parents should follow all safety signs.

Drivers should not cut across the parking lot, make U-turns, or in any other way endanger students.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE SIGNS!!!

PARTICIPATION IN P.E.

If a student is to be excused from P.E., he/she must have a written note from home or from a physician, or in some cases from the principal's office. Notes from home are honored for (3) days only. If a problem will cause a student to miss more than 3 days of P.E., the student should bring a note from a physician.

For the sake of good health and comfort, students must dress out for physical education. The physical education faculty determines the appropriate attire for physical education.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Students will receive progress reports after the first nine weeks of each semester, following midterm exams. These will be given out at school.

PROM

The junior-senior prom is held each year at West Laurens high School. Juniors and seniors must submit a prom guest's name to the prom committee for approval one month before the scheduled prom date. Students should complete the prom guest form. The guest must be at least in the 9th grade and not have any significant behavior problems or criminal record. No students from any alternative school may attend the West Laurens High School Prom. No person who has been expelled from any school may attend the prom. Any guest over 20 years old must come in and be approved by the administration on a case-by-case appeal. The cost of the prom will be set each year by the prom committee. Students should dress in

accordance with the WLHS Dress Code and WLHS Prom Dress Codes. No intoxicating compounds of any kind are allowed at the prom.

REPORT CARDS

The homeroom teachers will issue report cards for first semester to students at the beginning of second semester. Second semester report cards will be mailed at the end of the school year. It is therefore vital that the school have the student's current address.

RESPECT FOR EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Each student is encouraged to assume responsibility for the care of school property. The student may be required to pay for any damage caused to school property. Malicious damage must be repaired, or the damaged property replaced at the student's expense. In addition, appropriate disciplinary procedures are invoked in the event that malicious intent is determined.

SCHOLARSHIPS (CRITERIA FOR BREAKING TIES)

If scholarship or financial grants are to be awarded based on class ranking, Valedictorian and/or Salutatorian, and the scholarships or grants cannot be shared among the students tied for those honors, the following criteria will be used in turn to break the ties in class rankings. (See our web page...)

(CRITERIA FOR BREAKING TIES)

1. Numerical average to the 4th decimal place. If tie still exists, then:
2. Number of college preparatory classes taken. If tie still exists, then:
3. Scholastic Assessment Tests (SAT) scores.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Delegated school officials may, according to law and board policy, have access to student lockers, automobiles, and personal belongings while the student is under school personnel supervision. This rule is invoked when there is reason to suspect the welfare of other students and personnel may be threatened or when violation of school rules may be involved. The search will be made in the presence of at least one witness, except in emergency situations. Dangerous or illegal materials should be reported to proper authorities.

SIGNING OUT (leaving campus early)

Students should not leave the school campus at any time during the school day except in case of an emergency. Students **MUST receive permission from the office and must sign out**. When students return, they must **sign in**. If a student is sick, that student should tell a teacher or administrator before leaving campus. The student should sign out if at all possible, even if 18 years of age or older. If an emergency does occur, the student should call as soon as possible to let school authorities know what has happened. If a student comes in late, he or she must stop by the office and sign-in. Failure to follow sign-out/sign-in procedure will be considered the same as skipping and will be punished as the same.

STAR STUDENT

The senior in the top 10% of the graduating class with the highest SAT Score will be named the STAR Student for that school year. The STAR Student will select the STAR Teacher for the year.

STUDENT GRIEVANCE

West Laurens High School students may file a complaint with the appointed faculty grievance committee. This committee is organized to assist students who have complaints about perceived unfair teacher

policies or unfair treatment by teachers or other school officials. The student must state the complaint in writing and turn it in to a faculty grievance committee member. The committee will set up a meeting with the student to discuss the complaint. If the student is not satisfied with the actions of the committee, the student may then appeal to the principal.

Problems pertaining to school policy, rules, and regulations will be addressed directly to the principal. Forms may be obtained from any committee member.

Grievance Committee members are: Mr. Tim Allen Mrs. Karen Newsome Mrs. Hollie Beale

TARDIES

When arriving tardy (less than 10 minutes late), students must report to the office area to sign-in. After 10 minutes, the student is considered absent for that class and needs to sign-in in the office to receive an admission slip. (See discipline section for punishment.)

TELEPHONE USE

Students are not allowed to use the telephone any time during the day unless an emergency arises. All office telephones are reserved for school business. Students will not be called from class to the telephone unless an emergency occurs. Job-related phone calls are not considered emergencies. Parents may call and leave messages with the school secretary.

If a student needs to use the telephone for an emergency call, the student must have a note from his/her teacher that period **stating the nature of the emergency**. The secretary will make the phone call.

TORNADO WARNING DRILLS

Students will move to the assigned tornado-resistant areas posted in each classroom. Students are requested to become aware of these areas. The signal will consist of the **GEMA CODE** and an **ANNOUNCEMENT** and may be followed by **LONG BELL SOUNDS**.

VALEDICTORIAN/ SALUTATORIAN

The student with the highest class ranking as determined by the highest-grade point average shall be recognized as Valedictorian. The student with the second highest class ranking as determined by the grade point average shall be recognized as **Salutarian**.

(CRITERIA FOR BREAKING TIES)

1. Numerical average to the 4th decimal place. If tie still exists, then:
2. Number of college preparatory classes taken. If tie still exists, then:
3. Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) scores.

In order to be named either Valedictorian or Salutarian, students must complete graduation requirements and must have attended high school in the school system for four (4) complete semesters (junior and senior years). Transfer credit used for calculation of highest grade point average shall be accepted only from a high school accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (or agency recognized as a regional accrediting agency by SACS). All grades will be calculated based on the Laurens County School System's grading scale. A.P. Classes carry extra weight.

The Valedictorian and Salutarian shall be publicly recognized as determined by the high school. In the event of a tie in class ranking for Valedictorian, each will be publicly acknowledged. A Salutarian will also be publicly recognized in the event of a tie for Valedictorian. After determining there is no tie in class ranking for Valedictorian, if a tie in class ranking exists, each student will be publicly acknowledged.

VALENTINE'S DAY

Valentine's Day is a personal day of private feelings of affection. The day is not a legal holiday and is not recognized by the school as a "free" day. Please, celebrate at home. If you must have items sent to school, we will try to give those items out at the end of the day. WLHS does **not** accept any responsibility for lost or damaged gifts. Glass and balloons cannot be taken on the bus.

VISITORS

The Laurens County Board of Education requires all visitors to report to the main office **before** visiting classrooms, school personnel, or students. Visitors must obtain a WLHS **visitor's pass** from the office and **wear it so that it is easily viewed**. Upon terminating visitation, the pass must be returned to the office. A visitor is anyone who is not employed by the Laurens County Board of Education or currently enrolled student of West Laurens High School.

VISITORS (UNRULY)

Most visitors are good, respectful people, and we regret that this procedure has to be in the school handbook. However, disruptive or hostile visitors cannot be tolerated. Visitors who become rude, hostile, abrasive, or in any way aggressive toward students, other parents, teachers, administrators, or any staff members **will face legal charges and may be fined up to \$500.00** (Code 1981,20-2-1182, enacted by Georgia Law 1989, p. 1394, 1.) All threats will be taken seriously, including phone calls, E-mails, and letters, and will result in the necessary legal action. School is a place of learning, not a place to vent personal frustrations. Please remember, coming to school is a **privilege**, not a right.

WLHS SCHOOL STORE

The school store is open Monday-Friday during break. Students may purchase pencils, paper, erasers, ice cream, and school spirit clothing.

OTHER

Due to the vast number of state, local and school policies, it is impossible to cover all possible concerns. If you have a question, please feel free to call or come by the school. The school web site is an excellent source of information.

PART 2 DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS**CODE OF CONDUCT**

It is the purpose of the Laurens County School District to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Board of Education has adopted a policy, which requires all schools to adopt codes of conduct requiring students to conduct themselves in a manner, which facilitates a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district.

The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in this Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places:

- At school or on school property at any time
- Off school grounds at any school activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such
- events
- On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at school bus stops

- Students may be disciplined for conduct off campus which could result in the student being criminally charged with a felony and which makes the student's continued presence at school a potential danger to persons or property at the school or which disrupts the educational process.

Major offenses including, but not limited to, drug and weapon offenses can lead to schools being named as an Unsafe School according to the provisions of State Board Rule 160-4-8-.16, Unsafe School Choice Option.

Parents are encouraged to become familiar with the Code of Conduct and to be supportive of it in their daily communication with their children and others in the community.

The General Assembly of Georgia requires that this code of conduct include language encouraging parents and guardians to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult.

This Code of Conduct is based on the expectation that parents, guardians, teachers, and school administrators will work together to improve and enhance student behavior and academic performance and will communicate freely their concerns about, and actions in response to, student behavior that detracts from the learning environment. School administrators recognize that two-way communication through personal contacts is extremely valuable; therefore, they provide information to parents as well as ongoing opportunities for school personnel to hear parents' concerns and comments. Parents and students should contact the principal of the school if specific questions arise related to the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct specifies within its standards of behavior various violations of the Code which may result in a school staff member's request that a parent or guardian come to the school for a conference. Parents are encouraged to visit the schools regularly and are expected to be actively involved in the behavior support processes designed to promote positive choices and behavior.

Georgia law mandates that any time a teacher or principal identifies a student as a chronic disciplinary problem student, the principal shall notify by telephone call and by mail the student's parent or guardian of the disciplinary problem, invite the parent or guardian to observe the student in a classroom situation, and request at least one parent or guardian to attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The Official Code of Georgia, Code Section 20-2-735, states student codes of conducts are required to "encourage parents and legal guardians to inform their children on the consequences, including potential criminal penalties, of underage sexual conduct and crimes for which a minor can be tried as an adult".

Georgia law also states that before any chronic disciplinary problem student is permitted to return to school from a suspension or expulsion, the school shall request by telephone call and/or by mail at least one parent or guardian to schedule and attend a conference to devise a disciplinary and behavioral correction plan.

The law allows a local board of education to petition the juvenile court to require a parent to attend a school conference. If the court finds that the parent or guardian has willfully and unreasonably failed to attend a conference requested by the principal pursuant to the laws cited above, the court may order the parent or guardian to attend such a conference, order the parent or guardian to participate in such programs or such treatment as the court deems appropriate to improve the student's behavior, or both. After notice and opportunity for hearing, the court may impose a fine, not to exceed \$500.00, on a parent or guardian who willfully disobeys an order of the court under this law.

AUTHORITY OF THE PRINCIPAL

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures that he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school.

TEACHER AUTHORITY

The Superintendent fully supports the authority of principals and teachers in the school system to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to provisions of state law.

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737, which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior. The principal or designee shall, within one school day after receiving such a report from a teacher, send to the student's parents or guardian a copy of the report and information regarding how the student's parents or guardians may contact the principal or designee.

The principal or designee shall notify in writing the teacher and the student's parents or guardian of the discipline or student support services which has occurred as a result of the teacher's report within one school day from the imposition of discipline or the utilization of the support services. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable attempt to confirm that the student's parents or guardian has received the written notification, including information as to how the parents or guardian may contact the principal or designee.

DISCIPLINING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROCEDURES

School personnel may, for not more than ten school days in a row, remove a child with a disability who violates the code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension without consulting the student's IEP team. School personnel may also impose additional removals of not more than ten days for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement.

Once a child has been removed from his or her current placement for a total of ten, consecutive or not consecutive, school days in the same school year, the school system must, during any subsequent days of removal in that school year, provide services that enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP.

Within ten school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct (except for a removal that is less than ten school days and is not a change in placement), the school system, the parent and relevant members of the IEP team must review all relevant information in the student's file, in the IEP, any teacher observations and any relevant information provided by the parent to determine:

- A. If the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to, the child's disability; or
 - B. If the conduct in question was the direct result of the school systems failure to implement the child's IEP.
- If the relevant members of the IEP team determine that either of these conditions was met, the conduct must be determined to be a manifestation of the child's disability. If the conduct was the result of the school system's failure to implement the IEP, the school system must take immediate action to remedy those deficiencies.

When the conduct is a manifestation of the student's disability the IEP team must conduct (or review if already in place) the Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) and develop and implement (or review and modify) a behavioral intervention plan (BIP) for the student to address the behavior so as to prevent it from occurring in the future.

1. If your child carries a weapon to school or to a school function; if your child knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or if your child inflicts serious bodily injury on another person while at school, on school premises or at a school sponsored function, school system personnel may order a change in the placement of your child to (a) an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension, for not more than 10

school days (to the extent such alternatives would be applied to children without disabilities), or to (b) an appropriate interim alternative educational setting for the same amount of time that a child without a disability would be subject to discipline, but for not more than 45 days without regard to whether or not the behavior was a manifestation of disability. The alternative education setting shall be determined by the IEP team.

2. School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement is appropriate.
3. An ALJ/hearing officer may order a change in the placement of your child to the IEP-determined appropriate interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 days if the ALJ/hearing officer determines that maintaining the current placement of your child is substantially likely to result in injury to your child or to others; and determines that the interim alternative educational setting meets the requirements of paragraph (5).
4. Any interim alternative educational setting in which your child is placed pursuant to paragraph (1) or paragraph (4) in this section shall: (a) be selected so as to enable your child to continue to receive educational services in order to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to continue to progress toward the goals set out in the IEP; and (b) receive the services and modifications of a functional behavioral assessment and behavior intervention plan designed to address the behavior so that it does not recur.
5. If a disciplinary action is contemplated as described in paragraph (1) or paragraph (4) of this section for the behavior of your child, you shall be notified of that decision and of all procedural safeguards accorded under this section no later than the date on which the decision to take that action is made,; and immediately, if possible, but in no case later than 10 school days after the date on which the decision to take that action is made, the school system, the parent and relevant members of the IEP team shall conduct a review of the relationship between your child's disability and the behavior subject to the disciplinary action.
6. In carrying out a review described in paragraph (6) of this section, the school system, the parent and relevant members of the IEP team (as determined by the parent and the school system) shall review all relevant information in the student's file, including the child's IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine (1) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; or (2) if the conduct in question was the direct result of the school systems failure to implement the IEP. When the school system, the parent and the relevant members of the IEP determine that either (a) or (b) is applicable, the conduct is a manifestation of the disability.
7. If the determination is that the behavior of your child was not a manifestation of his or her disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to children without disabilities may be applied to your child in the same manner in which they would be applied to children without disabilities except that the child: (a) must continue to receive educational services so as to enable the child to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the child's IEP; and (b) receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.
8. If the determination is made that the conduct was a manifestation of the disability, then the IEP team shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement the behavior intervention plan or review such and revise as necessary if already in place. The child shall be returned to the placement from which he or she was removed, unless the parent and the school system agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan. For circumstances described in paragraph (1) or (4) an interim alternative setting may be used as determined by the IEP team.
9. If you request an expedited due process hearing regarding a disciplinary action described in paragraph (1)(b) or Paragraph (3) to challenge the interim alternative educational setting or the manifestation determination, your child shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the ALJ/hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period provided for in paragraph (1)(b) or paragraph (3), whichever occurs first, unless you and the State or the school system agree otherwise. Such

expedited due process hearing must occur within 20 school days of the date the hearing is requested and must result in a determination within 10 school days after the hearing; a resolution session meeting must occur within seven days of the date the hearing is requested, and the hearing may proceed unless the matter has been resolved to the satisfaction of both parties within 15 days of receipt of the hearing request. The decision of an expedited due process hearing may be appealed.

10. When an expedited due process hearing has been requested regarding placement as a result of a violation of code of conduct, the child shall remain in the interim alternative educational setting pending the decision of the ALJ/hearing officer or until the expiration of the time period defined, whichever occurs first, unless the parent and the State or local agency agree otherwise.
11. If a child has not been determined eligible for special education and related services and violated a code of student conduct, but the school system had knowledge before the behavior occurred that the child was a child with a disability, then the child may assert the protections described in this notice. A school system has knowledge that the child may be a child with a disability if:
 - a) The parent of the child has expressed concern in writing that the child is in need of special education and related services to supervisory or administrative personnel or the teacher of the child.
 - b) The parent requested an evaluation related to eligibility for special education and related services under the IDEA.
 - c) The child's teacher or other system personnel expressed specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child directly to the school system's director of special education or to other supervisory personnel of the school system.

A SCHOOL SYSTEM DOES NOT HAVE KNOWLEDGE IF:

- a) The child's parent has not allowed an evaluation of the child
- b) Has refused special education and related services
- c) Has revoked consent for the delivery of special education and related services or
- d) The child has been evaluated and determined not to be a child with a disability eligible for services under the IDEA.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

When it is necessary to impose discipline, school administrators and teacher will follow a **progressive discipline process**. The degree of discipline to be imposed by each school official will be in proportion to the severity of the behavior of a particular student and will take into account the student's discipline history, the age of the student and other relevant facts.

The Code of Conduct provides a systematic process of behavioral correction in which inappropriate behaviors are followed by consequences. Disciplinary actions are designed to teach students self-discipline and to help them substitute inappropriate behaviors with those that are consistent with the character traits from Georgia's Character Education Program. (OCGA 20-2-145)

The following disciplinary actions may be imposed for any violation of this Code of Conduct:

- Warning and/or counseling with an administrator or counselor
- Loss of privileges
- Time out
- Temporary removal from class or activity
- Notification of parents
- Parent conference
- Detention
- Suspension or Loss of driving privileges
- Behavior Contract
- Temporary placement in an alternative education setting
- Out of School Suspension (OSS)
- In School Suspension (ISS)
- Referral to a Tribunal for long-term suspension or expulsion (OCGA 20-2-750)
- Suspension or expulsion from the school bus

- Corporal Punishment

Referral to law enforcement or juvenile court officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate.

The maximum punishments for an offense include long-term suspension or expulsion, including permanent expulsion, but those punishments will be determined only by a disciplinary tribunal as outlined in the Laurens County Board of Education policies (Laurens County Board Policy for Student Disciplinary Hearings).

Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline in cases which would lead to a tribunal hearing for expulsion. In such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. Such an agreement and waiver must be approved also by the disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with local board policy.

Before a student is suspended for ten days or less, the principal or designee will inform the student of the offense for which the student is charged and allow the student to explain his or her behavior. If the student is suspended, the student's parents will be notified, if possible. School officials may involve law enforcement officials when evidence surrounding a situation necessitates their involvement or when there is a legal requirement that an incident be reported.

School officials may search a student if there is reasonable suspicion the student is in possession of an item that is illegal or against school rules. Student vehicles brought on campus, student book bags, school lockers, desks, and other school properties are subject to inspection and search by school authorities at any time without further notice to student or parents. Cell phones/multi-media/electronic devices taken from students due to possession and/or use in violation of school rules are subject to having their contents searched. Students are required to cooperate if asked to open book bags, lockers or any vehicle brought on campus. Metal detectors and drug or weapon sniffing dogs may be utilized at school or at any school function, including activities that occur outside normal school hours or off the school campus at the discretion of administrators.

DEFINITIONS OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENTS

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION An alternative to out-of-school suspension or expulsion. ISS: Isolates disruptive, misbehaving students from their peers in a controlled setting; Assists students in continuing academic progress on classroom assignments; Directs students' attention to appropriate behavior by identifying inappropriate behavior; Identifies the need for counseling and recommends counseling services for students who need help with social adjustment skills; Is used for repetitive or serious behavior problems. Any disruptions, failure to follow ISS rules or failure to attempt work in ISS will result in out-of-school suspension. If any time is owed in ISS after school is out, it is left to the discretion of the administration as to how the time will be made up.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL The removal of a student from normal day classes at a Laurens County High School and the assignment to an alternative education program is a consequence that may be considered by a disciplinary tribunal. This assignment will be at the tribunal's discretion but will be for no less than a FULL SCHOOL TERM with demonstrated success.

DETENTION

Detention may require the student's attendance before school, after school, during lunch, during teacher work days, or during scheduled class or school activity time. Students will report to the designated area at the assigned time and abide by the following Detention Rules:

1. Students must bring pencils, paper, books and other materials with which to do school work.
2. NO MATERIALS = NO DETENTION TIME
3. To change detention date requires administrative approval.

4. A student who is disruptive in detention will be asked to leave the area. Detention will convert to ISS or OSS at administrator's discretion.
5. Detention will take precedence over any after school activity, including sports and jobs.
6. Should the number of assigned detentions exceed the number of days remaining in the grading period, the detention will be converted to ISS assignment.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

OSS is temporary removal of the student from the school campus, classes and all school-sponsored activities. OSS is an excused absence and work missed may be made up.

LONG TERM SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

For the purpose of conducting certain student discipline hearings, as defined below, rendering a decision and imposing punishment, the LCBOE hereby adopts the following procedures:

1. The superintendent shall convene a hearing in the following cases:
2. When a student above grade five has committed an alleged assault or battery upon a teacher, other School official or employee;
3. When a student has violated any school or system rule or engaged in any other act of misconduct or insubordination that the student's principal determines should be punished by long-term suspension or expulsion.
4. The BOE appoints its principals, assistant principals and certified central office staff to serve as members of hearing tribunals. When the principal of a school refers a student to the superintendent for a hearing as described in paragraph 1, the superintendent or his staff shall choose three of these members to serve as the hearing tribunal. No member of the hearing tribunal shall be a member of the staff at the school that the student attends.
5. Whenever a principal refers a student discipline matter to the superintendent, the superintendent shall send a letter by certified mail to the student and his/her parents/guardians containing a statement of the time, place and nature of hearing. A short and plain statement of the matters asserted and charges against the student, a statement setting forth the right of the student to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses and be represented by legal counsel.
6. The school principal, or his designee, shall be responsible for presenting evidence in support of the charges against the student. All parties shall be afforded an opportunity to present and respond to evidence and to examine and cross-examine witnesses on any and all issues. The hearing tribunal shall have made a verbatim electronic or written record of the hearing. This record shall be available to all parties. The cost of transcribing such record shall be borne by the party requesting the transcript.
7. The hearing tribunal shall render a decision finding whether the student committed the offense and, if so, the appropriate punishment. The decision of the hearing tribunal shall be based solely on the evidence received at the hearing including any evidence presented by either party relevant to the appropriate punishment to be imposed. The hearing tribunal shall render a decision in writing within ten (10) school days of the close of the record and shall furnish a copy of the decision to the student, his or her parents or legal guardians, the principal and the superintendent. The decision of the hearing tribunal shall be final and shall constitute the decision of the BOE unless either party should appeal the decision of the BOE.
8. Any party may appeal the decision of the hearing tribunal to the BOE by filing with the superintendent a written notice of appeal within twenty (20) calendar days from the date the decision is rendered. Such notice of appeal shall set forth the decision of the hearing tribunal and the basis of the appeal. Any decision of the hearing tribunal not appealed in this manner shall be final. The superintendent may suspend the disciplinary action imposed by the hearing tribunal pending the outcome of the appeal.
9. The BOE shall review the record of the hearing before the hearing tribunal, the decision of the hearing tribunal, and the notice of appeal. The Board shall render its decision in writing with 10 days from the date it receives the notice of appeal. The decision of the BOE shall be based solely on the record before the hearing tribunal, and the Board shall not consider any other evidence in ruling on the appeal. The Board may find the facts to be different than those found by the hearing tribunal, and the Board may change the

punishment. Any decision of the local board may be appealed to the State BOE by filing an appeal, in writing, within thirty (30) calendar days after the local board renders its decision.

10. Any student subject to a disciplinary hearing who withdraws from the Laurens County School System prior to the hearing must appear before a disciplinary hearing tribunal to determine the student's eligibility to return to the Laurens County School System in the event the student ever seeks to return to the system. Alternatively, the school district may, in its discretion, proceed with the tribunal in accordance with Board policy despite the student's withdrawal from school.

WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE OF DISCIPLINE

If a student receives ISS because of a discipline problem and withdraws to avoid serving the ISS, then returns to school later, the student will serve the days in ISS previously assigned, plus any additional days for insubordination or failure to accept discipline. Students who withdraw in order to avoid disciplinary action may not be allowed to return to West Laurens High School until the following semester.

ASSAULT

Assault, including threats of bodily harm and/or sexual assault, of teachers, administrators, other school personnel, other students, or persons attending school-related functions: Legal requirement areas following: Immediate suspension and automatic referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon a teacher or other school personnel; possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal if a student is alleged to have committed an assault upon another student or a person attending a school-related function.

ATTENDANCE PROTOCOL

As mandated by OCGA 20-2-690.2, a county-wide Attendance Protocol Committee is established and charged with ensuring the coordination and cooperation among officials, agencies, and programs involved in compulsory education issues, to reduce the number of unexcused absences from school, and to increase the percentage of students present to take tests that are required to be administered under the laws of the state.

The protocol developed shall apply to the Dublin City and Laurens County School Systems. Private school organizations shall make their intentions known to the Superior Court Judge of whether to participate in the protocol or submit a separate protocol that meets the requirements of the State of Georgia. It is important for credibility within the community that all local schools operate under the same, consistent student attendance expectations and protocols.

All mandated reporters shall assure that students suspected of being truant are reported to designated school officials, law enforcement, or DFACS. With these expectations, the following protocol is adopted.

I. DEFINITIONS:

A. COMPULSORY EDUCATION: Every parent, guardian, or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child or children between their sixth (6th) and sixteenth (16th) birthdays shall enroll and send such child or children to a public school, a private school, or a home study program (OCGA 20-2-690.10). Children that have attained 20 days enrollment in Kindergarten also fall under compulsory attendance according to O.C.G.A. 20-2-150.

B. TRUANT: Per the Georgia State Board of Education Attendance Rules, "Truant" is defined as "any child subject to compulsory education (ages 6 through 16, and 5 year olds who have attended twenty (20) days in school) who during the school calendar year has more than five days of unexcused absences".

C. MONITORING: Each school system shall assure compliance with compulsory education and attendance policies in assigned schools. Individual schools will monitor attendance and follow the protocol for reporting.

II. IDENTIFYING TRUANT STUDENTS:

A. EXCUSED ABSENCES

EXCUSED ABSENCES SHALL INCLUDE:

1. Personal illness,
2. A serious illness or death/funeral in the student's immediate family (Immediate family is defined as parents/guardians, grandparents, siblings, and other persons living within the child's residence),
3. A court order or an order by a governmental agency,
4. Celebration of state recognized religious holidays,
5. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety,
6. One (1) day to register to vote,
7. PAGE for Georgia General Assembly (counted as present in school),
8. Up to five (5) school days for a student whose parent or guardian is in military service in the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard, if such parent/guardian has been called to duty for or is on leave from overseas deployment, to visit with his/her parent/guardian prior to deployment or while on leave.

THREE (3) DAYS TO SUBMIT EXCUSE FOR ABSENCE Upon returning to school, the student will have three (3) days to present the necessary written documentation to have the absences count as excused. Failure to present this documentation will result in an unexcused absence. Phone calls and emails will not be accepted in place of a written notice.

Excuse must include:

1. The date(s) of the absence,
2. Student name,
3. Reason for absence and
4. Parent or guardian signature

Six (6) Excused or Unexcused Absences - A parent's note will be accepted to excuse personal illness until a student reaches 6 absences. After a student's sixth absence (starting with the 7th day out of school), a doctor's excuse is required for ALL future absences due to illness.

B. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES Unexcused absences shall include all absences that do not meet the criteria as outlined for excused absences. Also refer to Section II C Tardies and Early Dismissals. School days missed as a result of an out of school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy.

C. TARDIES/EARLY DISMISSALS As mandated by OCGA 20-2-690.2, the Attendance Protocol Committee must recommend policies regarding tardies and early dismissals. In order to promote continuity between the school systems, the following policy is recommended:

1. Five (5) unexcused tardies/early dismissals will count as one (1) unexcused absence,
2. The conditions for excusing a tardy or early dismissal will be the same as an absence,
3. Tardies and early dismissals must be tracked separately, and the data will be used to identify truant students. Information concerning students, who meet these thresholds, will be monitored by the school.

D. STUDENT WITHDRAWALS

1. Local school systems are authorized to withdraw a student who:
 - Has missed more than 10 consecutive days of unexcused absences,
 - Is not subject to compulsory attendance; and
 - Is not receiving instructional services from the local school system through homebound
 - instruction or instructional services required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
2. Local school systems shall notify the parent or guardian of the intention to withdraw student younger than 18 years of age who is not subject to compulsory attendance.

III. NOTIFICATION OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS Within thirty (30) days of enrollment in school, the parent or guardian will be notified in writing of the attendance policies and consequences. The parent/guardian must sign and return this notification, which will be placed in the student's record. Students in grades 4–12 are also required to sign the notification of attendance policies.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF ATTENDANCE POLICY

- A. **LEARNER'S/DRIVER'S LICENSE (O.C.G.A. 40-5-22)** The school will notify parent/guardian by first class mail of students aged fourteen (14) years and older who have acquired seven (7) unexcused and/or consecutive absences per semester. The school will report the names, addresses and social security numbers of these students who acquire ten (10) unexcused or consecutive absences to the State Board of Education, which in turn will send this information to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Department of Motor Vehicles

will notify student of their ineligibility to apply for license or suspension of a current license. This is now a statewide requirement, known as TAADRA.

- B. **WORK PERMITS** Work permits will not be authorized for students who have 10 or more unexcused absences. Students with existing work permits, who have acquired 10 or more absences, will be recommended for revocation
- C. **UNEXCUSED ABSENCES Three (3) or More Unexcused** By the time a student has acquired an equivalent of three or more unexcused absences, the school will notify the parent or guardian in writing or via automated message of the student's absences. This is a courtesy to make parents/guardians aware that we are monitoring their student's attendance. This reminder or similar documented action will serve as the good faith effort required of the school before taking further action. Failure to see or hear this reminder does not prevent further action taken to attempt to improve attendance.

Five (5) or More Unexcused The school will notify the parent/guardian of the attendance policy and consequences at an equivalent of **five (5) unexcused** absences in conjunction with a Truancy Meeting, which the parent/guardian will be requested to attend. The objective of the meeting will be to explore the barriers to attendance, develop a plan to improve attendance, and to remind the parent/guardian of the attendance policy and consequences for further unexcused absences. At this Truancy Meeting if we find the student has a history of truancy (10 unexcused absences the previous school year), an appropriate community referral to the Laurens County Local Interagency Planning Team may be completed for this student along with the parent/guardian to work toward improvement in the student's attendance at school.

Six (6) Excused or Unexcused Absences A parent's note will be accepted to excuse personal illness until a student reaches 6 absences. After a student's sixth absence (starting with the 7th day out of school), a doctor's excuse is required for ALL future absences due to illness.

Ten or More Unexcused Absences

- a. Ten or more unexcused absences will result in a petition for educational neglect or truancy to be filed with the Laurens County Juvenile Court.
- b. In the event of a referral, each additional unexcused absence following notification of the parent/guardian of **10 unexcused days of absence** for a child shall constitute a **separate** violation of the Compulsory Education Law (OCGA 20-2-690.10). The violation will be reported to the court.
- c. Any parent, guardian, or other person with control of a child, who violates the Compulsory Education Law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than \$25.00 and not greater than \$100.00, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction (OCGA 20-2-690.10).

BATTERY

Including sexual battery of other students, or persons attending school-related functions: Possible referral to a disciplinary tribunal and to law enforcement if a student is alleged to have committed battery upon another student or a person attending a school-related function. Student may receive 10 days out of school (OSS) and juvenile complaint may be filed

BEHAVIOR NOT COVERED

The school reserves the right to punish behavior which is not deemed appropriate by the administration, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules. Punishment of such behavior will be at the discretion of the administrative staff. Any action that interferes with learning will not be allowed. GA Code 20-2-1181 states that it is unlawful for any person to disrupt or interfere with the operation of any public school. This includes but is not limited to, continued classroom disruptions by a student. Any student who continually or severely disrupts a classroom and teaching time will not only be suspended from school but may also face criminal prosecution under this law.

BULLYING

Georgia law mandates that upon a finding by a disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school. (OCGA 20-2-751.4)

- 1st offense:** 1 day OSS/Parent Contact
- 2nd offense:** 3 days OSS/Behavior Contract
- 3rd offense:** Tribunal referral and possible assignment to alternative school

BUS CONDUCT

Students must abide by the following school bus rules:

Each pupil shall be seated immediately upon entering the bus.

Pupils are not to stand or move from place to place while the bus is in motion.

Windows and doors are to be opened or closed only with the permission of the bus drivers. If allowed, windows should only be opened to the indicated safety line.

Indecent conduct or loud, disruptive or profane language will not be permitted.

Passengers are not to behave in any manner that infringes upon the rights of any other passenger.

This would include any form or type of bullying.

No pupil is to enter or leave the bus until it has come to a complete stop. Students may enter or leave the bus only upon bus driver signal.

Students are not to throw objects of any kind on the school bus or out the windows. All parts of the student's body shall remain inside the bus at all times.

Absolutely no tobacco, drinks, alcohol, or illegal drugs will be allowed on the bus.

Before riding a bus other than the assigned bus, students are to have a written note from their parent or guardian stating their destination and should obtain a bus pass from the office. Students are to identify themselves to the driver.

Students shall be prohibited from using any electronic devices during the operation of a school bus, including but not limited to cell phones; pagers; audible radios, tape or compact disc players without headphones; or any other electronic device in a manner that might interfere with the school bus communication equipment or the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

Students are also prohibited from using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras, or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the school bus driver's operation of the school bus.

Any other object deemed to be unsafe cargo on the bus will be denied (examples: flowers, balloons, glass containers).

The driver will have authority to deny transportation to a student with such articles in his/her possession. The driver and/or school corporation bears no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged items brought onto the bus.

The privilege of riding the school bus may be denied to any student who does not conduct himself/herself in a safe and orderly fashion. School bus drivers and administration will determine what is safe and orderly.

The bus driver reserves the right to assign seating for any student(s) that are disruptive in any way.

The following specific provisions shall govern student conduct and safety on all school buses:

Students shall be prohibited from acts of physical violence as defined by Code Section 20-2-751.6, bullying as defined by subsection (a) of the Code Section 20-2-751.4, physical assault or battery of other persons on the school bus, verbal assault of other persons on the school bus, disrespectful conduct toward the school bus driver or other persons on the school bus, and other unruly behavior.

A meeting of the parent or guardian of the student and appropriate school district officials must be held to form a school bus behavior contract whenever: A student is found to have engaged in bullying; or A student is found to have engaged in physical assault or battery of another person on the school bus. Students are under the direct supervision of the bus driver and must obey his/her request. The Code of Conduct applies to all students who use our transportation system for any reason.

Disciplinary action for violations of the Code of Conduct will be determined by the nature and severity of the offense and is at the discretion of the school administrators. Parents will be sent a copy of bus incident reports concerning their children. These are to be signed and returned to school the next day.

Riding the school bus is a privilege, which can be taken away if deemed necessary by the administration, and school transportation would then become the responsibility of the parent.

Administrative procedures for disciplinary action on buses include: warning, assigned seats, short term suspension of riding privileges, long term suspension of riding privileges, and possible loss of riding privileges.

BUS DISCIPLINE CODES Amended on October 25, 2002 Revised 4/25/17

The behavior of students while riding Laurens County School Buses is one of the most important factors concerning transportation safety. A school bus driver's attention should always be on the conditions of the road. Students too often distract the drivers, sometimes to the point that drivers must focus all their attention on discipline problems instead of driving. Students can follow a few rules to make riding buses safe and enjoyable. Violation of these rules may subject the offender to disciplinary action-for example, revocation of riding privileges for a period of time.

* Observe the same conduct as in the school setting.

- * Be courteous; use no profane language.
- * Do not eat on the bus.
- * Keep the bus clean.
- * Cooperate with the driver. The driver is authorized to assign seats.
- * Do not infringe on the rights of others.
- * Stay in your seat while the bus is in motion.
- * Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- * Do not throw objects in or out of the bus. (Discretion may be used as to the severity).
- * Students should remain quiet at all railroad crossings.
- * Use electronic devices appropriately (remove earbuds when entering/exiting the bus; refrain from the use of phone for phone calls, photography, videoing; refrain from viewing/sharing inappropriate content; use earbuds when music or sound is emitted from device).
- * Refrain from the use of lasers, flashes, or other reflective devices that might interfere with the driver's operation of the bus
- * Flowers and balloons should not be brought on the school bus.

MINOR BUS DISCIPLINE The Laurens County School System provides bus transportation. It is a service to the community by the school system. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Any activity that will distract from safe handling of the bus is to be avoided. School administrators will handle any infractions per driver's request following progressive discipline procedures. A student's failure to comply with bus expectations could result in suspension from the bus, corporal punishment (K-8), or loss of bus riding privileges for a period of time. If the behavior is not corrected, a tribunal may be held to consider the loss of riding privileges indefinitely.

MAJOR BUS DISCIPLINE: (Code section 20-2-751.6)

- * Fighting on the bus (suspension from bus AND school in middle and high school)
- * Verbal assault or being disrespectful to bus driver or school personnel
- * Possession of tobacco products, lighters, or matches
- * Vulgar language
- * Undue sexual familiarity
- * Harassment of other students or bus driver
- * Disrespectful conduct toward students
- * Bullying

1st Offense: Suspended from the bus for three days.

2nd Offense: Suspended from the bus for five days.

3rd Third Offense: Suspended from the bus until a tribunal hearing is held. Administrative discretion may be used in any of the following offenses: Vandalism of a school bus (burning, cutting, punching holes in seats, etc.) will result in suspension from the bus until damage amount is paid. Possession of any weapon or objects used as a weapon, other than a firearm, will result in suspension from the bus until a parent conference or tribunal hearing is held, along with appropriate criminal charges being filed. Possession of any firearm, drugs, or alcohol will result in suspension from all buses and school, until a tribunal hearing is held.

Such cases may be turned over to law enforcement officials.

When a student is suspended from riding the bus, written and/or verbal contact must be made with the parent. When a student is suspended from the bus, he is suspended from all Laurens County buses! If a student is caught riding any bus while suspended that student will receive 5 additional days suspension from bus privileges.

Administrative discretion may be used in dealing with students on any offense, except those involving cases of assault, weapons, and drugs.

CAFETERIA ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to observe appropriate table manners while eating, including clearing their place at the table and surrounding area when finished. Students may not leave the lunchroom without permission. All students at a table are responsible for the condition of the table and surrounding floor. Consequences may include: clean up, assigned lunch seat, and ISS/OSS.

CHEATING

Plagiarism, cheating, or copying from another student either on paper or computer, on tests, classroom work, homework or exams will not be tolerated. No cell phones, mp3 players, or electronic recording

devices will be allowed during class exams. Consequences may include a grade of 0, parent contact and ISS/OSS. Any student accused of an act of plagiarism may appeal to the administration. Administration reserves the right to offer the student an alternate assignment.

COMPUTER HACKING

Defined as intentionally accessing a computer, network, or peripheral device without authorization or which exceeds authorized access. This includes, but is not limited to, visiting inappropriate websites. Violations which compromise any level of security for individual user accounts or any school networks will result in 5-10 days of OSS, possible disciplinary tribunal, and could result in criminal prosecution.

COMPUTER VANDALISM

Defined as altering in any way the physical components of any computer system or network which belongs to Laurens County Schools. Depending on the severity of the offense, the consequences can range from ISS/OSS to criminal damage of property charges. Full restitution must be made for equipment that is irreparably damaged.

CRIMINAL LAW VIOLATIONS

A student who has committed a violation of the criminal laws and whose presence on the school campus may endanger the safety of other students or cause substantial disruption to the school operation may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY OR VANDALISM

The consequences for destruction of property, theft or vandalism will be at the discretion of the administration and may include ISS or OSS. Full restitution is expected.

DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR/INSUBORDINATION

Any student who is discourteous, insubordinate, ill-mannered or fails to identify himself correctly when asked by a teacher, administrator, substitute teacher or staff member during the school day or school event will receive disciplinary action.

First Offense: One day of ISS **Second Offense:** 2 days of ISS **Third Offense:** 3 days of ISS

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Any behavior that disrupts the educational process will be considered disruptive.

First Offense: Warning **Second Offense:** 2 days of ISS **Third Offense:** 3 days of ISS

DRESS CODE

Good personal appearance, appropriate dress, proper behavior, and cleanliness are vital to each member of the school community. Developing good tastes in attire, good grooming habits, and good behavior are a part of the educational program. Students of the Laurens County School System are expected to dress in a manner that is supportive of a positive learning environment that is free of distractions and disruptions. There is a direct correlation between student dress and student behavior. Students will be expected to observe modes of dress, styles of hair, and personal grooming which support the learning environment. The purpose of this dress code is to assure that consistency and interpretation is implemented county-wide, thus providing equitable treatment for all students. In making a judgment concerning the appropriateness of a student's dress or grooming, the principal should adhere to the guidelines set forth in the procedures that accompany this policy. The principal of the school is charged with the enforcement of the student dress code. The principal is given wide latitude of discretion in the

determination of proper or improper dress and behavior of students. Students who are found to be in violation of the dress code are subject to disciplinary action.

DRESS CODE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL (6-12)

All items of clothing should be clean and appropriate for school. They should not be too tight, improperly revealing, or allow undergarments to be seen.

Garments, jewelry, or articles of clothing should not display emblems related to alcohol, illegal or abusive substances, gangs, violence, sex, or obscenities. Clothing must be free of words or symbols that are offensive or demeaning to others. This guideline applies to clothing worn at any school function.

- Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than the top of the knee while standing.
- If leggings are worn in place of pants, the shirt must come to the fingertip.
- Guidelines for shorts and skirts apply even if leggings are being worn beneath the shorts or skirt.
- Holes in jeans, pants, shorts, or skirts must be below the required shorts length and modest in size. Holes above the specified short/skirt/dress length are unauthorized.
- Shoulder straps on shirts with no sleeves must not be less than 3" wide.
- Shirts must be long enough to tuck in. Midriffs and undergarments must be covered.
- Shorts, pants, and skirts must be worn at waist level. Clothing should be properly fitted to prevent sagging of pants or shorts.
- Pants should not extend below the heel of the shoe. Sagging, extremely baggy or wide pant legs, which present a safety hazard, are not to be worn at school.
- Hats, caps, sweatbands, bandannas, sunglasses, goggles, or other head coverings are not permitted in the building.
- Shoes must be worn at all times and should be appropriate for school activities. (For example, bedroom shoes and cleats are not permitted at school.)
- Pajamas, sleep, or loungewear are prohibited.
- Long/trench coats are prohibited.
- No pillows or blankets

****NOTE:** Certain school environments or classes may require more restrictive dress due to safety issues. (Ex.: CTAE/Connection classes, science labs, physical education) Students are expected to comply with safety guidelines. Student dress and appearance are the responsibility of the student and parent. All teachers and administrators will enforce the dress code every day.

Any student whose dress is in question should be referred to an administrator for a decision. Students will be allowed to call a parent for a change of clothes on the first two offenses only. If a change of clothes is not available, the student will be placed in ISS for the remainder of that school day. For every subsequent offense, the student will be placed in ISS for the remainder of that day and will receive a day of after school detention. If required, the administration may ask a student to turn a shirt/blouse inside-out if the garment contains writing or an image that is inappropriate for school.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Updated August 1, 2017

1. Cell phones and other electronic devices are permitted on campus; although, the use of cell phones during class time is prohibited. Understanding the role that cellular phones have come to play in everyday life, possession by a student on a school campus is acceptable; however, the following policy guidelines are provided in order to mitigate the disruptive factor that cellular phones can be to the school setting:

a. Electronic devices may be in the possession of a student at any time but may not be in use (which includes power on) from 8:10 am – until 3:05 pm. Limited use during lunch may be authorized at the discretion of the administration.

b. Cell phones and other electronic devices may be additionally used for educational purposes when approved by the administration. If cellular phone use is permitted by the administration, phones may only be used for educational purposes only while under the direct supervision of a teacher.

2. Failure to comply with the aforementioned policy could result in the following consequences:

1st offense: Cell phone or electronic device will be confiscated for a period of three (3) days and surrendered to a parent/guardian before 7:45am or after 3:15pm with a student, parent, and administrator endorsement of the electronic devices agreement.

2nd offense: Cell phone will be confiscated and returned to the student after five (5) school days.

3rd offense: Cell phone will be confiscated and returned to the student after one calendar week – seven (7) days.

3. The LCBOE, WLHS, and its employees will NOT be responsible for any item lost or stolen in relation to this policy including any item confiscated by school personnel as a result of violation of this policy. WLHS does not have the resources and/or the capacity to ensure confiscated items can be secured while being held; therefore, parents or guardians and students have the ultimate responsibility. Parents or Guardians must bear this in mind when students are allowed to bring cellular phones or electronic devices to school. Phones not claimed at the end of the school calendar year may be donated to charity.

FIGHTING

Fighting at school or at school activities is a serious offense and will not be tolerated by LCBOE. Fighting will result in an automatic 3 days out of school (OSS) for all parties involved in the fight on the **1st offense** and possible juvenile complaint being filed. The **2nd offense** of fighting will result in an automatic 5 days out of school (OSS) and a juvenile complaint may be filed with proper authorities and a request for a tribunal for alternative school placement, long term suspension or expulsion.

GAMBLING OR POSSESSION OF GAMBLING DEVICES

1st offense: 2 days ISS

2nd offense: 3 days ISS

3rd offense: 2 days OSS

GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO A SCHOOL OFFICIAL, DISHONESTY, FORGERY

Forging a note to check out or as an excuse for absences and giving other false information to school employees may result in parent contact, ISS or other suspension deemed by the administration. Falsifying, misrepresenting, omitting, or erroneously reporting information regarding instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student Any student (or parent or friend of a student) who believes a student has been the victim of an act of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a teacher, administrator or other school system employee is urged to make an oral report of the act to any teacher, counselor or administrator at his/her school.

HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Laurens County School District that racial, sexual, physical, verbal, or other forms of harassment or discrimination are strictly forbidden. Any student or employee who believes he or she has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the school district based upon his or her race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or sex should promptly report the same to the principal of their school. The principal will implement the board's discriminatory complaints or harassment procedures. Students are encouraged to report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor or to a teacher or a school administrator. Students and employees shall not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. All allegations of harassment shall be fully investigated, and immediate and appropriate corrective disciplinary action shall be initiated. A substantiated charge against a student shall subject that student to disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion, and/or recommendation for applying to Alternative School.

Any behavior based on a student's race, national origin, sex, or disability that is unwelcome, unwanted, and/or uninvited by the recipient is prohibited, including verbal or non-verbal taunting, physical contact, unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors and other verbal or physical contact of a sexual nature.

Minor Offense (as determined by Administration) Will result in parental contact, documentation of the case and other disciplinary actions as needed. Legal charges may be made. If offense occurs again, the student will be suspended for three days.

Major Offense (as determined by Administration) Will result in suspension until tribunal hearing can be held. The parents of the harassed student and/or school administration may make legal charges.

ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

Use of illegal drugs or improper use of any other substances, including alcohol, are not allowed on campus. In an effort to deter the use of or selling of illegal substances, random searches, use of drug dogs and/or sheriff's department personnel may be used without any notification other than this statement. Such random searches may occur on any part of school grounds or during any school function on or off campus at any time school or a school event is taking place and may include a breath analysis by a qualified official.

In order to provide a safe, healthful learning environment for the students of the Laurens County School System and recognizing that the use of drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful, a student shall not: possess, attempt to possess, sell, use in any amount, distribute or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturates, marijuana, drug paraphernalia or alcoholic beverage or other intoxicant; possess, distribute, attempt to sell or sell substances represented as drugs or alcohol; sell, attempt to sell, distribute or abuse the lawful use of a prescription medicine or over-the-counterdrug.

Prescription medicine, inhalers and over-the-counter medicines used for illness must be kept in their original containers and registered with the nurse until consumed. It is a violation of Georgia's Controlled Substance Act for them to be removed from their original containers. Each school shall include in its student handbook procedures for maintaining and dispensing medications at school for those students who must take the medication during the school day.

- a) Look-alike drugs will be treated in the same manner as illegal substances.
- b) All suspected cases of violation of these rules shall be reported by school staff members to the school principal and/or his/her designee.

Any student accused of violation of these rules shall be afforded due process procedural rights and upon determination of guilt will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, up to and including expulsion. Notification of parents or guardians and referral to the appropriate law enforcement agency for prosecution is mandatory by law. Students whose property or person has been determined by sheriff's department personnel to have concealed an illegal substance will be punished. Students distributing drugs will be automatically suspended, recommended for a tribunal hearing and referred to the sheriff's department.

1st Offense: 10 days of OSS or Referral to Tribunal Hearing **2nd Offense:** Suspension until Tribunal Hearing

LACK OF COOPERATION

Any student that fails to cooperate with a teacher or staff member.

1st Offense: Warning **2nd Offense:** 2 days of ISS **3rd Offense:** 3 days of ISS

LEAVING CAMPUS WITHOUT PERMISSION

A student who leaves school without following the proper checkout procedures will be considered to be skipping school. If a student comes on campus for any reason during the day and leaves campus without proper approval, he/she will also be considered to be skipping school. A student who is absent from school without his/her parents' or guardians' knowledge and permission will also be considered to be skipping school.

1st offense: 3 days ISS/Loss of driving privileges **2nd offense:** 5 days ISS/Loss of driving privileges
3rd offense: 3 days OSS/Loss of driving privileges/Behavior Contract **4th offense:** 5 days OSS/Loss of driving privileges

LIABILITY

The Laurens County School System as the Systems Administrator makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Laurens County School System will not be responsible for any damages suffered while on this system. These damages include loss of data, mis-deliveries, service interruptions, and/or exposure to offensive or threatening material. The Laurens County School System specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through these services. Security for privately owned portable electronic devices is the sole responsibility of individual owners. Neither LCBOE, nor its staff or employees, is liable for any device stolen or damaged, either physically or operationally, on school premises.

OFF LIMITS

The parking lots at are off limits during the school day. If a student needs to be in the parking lot after arriving at school for ANY REASON, a note or pass must be obtained from an administrator. As soon as students arrive at school, they should secure their vehicles and leave the parking lot area. Students are to report to the commons area or the gym upon arrival and remain until first bell. During the school day, students are not to be in any area of the campus unless they are with a member of the faculty or staff. All students are to exit the premises by or before 4:00 p.m. each school day. Any student on campus after school must be under the direct supervision of a member of the faculty or staff.

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: 2 days of ISS

3rd Offense: 3 days of ISS

PBIS MATRIX

Be a True	Classroom	Hallway	Restroom	Cafeteria	Arrival/Departure
Be Your Best Self	Try your hardest.	Keep it moving!	Keep it clean. Wash your hands.	Display respectful language, volume, and behavior.	Arrive on time. Go home when dismissed.
Live Responsibly	Be on time and prepared.	Get to class on time.	Report any misuse or problems.	Keep your area clean.	Follow posted rules.
Use Good Judgement	Display academic honesty.	Maintain personal space and appropriate noise level.	Get in and out in a timely manner.	Use your indoor voice.	Keep moving!
Exemplify Respect	Treat others the way you want to be treated.	Demonstrate appropriate language and behavior	Use the restroom between classes or at break.	Show kindness to everyone including lunchroom staff and custodians.	Honor others' personal property, time, and space.
Raider					

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE AGAINST A TEACHER, SCHOOL BUS DRIVER, OR OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL

(1) Immediate suspension and automatic referral to the disciplinary tribunal if a student is expelled for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public schools for acts of physical violence found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact which causes physical harm to another unless such physical contact or physical harm was in defense of himself or herself, as provided in Code Section 16-3-21; or, the Board may authorize the student to attend alternative school for the period of expulsion.

(2) Possible punishments may include expulsion, long-term suspension, or short-term suspension for students found by a tribunal to have intentionally made physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the person of another.

PRIVACY

Never give your full name, home address, phone number or other personal information on the Internet or any other information service. Never give out this type of information for any other person. Never use anyone else's name, password, or account.

PROFANITY

Profanity, offensive or inappropriate language should not be used at school, in class, on school grounds, or at school activities. The use of profanity or vulgar gestures toward a staff member will not be tolerated and will be treated severely at the discretion of the administration and will result in:

1st offense: 1 day ISS **2nd offense:** 2 days ISS **3rd offense:** 3 days ISS/Behavior Contract

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Both male and female students at school or school-sponsored events should conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner. Students shall have no physical contact with others (except for holding hands) that would be considered inappropriate or sexually suggestive.

1st offense: Warning **2nd offense:** 1 day ISS **3rd offense:** 2 days ISS **4th offense:** 3 days ISS

RULES OF CONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

Administrative Discretion - It is at the discretion of the administration to revise any rule, regulation, or consequence in this handbook without prior written notification. Every possible instance requiring administrative action cannot be covered in this handbook, and no handbook can list every possible example of poor judgment. However, students will be held accountable for any unwritten rule or regulation that might impede the educational process of Laurens County Schools. Attempts will be made to contact parents regarding the behavior of their children.

SCIENCE LABS

Science teachers will list specific procedures to follow in order to ensure safety in the labs. Failure to follow safe laboratory procedures during science class according to teacher's directions may result in ISS or suspension.

SECURITY

On all networks, security is of the highest priority. If you identify a security problem, notify a school administrator, Systems Administrator, or faculty member at once. Never demonstrate a security flaw to other users as this may compromise the integrity of the network.

SELLING OF ITEMS

Other than those approved by the Laurens County Board of Education and School Administration is prohibited on campus.

SKIPPING CLASS/HOMEROOM/ASSEMBLY

A student who skips a class during the school day will receive a "0" for that day in the subject missed. A student who is doing work for another teacher or is in another area other than his designated classroom (such as the restroom) without permission from his teacher or an administrator will be considered skipping. Students who leave their classroom during class time for any reason will make up the time missed in class at their teacher's discretion at break, before or after school, or during lunch break. Any student out of class FOR ANY REASON during the school day must have permission from a teacher entered on the sign out page of his/her agenda book. Sick in the restroom without notification is skipping class. Being more than 5 minutes late to class is skipping class.

1st offense: 1-day ISS **2nd offense:** 3 days ISS **3rd offense:** 5 days ISS/Behavior Contract
4th offense: 3 days OSS/Tribunal

STUDENT HEALTH INFORMATION

CLINIC REFERRALS: Students must have a clinic referral form from their teacher prior to being sent to the school nurse. (With exception of emergencies)

CLINIC & HEALTH INFORMATION & PERMISSION FORM: A completed, and signed permission form must be on file in the clinic before any treatment, other than emergency care, is given. Each LCBOE school will send home the Clinic & Health Information & Permission Form for the parent or guardian to complete for his/her child. The form should be returned to the school nurse by means of the teacher. If at any time a contact number changes, it is the parent's duty to notify the office and the clinic for emergency purposes.

MEDICATIONS: Medications should not be given at school unless absolutely necessary. Medications are a parental responsibility. An adult must bring and pick up all medication. Under no circumstances should medication be transported on the bus or the student. ALL medications must be brought and kept in the original container and stored in the clinic. Any medications that are not in the original container will not be administered and will be confiscated for pick up by the parent or guardian. Medications will only be given with the written consent of the parent/guardian, AND if medications are prescribed for administration specifically during school hours. Medication administration must be documented, and a Medication Authorization Form may be required. A teacher or paraprofessional may not administer medications unless authorization is obtained from the principal. Students are responsible for coming to the clinic at the correct time to take medications. The school cannot be held responsible for missed doses, although we will try our best to make sure this does not happen. Students are not allowed to carry prescription medications unless the student has asthma or anaphylactic reactions AND is authorized to self-administer his/her medication by the nurse.

OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS: As stated above, the Clinic and Health Information and Permission form will be sent home with each student. In order for the student to receive the over-the-counter medications listed on the form, the form must be completed and returned at the start of school. Over-the-counter medications can be given according to label recommendations only, unless otherwise ordered and documented by a physician. Over-the-counter medication will be administered by the school nurse only unless physician order or parent note is received, and the parent provides the medication. If physician order or parent note and medication is received, trained staff will be able to administer over-the-counter medication.

ESSENTIAL OILS: Essential oils are not FDA approved; therefore, students are not allowed to bring them to school, nor can they be administered by LCBOE staff.

ILLNESS/INJURY: All accidents must be reported to an administrator and the school nurse. Students who have a communicable illness should not attend school. Students who are running a fever (greater than 100.2°F) should not attend school. Additionally, students should be fever free and symptom free (including diarrhea and vomiting) for 24 hours before returning to school. Students who are too sick to attend class will be sent home from school. In case of illness or injury, the school nurse will render first aid and notify the parent(s) or guardian(s). If emergency medical attention is needed, 911 will be called, and the student will be taken to Fairview Park Hospital. If a child's accident needs emergency care, a member of the administrative staff will make necessary decisions, and the parent or guardian will be contacted.

HEAD LICE: Students may be checked periodically, or as needed, if head lice are suspected. If a child is identified with lice and/or live nits (eggs), the child will be removed from the classroom, and the parent or guardian will be notified to pick up their child. The student is given ONE excused absence for the treatment of head lice. If the student is sent home prior to 11:30 a.m., that day will become the one excused day.

Information on the procedures for care and removal of the lice/nits will be available upon request from the school nurse. In the event of an infestation, the child's siblings that attend other county schools may be checked and will be sent home if necessary. Until the student is cleared by the school nurse, the student may not ride the school bus. A parent, guardian, or other adult designee, is required to bring the child(ren) to school to be cleared of lice and/or live nits, by the nurse or administration, before returning to the classroom. Chronic problems with head lice will be referred to the Laurens County Social Worker or other Laurens County Agency.

BEDBUGS: If a student has a visible bedbug bite, the bite will be treated at school and the parents will be notified. If live bedbugs are found on the clothing/book bag, the parents will be contacted to pick up the child. The classroom will be treated. Chronic problems with this will result in a visit from the Laurens County Social Worker or other Laurens County Agency.

RINGWORM: If a student has a visible, new ringworm noted, the parent(s) or guardian will be called to come pick up the student. The treatment for ringworm is treatment with an antifungal cream, as recommended by their primary healthcare provider. Ringworm of the scalp usually requires several weeks of an oral antifungal medication. Once the student has been on antifungal medication for 24 hours, the student may return to school with the ringworm covered.

SCABIES: Scabies is a highly contagious skin disease caused by a mite. The mite burrows under the skin and causes intense itching and a rash. If a student is found to have any signs of scabies, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called to pick up the student. The student may return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun with a note from their primary healthcare provider.

CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE): If a student is suspected of having pink eye, the parent(s) or guardian(s) will be called to come pick up their child from school. Pink eye is highly contagious and is usually caused by a virus or bacteria. A child should be seen by their eye doctor or primary healthcare provider to determine the cause. The student may return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun with a note from his/her physician.

STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (STAPH): If a student is suspected of having staph infection, the parent will be called to come pick up the child to take for further evaluation. Staph is highly contagious, and if left untreated can cause systemic complications. The student may return 24 hours after treatment has begun, with the area covered, and a note from the physician.

HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND: Laurens County Schools has a Hospital Homebound Program (HHB) for students enrolled in Laurens County Schools who have a medically-diagnosed physical or psychiatric condition that restricts them to a hospital or their home for a period of time that will significantly interfere with their education. HHB forms can be obtained through the school office. To be eligible, the HHB request must be completed by both the parent and the licensed physician/psychiatrist who is currently treating the child's current condition(s). The completed packet must be submitted to the school principal. After the principal reviews the request, he/she will submit the request to the district for eligibility determination based upon the GADOE HHB Services Guidance. Students are not eligible for this program if the absence(s) is/are due to communicable disease (except as specified in State Board Policy JGCC).

IMMUNIZATIONS & HEALTH CERTIFICATES: Every student must have an updated immunization record on file at school. Georgia Law requires all students in PK-12th grade to be immunized with all required vaccines at the time of first entry in school. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide these records to the school.

All students, regardless of grade, including foreign exchange students, must have the Georgia Department of Human Resources Immunization Certificate (DPH) (Form 3231) marked "Complete for School" unless any of the following situations exist:

1. **MEDICAL EXEMPTION:** A medical exemption for a vaccine should be completed on the GA DPH Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231) only when there is a physical disability or condition that contraindicates immunization for that particular vaccine. In this case, the Form 3231 has an expiration date of no more than 12 months from the date of issue, and the exemption must be indicated directly on Form 3231. There must be an annual review of the medical exemption, and certificates must be reissued with or without indication of the medical exemption.

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-771

2. **RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION:** Under the Georgia Department of Public Health Rule 511-2-2-.07 Religious Objections to Required Immunizations, persons who wish to register a religious objection to the vaccination of their child shall do so using the DPH Form 2208 Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization. The notarized affidavit must be provided to the school upon enrollment in lieu of the GA DPH Certificate of Immunization (Form 3231) The religious affidavit does not expire.

A student, regardless of grade level, who has never been in a Georgia public school, must also provide a Certification of Eye, Ear, Dental and Nutrition Screening form (EEDN Form 3300). Any child admitted to school without a certificate must present one within 90 calendar days.

TARDIES (updated May 2019)

A student is expected to be punctual to school and to classes. Being on time demonstrates a sense of personal responsibility as well as a respect for the educational process. After School Detention will be held from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day.

Consequences of being tardy: **4-5:** 1 day of Detention **6-9:** 2 days of Detention
 10-11: 3 days of Detention **12 or more** –OSS until parent conference

TERRORISTIC THREATS OR ACTS

activating a fire alarm under false pretenses, making a bomb threat, or prank 911 calls will result in out of school suspension, disciplinary tribunal, and criminal charges.

TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Students are responsible for the care and protection of textbooks, library books, and other instructional resources, including electronic devices, issued by the district. Failure or refusal to pay for a lost or damaged textbook, library book, or other instructional resources at the replacement cost may result in:

- (1) Refusal to issue any additional textbooks, library books, or instructional materials until restitution is made; or
- (2) Withholding of all report cards, certificates of progress, or the privilege of participating in the graduation ceremony until restitution is made.
- (3) Placed on the Outstanding Obligation List

THEFT

Consequences may include ISS, suspension, disciplinary tribunal, and criminal charges.

THREATS OR THREATENING GESTURES

Verbal or written, toward any member of the student body or school personnel will be treated severely at the discretion of the administration.

Minor Offense: (as determined by WLHS Administration) will result in parental contact and/or corporal punishment or ISS.

Major Offense: (as determined by WLHS Administration) will result in parental contact and long-term ISS, suspension, or tribunal hearing.

TOBACCO (updated May 2020)

All Laurens County Schools are tobacco-free campuses. Tobacco is illegal for a minor to buy. Possession or use of tobacco products or smoking paraphernalia, including lighters, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, snuff, rolling paper, pipes, and chewing tobacco will not be tolerated. Any student in possession of any tobacco products will be sent home as outlined below, will be subject to daily searches, and may be required to report on tobacco-related illnesses.

1st offense: 2 days ISS

2nd offense: 1 day OSS

Subsequent offenses: 3 days OSS

VANDALISM

Causing damage to any equipment or the data of another person or agency, including uploading or creating a computer virus WILL result in the loss of ALL technology privileges, disciplinary action, and legal referral. A user of LCBOE technology is liable for up to and not exceeding the amount of monetary damages as determined by Georgia State Law for damage to technology equipment. This includes malicious damage to equipment or data, introduction of virus or modification to system settings, or any other acts that make the equipment inefficient or inoperable.

VULGAR MATERIAL

The use of vulgar materials or possession of vulgar materials will not be tolerated. This could include sayings or writings on clothes. Consequences are at the discretion of the administration but may include ISS or suspension.

WEAPONS

Students found with a firearm, explosive device, or similar weapon, as described in paragraph 1 of the weapons definition, in their possession will be subject to expulsion from school, referral to law enforcement, and have their driver's license revoked by the State Department of Driver Services. Students who possess such weapons on campus will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year suspension and will be referred to law enforcement officials. (OCGA 20-2-751.1)

All offenses: 10 days OSS/Tribunal/Juvenile Charges

Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 of the weapons definition, will be subject to the following disciplinary action:

1st offense: 2 days ISS**2nd offense:** 3 days ISS**3rd offense:** 2 days OSS**DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Assault: Any threat or attempt to physically harm another person or any act, which reasonably places another person in fear of physical harm (Example: threatening language or swinging at someone in an attempt to strike)

Battery: intentionally making physical contact with another person in an insulting, offensive, or provoking manner in a way that physically harms the other person (Example: fighting)

Bullying: In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system, that is: (1) Any willful attempt to or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.; or (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:

1. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
3. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
4. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school

Chronic Disciplinary Problem Student: A student who exhibits a pattern of behavioral characteristics which interfere with the learning process of students around him or her and which are likely to recur.

Detention: A requirement that the student report to a specified school location and to a designated teacher or school official.

Disciplinary Tribunal: School officials appointed by the board of education to sit as fact finder and judge with respect to student disciplinary matters.

Dress code: The current dress code is explained in the student handbook.

Drug: The term drug does not include prescription medications issued to the individual, aspirin, similar medications and/or cold medications that are taken according to product use recommendations and board policy. Caffeine pills are considered drugs.

Expulsion: Suspension of a student from a public school beyond the current school quarter or semester. Such action may be taken only by a disciplinary tribunal or hearing officer in accordance with state law.

Extortion: Obtaining money or goods from another student by violence, threats, or misuse of authority.

Fireworks: The term "fireworks" means any combustible or explosive composition or any substance or combination of substances or articles prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration, or detonation, as well as articles containing any explosive or flammable compound and tablets and other devices containing an explosive substance.

Gambling: Engaging in a game or contest in which the outcome is dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, and in which a participant stands to win or lose something of value.

Gang Related Activity: Any act or exhibition, individual or collective, which (1) communicates gang allegiance or affiliation; and/or (2) would be a criminal act in the adult world and (3) is deemed gang related by the principal. Gang related activity includes, but is not limited to: hand sign flashing, wearing

of clothing articles in a certain way or color scheme, jewelry, tattoos, graffiti on personal items; vandalism of public or private property; and acts of intimidation, threat, fighting and other forms of violence.

In-School Suspension: Removal of a student from class or regular school program and assignment of that student to an alternative room isolated from his/her peers.

Instigating rule violations: A student shall not be an accessory to a rule violation or urge, encourage, counsel, cause or attempt to cause any other person to violate the school's student handbook, the code of conduct or any Laurens County Board of Education Policy.

Suspension: Removal of a student from the regular school program for a period not to exceed 10 days (short term) or for a period longer than 10 days (long term, which may be imposed only by a disciplinary tribunal). During the period of suspension, the student is excluded from all school-sponsored activities including practices as well as competitive events, and/or activities sponsored by the school or its employees.

Theft: The offense of taking or misappropriating any property of another with the intention of depriving that person of the property, regardless of the manner in which the property is taken or appropriated.

Waiver: A waiver is an agreement not to contest whether a student has committed an infraction of the Code of Conduct; the acceptance of consequences in lieu of a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

Weapon: The term weapon is defined as any object that is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being. The following things are prohibited: Guns, rifles, firearms, explosive devices and similar weapons; Any other weapon, hazardous object, or object intended to be used as a weapon, including but not limited to or any dirk, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon;; any stun gun or Taser; bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor or razor blade; spring stick, metal knucks, chains, blackjack, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a way as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nunchaku, or fighting chain, throwing star or oriental dart, or any weapon of like kind.