



WILLIAM BLOUNT HIGH SCHOOL
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Blount County Schools 2011-2012 calendar	1
Learning Expectations for Students	3
Mission, beliefs, vision	3, 4
Student identification and planner	4
Parent conferences, guidance department	4
Graduation requirements	4, 5, 6
Report cards	6
Athletic eligibility	7
Driver's license compliance & forms	7, 8
Attendance policies & procedures	8, 9
Bus notes, early check outs, visitors	9
Deliveries for students, military recruiter access	9
Procedure for sickness/emergency, medication	10
Withdrawal or transfer, tardiness, hall passes, textbooks	11
Withholding report cards	11, 12
Library regulations	12
Dress code	12, 13
Detention	13, 14
Code of Conduct/Discipline	14, 15
Safety of students, text-a-tip line, unsafe school choice policy	15
Disciplinary hearing authority	15
Appeal process, tobacco use policy	16
Alcohol & drug abuse	16, 17
Health screenings, family life curriculum	17
Meningitis disease & vaccines	17
Weapons	18
Fighting and threatening violence, bomb threat	18
General rules	18, 19
Consequences for inappropriate behavior, cheating	19
Interrogation and search of students	20, 21
Other Information	21
Personal communication device policy	21, 22
School telephones, student cars on campus	22
Student parking, lockers & locks, student fees, lost & found	23
Tornado & fire evacuations	23, 24
Assemblies, school buses	24
School bus disciplinary code	24, 25
Additional school information	25
Random drug testing	25, 26
Internet acceptable use policy	26, 27
Equal opportunity employer	27
Discrimination/harassment of students	27-30
District policy against harassment	30, 31
Student conduct – bullying/intimidation	31
Concerns & Complaints	32-36
Special education services , FERPA	36
Release of directory information	36, 37
Parents right to review teacher qualifications (Highly Qualified)	37

Parent involvement policy	37, 38
Media access	38
Zero tolerance offenses, category I, category II	38, 39
Gang activity or association	39, 40
Child advocacy contact information	40, 41
Americans with disabilities act/section 504	41
Dual enrollment information	41
Star Student parent portal	41
Index	42, 43

WBHS LEARNING EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

The faculty and staff of William Blount High School have set high expectations for student learners. Regardless of the subject area, our students should demonstrate the following:

- Knowledge of subject matter
- Effective communications skills, both oral and written
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Proficiency in applicable skills
- Responsible citizenship

MISSION

William Blount High School's mission is to facilitate **S.U.C.C.E.S.S.** for all students.

Skill development
 Unity
 Citizenship
 Communication
 Educational & Career Opportunities
 Social & Physical Well Being
 Safety

BELIEFS

WE BELIEVE THAT...

- Instructional methods must be adapted to meet individual needs.
- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- Parental involvement promotes student achievement.
- Parents, teachers, and other community members should share the responsibility for student achievement and for accomplishing the school mission.
- Rules must be regularly communicated and consistently enforced.
- Students succeed by regularly attending school, by engaging in social and academic activities, and by being actively involved in the learning process.
- Students must be held accountable for their actions in order for them to understand the value of appropriate decision-making.
- Students should develop a personal value system and

- professional work ethic.
- Student assessment must involve short and long-term goals relevant to class work and success in life.

VISION

William Blount High School will be a learning community that prepares students to strive for lifelong success, to communicate effectively, and to set and meet their goals.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION AND STUDENT PLANNER

All students are required to obtain an identification card (I.D.). Students must have the I.D. with them at all times, and present to any member of the faculty upon request. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. A computer bar code will be included on the I.D. for library checkout. If you lose your I.D., new ones are made in the library at a cost of \$5.00.

PARENTAL CONFERENCES

Parents are encouraged to schedule appointments in advance to visit the school for conferences. Please call a secretary to schedule conferences with administrators, guidance counselors, or teachers (984-5500). Conferences with teachers can be scheduled from 8:10-8:30 a.m. or 3:30-3:45 p.m. and with principals or guidance counselors during the school day from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Parents have the right to review their child's teacher qualifications. All teachers assigned to William Blount High School are highly qualified according to *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* guidelines. Parents have the right to check the licensing qualifications of teachers by visiting the Tennessee Department of Education website at <http://state.tn.us/education/>.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT AND COUNSELORS

Guidance counselors are trained to assist students with personal problems, discuss career objectives, choose the right college program or technical school and work with parents. Students should feel free to make an appointment. Transcripts of school records are acquired through the guidance department.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

High school programs in Blount County follow the *Tennessee Diploma Project* requirements implemented in 2008. Graduation requirements prior to the 9th grade entry year of 2009-2010 remain in effect for students who were in high school before the change.

Graduation requirements for students entering 9th grade in 2009-2010 or later:

READY CORE:

English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Health, Physical fitness and wellness	1.5

Personal finance .5

No courses may be taught below the college preparatory level.

The 4 units of math must be taken 1 per year, and must include at a minimum Algebra I **and** Algebra II, Geometry and another mathematics course beyond Algebra II.

Students must complete Biology I, **Chemistry or Physics** and a third lab science.

All students will pursue the same focused program of study, including an elective focus of no less than 3 credits.

All students (except in limited circumstances that must be approved) will complete 2 years of a foreign language and one fine art course.

End of course examinations in grades 9-12 are administered following the Tennessee Department of Education testing requirements. Results are factored into the student's final grade for the course following state guidelines.

In order to graduate with "honors" students will have to reach all subject area benchmarks on the ACT.

Blount County Schools requires the completion of the minimum state requirements plus locally required additional elective course work for a total of 28 credits in order to receive a William Blount or Heritage High School diploma.

Students in Blount County high schools may be awarded a state diploma when the minimum state graduation requirements are met (including required credits and state mandated tests). The state diploma may be awarded upon completion of the minimum requirements in effect for the individual student, with written agreement of the parent/guardian (or the student if over age 18). Regular diplomas from Heritage High School and William Blount High School are awarded to those students meeting state **and** local requirements in effect at the beginning of the year the student entered 9th grade.

FOR ONLY 12th GRADE STUDENTS IN 2011-2012

Graduation credit requirements and testing requirements:

English/Language Arts 4

Mathematics 3

(Must include Algebra I and Geometry or Algebra II. Students who enter high school beginning in 2005-2006 and thereafter may receive a maximum of one mathematics credit for either Foundations I OR Foundations II. For students in university preparation path the 3 credits must include Algebra II and Geometry)

Science 3 (must include Biology I)

Social Studies 3

(Must include U.S. history, world history or world geography, economics and government.)

Wellness 1

Computer related course 1

University Path

Foreign Language 2 (of a single language)

Fine Art 1

Technical Path

Program of study in a cluster/ technical area of interest 4 credits

Dual Path: Students must complete credit requirements for the university path AND technical path.

Blount County Schools requires the completion of the above minimum state requirements plus locally required additional elective course work totaling 28 credits in order to receive a William Blount High School diploma. A State of Tennessee regular diploma may be awarded upon completion of the minimum requirements in effect for the individual student based upon 9th grade year of entry, with written agreement of the parent/guardian (or student if over age 18).

Students entering high school in 2005-2006 and thereafter are also required to demonstrate proficiency on **Gateway** or **End of Course** examinations in Algebra I, English II and Biology in order to receive a regular high school diploma.

TENNESSEE UNIFORM GRADING SYSTEM

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Points
100-93	A	4.0
85-92	B	3.0
75-84	C	2.0
70-74	D	1.0
0-69	F	0

For specifics on course weighting for honors classes, see curriculum guide page 3.

STUDENT REPORT CARDS

In grades 10-12, the academic year is divided into two terms of eighteen weeks. Each eighteen-week term generates one full credit in a course. In the Ninth Grade Academy, courses may be full-year or semester-long, and each successfully completed course will result in earning one credit. Grade reporting occurs two times during the eighteen-week term: at the end of the first nine weeks and at the end of the term. Progress reporting occurs at the midpoint 4 1/2 weeks of each nine-week period. Progress reports will be given by each teacher to be taken home for a parent or guardian's signature. Term exams are held at the end of each semester. All students, excluding second semester seniors who meet requirements, will be required to take term exams. Term exams will count 20% of the grade for that term. If the class requires a Gateway test or end of course state-mandated test, that test

will count as 15% of the student's final grade, and the term exam will count as 5%.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

All athletes must pass three classes out of four in the preceding term and meet all other TSSAA guidelines in order to be eligible to participate in TSSAA contests. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that these requirements are met. Student athletes planning to enter Division I and II colleges and universities must conform to NCAA standards. It is the responsibility of the student to meet with guidance counselors to ensure that these standards are met. This should be done on a year-to-year basis.

DRIVER'S LICENSE COMPLIANCE & 1010 FORMS

Any person between the ages of fifteen and seventeen shall present to the Department of Safety a Certification of Compulsory School Attendance form in order to be eligible to receive a driver's license or permit. A student must not have 15 or more unexcused absences in a term or 10 or more consecutive unexcused absences. A student must have a passing grade in at least one-half of the full unit subjects he or she is taking. This would be two full credits at the main building and three full credits at the ninth grade academy. Drivers Education does not count as a full credit.

The following information comes from TCA 49-6-3017 and may be beneficial.

1. Notice will be given to the Department of Safety of any students 15 and older who withdraw from school. (10 days consecutive or 15 cumulative unexcused absences per term)
2. Notice will be given to the Department of Safety of any students 15 and older if they do not have satisfactory academic progress (earn one-half credits each term)
3. Once notice is received, students may have his or her driver's license suspended.
4. If a student has his/her driver's license suspended twice due to truancy or unsatisfactory academic progress before he/she turns 18, he/she loses it until his/her eighteenth birthday.
5. When a student's name is turned in to the Department of Safety and a driver's license has not been issued, the notice will go on record, and that student will be charged a fee in addition to defray other costs involved for the privilege to obtain a license.
6. The Department of Safety will send notification to the student requesting that he/she surrender the license. If the license is not received by the Department of Safety, the student will be charged a fee in addition to other costs involved to have the license reinstated.
7. Suspensions are to be counted as unexcused absences for purposes of this law. Students may pick up 1010 forms in the Student Affairs Office after 8:15 a.m.

8. In order for a student to regain compliance, s/he must pass at least one-half of his or her classes and cannot have 10 consecutive unexcused or 15 total unexcused absences in the semester. Reinstatement forms cannot be given until the end of the next semester to assure students are in compliance.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Students are required to be in class a minimum of 80 out of 90 minutes in a block class; therefore, a student cannot miss more than ten minutes in any class without being counted absent for that class period. **An absence in the class will be recorded for any student who is more than 10 minutes late or leaves class more than 10 minutes prior to class dismissal. When an absence is necessary, the parent or guardian should notify the school in writing of the reason for the absence.** Students are considered truant under the following circumstances:

1. Leaves school without permission and does not follow procedures for signing in and out.
2. Leaves school at lunch.
3. Is absent from school without permission from parents.
4. Obtains a pass and does not report to the specified destination.
5. Comes to school but does not attend class.

*Truancy cases will be reported to the attendance supervisor. First offense will be at least a one-day suspension. Second and subsequent offenses may result in a long-term suspension.

The school system will acknowledge the following reasons for absences and making up work:

- A. Student personal illness
- B. Death in family (not to exceed 3 days)
- C. Illness in family requiring child to give temporary help (a physician statement is required)
- D. Religious observances
- E. Absences excused by the principal. The parent will need to consult the principal. If both principal and teacher agree that the absence is legitimate, the absence shall be excused, if requested at least three days in advance. Vacations need to be taken during breaks. No leave will be granted during the last two weeks of a term.)
- F. Approved school-related activities.
- G. Circumstances which in the judgment of the principal create emergencies over which the student has no control. The excused absences mentioned above will grant the student permission to make up all work without penalty. Parent's signature or doctor's note will be accepted to justify any of the above seven reasons for seven classes per block per academic term. The eighth absence and all absences thereafter in a term will be counted unexcused, unless they are appealed and approved by the principal and appeals committee. **If a student's absences do not come under one of the above categories, he or she will be given an unexcused absence and not be allowed to make up work missed.** All absences incurred by a student are included in the

student's total. Heritage High School and William Blount High School distinguish between unexcused and excused absences only for the purpose of granting credit for work missed due to an absence. All notes should be valid in the judgment of the principal or attendance personnel. *Any note that has been tampered with will be considered invalid, an unexcused absence will be issued, and disciplinary action will be taken.* Failure to bring a note will result in unexcused absence(s). Students have three days to bring in either a parent note or a legal note. Students should be in line by 8:00 a.m. to obtain absentee or dismissal slips. Notes must be on writer's table by 8:25 a.m. to avoid being tardy. *Any counterfeiting of documents related to absence will result in a minimum 5-day suspension.*

If a student incurs more than seven (7) absences in a class in one term (August-December or January-May); no credit will be granted, regardless of the student's grade in that class. An appeal for credit can be submitted in writing to the attendance appeals board at the school through the principal's office.

BUS NOTES

Students who wish to ride home on a bus other than the one they usually ride must provide written documentation of parental permission. A note from the student's parent must be turned in to the student affairs office by 8:30 A.M. in order to provide time to verify the note.

EARLY CHECK OUTS

In order for a student to leave early, the student must bring a parent note stating the reason the student must leave as well as the time he or she is to be dismissed. This note should be presented to the admit table prior to 8:25 A.M. in order for the school to call the parent and verify the note. If the school cannot verify a note by phone, the student will not be permitted to leave. The student will be given an unexcused absence until an excuse from the parent, doctor, dentist, court, etc. is returned to the school.

VISITORS

Students cannot have visitors at school. All persons entering the school must report to the main or vocational office to obtain a visitor's pass, which must be worn while in the building.

DELIVERIES FOR STUDENTS

William Blount High School does not accept any deliveries of any kind for students. There are no exceptions.

MILITARY RECRUITER ACCESS

Parents have the right to request that their child's name, address, and telephone number not be released to a military recruiter without written consent.

PROCEDURES FOR SICKNESS & EMERGENCIES

- Students should report to class FIRST if they become ill. The student should then obtain a hall pass; then the student should

report to the clinic with a pink note issued by teacher. Please note: students must have a current clinic form on file in the clinic before the nurse can see them.

- Students may remain in the clinic, as determined by the nurse.
- The nurse will determine whether the student should be sent home or return to class.
- Students who feel they must leave school due to illness MUST check out from the clinic only after their parents are notified. The nurse will sign the pink note indicating that the parents have been notified and the student has been granted permission to leave.
- The clinic will maintain a daily log of all students who utilize that facility.
- Medical treatment will be rendered if the school nurse is present; if not, the parent may be called for permission for treatment by the appropriate school official.
- All medication that a student must take on a doctor's orders should be registered and left in the clinic by the student's parent. It can be taken as prescribed in the clinic.
- Being sick and/or loitering in a restroom for a whole period IS NOT acceptable as an excuse. Individuals who are sick need to be under appropriate supervision in case of an emergency.
- See the next section on medication.

MEDICATION

Students taking prescribed medication are required to identify themselves to the appropriate school officials. If it is necessary that the medication be taken during the school day, it will be kept and administered by the appropriate officials. All prescribed medication should be brought in by a parent and left with the school nurse. All prescriptions should bear the name of the drug or medication, directions to be followed, and the name of the pharmacy where the prescription has been filled. Intoxication from over use or abuse of prescribed drugs shall be considered in the same manner as intoxication from illegally obtained substances. **Students shall not be in possession of medication (prescribed or over-the-counter) at school.** Use, possession, or transmission of prescribed or over-the-counter medications is considered a violation of the alcohol and drug abuse policy unless the previous guidelines have been followed. All medication left at the end of the school year MUST be picked up by the PARENT(S) WITHIN FIVE DAYS or the medicine will be disposed of as per school district policy.

WITHDRAWAL OR TRANSFER

Any student who plans to withdraw or transfer from William Blount High School for any reason should report to the main office with a parent. The correct procedure will be explained to the student. All obligations such as turning in books, paying fees and/or fines, etc. must

be taken care of before withdrawing or transferring to another school. Transcripts will not be forwarded until all obligations are cleared.

TARDINESS

Students are considered tardy to class if they are fewer than ten minutes late. Unexcused tardies will be handled as follows:

First tardy – warning

Second tardy – 1 hour of detention assigned by the teacher

Third tardy-fifth tardy – referral to student affairs office (1 day Alternative Interim Setting)

Sixth tardy and above – out-of-school suspension

HALL PASSES

Students are expected to be in their assigned classes. Wandering around the campus or in the halls and loitering in the restrooms will not be tolerated during class hours and will be considered as cutting class/truancy, which may warrant suspension. **Students who have permission to leave their class must sign out, show their I.D., wear a hall vest, and have a hall pass.**

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged textbooks as well as pay for damage to textbooks. The school will assume no liability for stolen, lost, or vandalized textbooks. Once books are issued, the student is responsible for them. Students must purchase a lock from the student affairs office in order to secure their locker.

WITHHOLDING REPORT CARDS

When a student owes a financial obligation to the school, a hold is placed on his or her report card and other official records. This is called a “blue hold.” Blue holds will be issued for:

1. Fines for overdue library books.
2. Fines for the abuse of school parking privileges and other school rules developed for the safe and efficient operation of the school.
3. Charges for lost, damaged, or destroyed textbooks, library books, workbooks, or other school property.
4. Charges for debts owed to the school.
5. Refundable deposits for locks and other security devices required for protection of school property when used in not-for-credit, extracurricular activities.
6. Cost to participate in not for credit extra-curricular activities, including athletics.

The school district provides adopted textbooks at no cost to students. Students who lose or damage a textbook to the extent that it is no longer usable will be charged full replacement cost of the textbook. The grades, grade cards, diploma, and transcript of a student who is responsible for vandalism, theft, or who has otherwise incurred a debt to the school may be held until the student or the student’s parent or guardian has paid the damages. Blue holds are kept and should be paid

in guidance.

LIBRARY REGULATIONS

When visiting the library, the student will need a note signed by the teacher noting the purpose of the visit. Upon arrival at the library, the student should give his or her note to the librarian and sign in at the circulation desk. The student ID serves as a library card. The ID will be used for checking out books and using the library computers. A student may have up to four books checked out at any given time. Books are checked out for two weeks. Non-academic magazines may be checked out for a period of three days. The library provides computers for students. **The Blount County Internet Acceptable Use Policy**, must be signed by the student and his or her parent or guardian. Students will not be allowed to use a computer without a current I.D. Students should return the completed form to the homeroom teacher to have his or her ID punched by a librarian. The punched ID allows the student to have computer privileges. Students should read the agreement carefully. Any breach of the agreement will result in suspension of computer use at school.

DRESS CODE

The Blount County Board of Education recognizes the effect that student dress and grooming have upon student behavior and learning. Student dress and grooming considered disruptive to health or safety is not appropriate. In keeping with the educational purpose of public education, students are expected to dress and groom themselves as individuals with a sense of responsibility. Each student is expected to keep his or her person and clothing neat and clean. It is expected that students, while exercising the right to dress and groom themselves in an individual way, will also show through their appearance, a high degree of respect for the standards of decency, cleanliness, and style acceptable by the school. When a student, in the principal's judgment, is attired in a manner which is likely to cause disruption or to interfere with the operation of the school, the principal shall administer appropriate consequences, which may include suspension. Following is a partial list of restrictions at Blount County middle and high schools. **The principal shall have the authority to exclude any other attire which causes disruption or which adversely affects the educational atmosphere.**

- 1. Shoes will be worn at all times. No house shoes.**
2. Skirts must be at the knee in length.
3. Shorts must be at the knee in length. Acceptable shorts include Bermuda/walking shorts; culottes/split skirts/skorts; and cutoff shorts that are neat in appearance, are appropriate in length, or are commercially made to look like cutoffs.
4. The following items may not be worn during the school day:
 - a. caps and hats (not allowed in the building); gang-related apparel such as altered hats, hair nets, and bandannas of any color;
 - b. torn, cut-off, or damaged clothing;
 - c. sleeveless or backless dresses/blouses, shirts;
 - d. pajama tops and bottoms;

- e. see-through clothing;
- f. clothing which exhibits written, pictorial, or implied references to illegal substances, drugs or alcohol, negative slogans, vulgarities, or which causes undue disruption to the educational process; apparel that is sexually suggestive or that features crude or vulgar commercial lettering or printing and/or pictures that depict drugs, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, racial/ethnic slurs or gang affiliation;
- g. clothing that exposes the midriff;
- h. shorts made of spandex, or shorts of a less-than-modest length or fit;
- i. wallet chains or chains of any kind;
- j. oversized apparel, including saggy pants worn low on the waist, overalls with unfastened straps, and pants that are cut off below the knees (and worn with knee socks);
- k. belts which are extra long with excess hanging loosely or belt buckles bearing initials that designate gangs; and
- l. all tattoos, brands, and visible body piercings (excluding the ears) must be completely covered.
- m. hairstyle, coloring, or grooming that distracts from the school setting
- n. grills on teeth

If a student cannot comply with the dress code based on special conditions or religious beliefs, his or her parent or guardian may write a letter explaining the situation to the Director of Schools and the principal. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis. The school principal may allow special dress on special occasions such as field trips, field days, theme days, school spirit days, etc. The principal may allow special dress for specific classes or further restrict dress in certain classes such as gym, career/technical classes (shops), science labs, etc.

DETENTION

When a student is assigned detention, he or she will be given a minimum of five days to serve it. The student may choose a session from the schedule below. Failure to serve detention will result in in-school suspension.

Detention schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday afternoons 3:40-4:30 pm

Thursday mornings 7:30-8:20 am

Students will not be permitted to serve detention if they arrive late.

Students may be dismissed from detention for being disruptive.

Academy detention:

Monday – Friday mornings 8:10-8:28 am

BLOUNT COUNTY CODE OF CONDUCT/DISCIPLINE

The director of schools shall be responsible for the overall implementation and supervision of the Board's Code of Behavior and Discipline and shall ensure that students at all schools are subject to a

uniform and fair application of the Code. The principal of each school shall be responsible for implementation and administration in his/her school and shall apply the Code uniformly and fairly to each student at the school without partiality and discrimination. The Board delegates to the director of schools the responsibility of developing more specific codes of behavior and discipline which are appropriate for each level of school, namely, elementary, middle, junior high and senior high. The development of each code shall involve principals and faculty members of each level of school and shall be consistent with the content of the Board's Code. A copy of the Code shall be posted at each school and school counselors shall be supplied copies for discussion with students. The code shall be referenced in all school handbooks. All teachers, administrative staff and parents shall be provided copies of the Code.

OTHER SUSPENDABLE OFFENSES

The first violation of the following may warrant a suspension or referral to the Discipline Hearing Authority. Any subsequent violation will result in a referral to the DHA:

- a. Vandalism of school property
- b. Vandalism of Blount County School employee's property
- c. Abuse of faculty
- d. Possession and/or use of fireworks or explosive devices
- e. Stealing and/or possession of stolen articles
- f. Inappropriate behavior on school trip
- g. Obscene gestures
- h. Inappropriate gestures or behavior in school pictures, yearbooks, etc.

PUNISHABLE OFFENSES THAT MAY WARRANT SUSPENSION

- a. Insubordination – defiance of authority
- b. Disrespect
- c. Forgery
- d. Excessive tardiness
- e. Class truancy
- f. Minor destruction of school property; students will also pay damage
- g. Leaving school grounds without permission
- h. Extortion – obtaining something from someone through force or threat
- i. Violation of parking contract
- j. Profane language or suggestive signs
- k. Bus disruption
- l. Giving false information on school records
- m. Harassment
- n. Fireworks or explosive devices (see weapons)
- o. Misuse of computers/internet
- p. Use of pager/beeper, cell phone, or any other electronic device as defined on page 21.

SAFETY OF STUDENTS

To protect Blount County School students, only see-through book bags, duffel bags, backpacks, tote bags, and athletic bags will be allowed. William Blount High School will not be responsible for the theft of any item or items prohibited from use on this campus (i.e. cell phones, mp3 players, cameras etc.) The theft of these items will not be investigated by the administration or school resource officer. Working in conjunction with the Blount County Sheriff's Department, William Blount High School will have a school resource officer (SRO) on staff. The officer will assist students and staff in all matters dealing with school safety and the prevention, detection and adjudication of any criminal activity. Students wishing to talk with the SRO should notify the secretary in any school office.

WBHS TEXT-A-TIP LINE

To report a crime or concern text your tip to 274637, start your message with WBHS.

UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY

Under the Tennessee State Board of Education's Unsafe Schools Policy, any public school student who is the victim of a violent crime as defined in TCA 40-38-111(g) or the attempt to commit one of these offenses as defined under Tennessee Code Annotated 30-12-101, shall be provided an opportunity to transfer to another grade-level appropriate school within the district.

DISCIPLINARY HEARING AUTHORITY

Students will be referred to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority when efforts to discipline students by the school have not been effective and/or when serious disciplinary problems occur. The discipline hearing authority is composed of the coordinator of alternative programs or his designee, central office supervisor, and a principal. The committee will hear the charges from the school, the response to the charges, and comments from the student and his/her parents. The committee may then extend the suspension of the student, place the student in the Alternative School, or place the student back in school.

APPEAL PROCESS

Parents and educators have the right to appeal suspensions mandated by school administrators or by the disciplinary hearing authority. Appeals of suspensions given by assistant principals are made by contacting the principal. Appeals of suspensions by principals are made to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority by contacting the Coordinator of Alternative Programs at 984-9420. Disciplinary Hearing Authority suspensions/expulsions are appealed to either the Superintendent (zero

tolerance violations) or to the Board of Education (all other violations).

TOBACCO USE POLICY

Students shall not use or possess tobacco or tobacco products on school property or school buses. This policy shall be in effect during the school day, while riding the bus to or from school, while waiting on a bus at any school and, also, while participating in or attending extracurricular or other school sponsored activities. Violation of the tobacco policy will result in suspension from school. The penalty for the first violation will be suspension for one day. The penalty for the second violation will be suspension for two days. The third violation will result in a five-day suspension. The fourth and subsequent violations will result in referral to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority.

Public Chapter 354 requires a law enforcement official or principal to issue a juvenile court citation for students who unlawfully possess tobacco products.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

No student shall use, possess, sell, transmit, or conspire to transmit any narcotic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind (or look-alike or bogus drugs, etc.), or to possess drug paraphernalia as described in TCA-39-6-456, or to conduct himself/herself in such a manner as to be prejudicial to the good order and discipline in the school

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

Any student who violates this policy will be automatically referred directly to the Disciplinary Hearing Authority. Prior to the student's re-admittance to school, the student and his or her parents must appear before the principal and request admittance. The principal may temporarily admit each student pending the student's appearing before the Board of Education for the purpose of requesting re-admittance. Any student who knowingly possesses, sells, or transmits on school grounds or at a school function a narcotic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, hallucinogenic drug, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (or look-alike drug or substance) of any kind shall be reported to the proper law enforcement authorities and such student shall be suspended pending the results of the legal investigation made and adjudication of the case if applicable. If a student is convicted of violation of the drug control law, the student shall be subject to being permanently expelled from Blount County Schools.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

The state of Tennessee requires all school systems to conduct yearly blood pressure, height, and weight screening on all students in grades K, 2, 4, 8 and one high school grade level. Vision and hearing screenings are conducted for new students and for those suspected by

their teacher of having a vision or hearing problem. Occasional lice screening will be conducted on an as-needed basis. Parents should send a note to their student's homeroom teacher if they do not want their child to participate in blood pressure, height, or weight screening. Please include the student's name, school, grade, teacher, and parent/guardian signature.

FAMILY LIFE CURRICULUM

Family Life Curriculum is offered in high school wellness. The eighth grade and high school courses focus on medical consequences of teen sexual activity, relationships, and character education. The high school courses are taught by representatives of "Just Wait" (www.justwait.com). Parents have the right to view the curriculum at the public hearing (date and time to be announced) at the Blount County Schools central office, 831 Grandview Drive, Maryville, TN. Parents should send a note to their student's teacher if they do not want their child to participate in family life curriculum. Please include the child's name, school, grade, teacher, and parent or guardian's signature.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND VACCINES

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness caused by the bacterium neisseria meningitides. It is a leading cause of meningitis in children two through eighteen years of age in the U.S. College freshmen who live in dormitories and teenagers ages 15-19 have an increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease. It is spread person-to-person through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions. The most common symptoms are high fever, chills, lethargy, and a rash. If meningitis is present, the symptoms will also include headache and neck stiffness, and seizures may also occur. In overwhelming meningococcal infections, shock, coma, and death can follow within several hours, even with appropriate medical treatment. Vaccines against meningococcal disease are available at the health department and your health care provider. This is not a required immunization for school; however, a dose of MCV4 is recommended for children and adolescents 11-18 years of age. More information is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (www.cdc.gov).

WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Blount County Schools will tolerate no acts of violence or threats to the safety of its students or employees. Students shall not possess, handle, transmit, use or attempt to use any dangerous weapon in school buildings or on school grounds at any time, or in school vehicles and/or buses or off the school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function, or event. Dangerous weapons for the purposes of this policy shall include, but are not limited to, any firearm, explosive weapon, knives of any kind, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, switchblade knife, blackjack, knuckles, or any other instrument or substance used in a manner which renders the item dangerous or which is intended to do harm to another person. Students who violate this policy will be expelled under the

guidelines of the Disciplinary Hearing Authority for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent will have the authority to modify this expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis with the student then having the right to appeal to the Board. When it is determined that a student has violated this policy, the principal of the school shall notify the student's parent or guardian and the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system as required by law.

FIGHTING AND THREATENING VIOLENCE

Penalties for students who fight and threaten violence to other students in Blount County Schools will be:

- First offense: Five days suspension
- Second offense: Suspension and referral to disciplinary hearing authority.

BOMB THREAT/FIRE ALARM

Any student who makes a bomb threat or maliciously pulls a fire alarm shall be suspended and referred to the Discipline Hearing Authority. The DHA shall suspend for a minimum of a one-year period. Also, legal action will be taken.

GENERAL RULES FOR STUDENTS

- a. Do not block the hallways.
- b. Be in class before the tardy bell rings.
- c. Return cafeteria trays with dishes and utensils to the provided area and dispose of all litter into the disposal cans.
- d. Do not leave books or purses unattended at any time.
- e. **Do not return to the parking areas after entering the school building.**
- f. During lunch period, all students remain in the commons.
- g. **Do not bring radios, walkmans, CD players, etc. to school.**
- h. Report any suspicious activity or stranger to the main office.
- i. Leave valuables and excessive amounts of money at home.
- j. Keep car doors locked in parking areas.
- k. Check your car before getting into it.
- l. Do not sit in your car in parking areas.
- m. **Playing cards (and/or trading cards), hackey sacs, and other toys are prohibited.**
- n. Do not go to a car during school related activities.
- o. Do not divulge your lock combination to anyone. Make sure your lock is secured after each use.
- p. Promote SAFETY at all times--no horseplay.
- q. Students who disrupt the normal school activities will be sent home for a period of time or until a parental conference is held.
- r. No student shall use the elevator unless authorized by a teacher, a principal, or main office personnel.
- s. **Cell phones, pagers, and beepers are prohibited from use on campus.**
- t. Student couples are to conduct themselves in a proper manner. **No public display of affection will be allowed** (holding

- hands, hugging, kissing, etc.).
- u. Keep the restrooms clean for the use of your fellow students.
- v. **Vocational students are not allowed in the main building while assigned to a vocational class.** All students should exit the main and vocational building by 3:40.

CONSEQUENCES FOR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

- Conference with the principal
 - Parent conference
 - Detention
 - Alternative Interim Setting (WBHS In-school suspension) is located in room 216.
 - Suspension Center – The suspension center is located on the Everett School Campus at 1500 Jett Rd., Maryville. Students who attend the suspension center can make up the work they miss and receive 100% of the grade. Parents must provide transportation to and from Everett. Daily school hours are 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m., and students must take their lunch.
 - Out-of-school suspension – Students who have serious disciplinary problems will be given out-of-school suspension. Out-of-school suspension is also used when students refuse other forms of disciplinary action.
 - Probation contract
- Discipline Committee/Alternative School
- Expulsion

CHEATING

The William Blount High School community highly values the academic and ethical integrity of its people and programs. Because cheating compromises that integrity, it is considered a serious offense. The prevention and elimination of cheating requires the diligence and coordinated efforts of the entire school community. It is the student's responsibility to understand and acknowledge that the policy statements and cheating definitions of each of his or her teachers have been adequately explained. The student should refrain from cheating and from assisting others in cheating and will face applicable consequences, according to the specifics of his or her teacher's policy.

INTERROGATION AND SEARCH OF STUDENTS

Interrogations by School Personnel: Students may be questioned by teachers or principals about any matter pertaining to the operation of a school and/or the enforcement of its rules. Questioning must be conducted discreetly and under circumstances that will avoid unnecessary embarrassment to the student being questioned. Any student answering falsely, evasively, or refusing to answer a proper question may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension.

Interrogations by Police (at Administrator's request): If the principal has requested assistance by the police department to investigate a crime involving his/her school, the police shall have permission to interrogate a student suspect in school during school hours. The principal shall first attempt to notify the

parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians of the student of the intended interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians. The principal or his/her designee shall be present during the interrogation. The use of policewomen or female staff members is desirable in the interrogation of female students.

Police-Initiated Interrogations: If the police deem circumstances of sufficient urgency to interrogate students at school for unrelated crimes committed outside of school hours, the police department shall first contact the principal regarding the planned interrogation, and inform him/her of the probable cause to investigate within the school. The principal shall make reasonable effort to notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians of the interrogation unless circumstances require otherwise. The interrogation may proceed without attendance of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or legal custodians. The principal or his/her designee shall be present during the interrogation.

Searches by School Personnel: Any principal, or his/her designee, having reasonable suspicion may search any student, place or thing on school property or in the actual or constructive possession of any student during any organized school activity off campus, including buses, vehicles of students or visitors (*Notice shall be posted in the school parking lot that vehicles parked on school property by students or visitors are subject to search for drugs, drug paraphernalia or dangerous weapons*), and containers or packages if he/she receives information which would cause a reasonable belief that the search will lead to the discovery of:

1. Evidence of any violation of the law;
2. Evidence of any violation of school rules or regulations or proper standards of student or faculty conduct;
3. Any object or substance which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of harm or illness to any person.

A student using a locker that is the property of the school system does not have the right of privacy in that locker or its contents. All lockers or other storage areas provided for student use on school premises remain the property of the school system and are provided for the use of students subject to inspection, access for maintenance and search. *Notice shall be posted in each school that lockers and other storage areas are school property and are subject to search.* A student may be subject to physical search or a student's pocket, purse or other container may be required to be emptied because of the results of a locker search, or because of information received from a teacher, staff member or other student if such action is reasonable to the principal. All of the following standards of reasonableness shall be met:

1. A particular student has violated policy;
2. The search could be expected to yield evidence of the violation of school policy or disclosure of a dangerous weapon or drug;
3. The search is in pursuit of legitimate interests of the school in maintaining order, discipline, safety, supervision and education of students;
4. The primary purpose of the search is not to collect evidence for a criminal prosecution; and

5. The search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student, as well as the nature of the infraction alleged to have been committed. School officials may conduct hand-held or walk-through metal detector checks of a student's person or personal effects.

OTHER INFORMATION

A student may be placed on probation in conjunction with a suspension. Violations for the terms of that probation may lead to expulsion for the remainder of the school year. Students with a disciplinary record of violations in past school years shall be considered for strict probation on their first violation in the new school year. A discipline file shall be maintained on every student who has been subject to a disciplinary action. Students who continue to have discipline problems/referrals will be subject to more extreme disciplinary action and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Authority. All illegal acts will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement officials. Upon the recommendation of the administration, any offense that is a severe violation or discredit to the school and is not covered in this handbook will warrant a suspension. Student suspensions require a successful parent conference prior to the reinstatement. The student is then reinstated on probation, and the student and parent are required to sign a probation agreement. While on suspension, students are not allowed to attend any school activities or any extracurricular activities or functions until their suspension time has been served in full and a successful parental conference is held.

PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICE POLICY

Students are not permitted to use any personal communication devices (including cell phone, IPOD, camera, CD player, gameboy, pagers, etc.) during the school day. The school day begins when the student arrives on campus and ends when the final bell or dismissal occurs. Students may not use cell phones when riding buses to and from school for the regular school day. A "personal communication device" is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor.

The taking of photos or the recording of videos whether by cell phone or any other device in places where privacy is a reasonable expectation is strictly prohibited. An incident of this nature could result in a sexual harassment violation, suspension, and loss of cell phone for the remainder of the year. Using cell phones cameras to record altercations on school grounds or at school events is prohibited. In such cases, phones may be confiscated as evidence and other consequences may be assigned by the school administration. A school employee who discovers a student using a personal communication device shall confiscate the device and report the violation to the principal or assistant principal.

The following disciplinary actions will be implemented:

a. First offense – parent must pick up device after school; parent and student shall read and sign policy acknowledgment.

b. Second offense and subsequent offenses – device is confiscated for seven calendar days and parent may pick up the device from the school at the end of the seventh (7th) day.

SCHOOL TELEPHONES

Telephones in the main office are for official business only. Student use of the SAO telephone requires a note granting permission from a teacher. This phone is for emergency use only.

STUDENT CARS ON CAMPUS

Driving an automobile to school is a privilege, not a right. Students who drive to school must register all vehicles with the student affairs office. A reserved parking permit is required for that area and may be purchased for twenty dollars in the Student Affairs Office. The parking permit is a hang-tag and must be placed on the rear view mirror where it is visible through the windshield. All parking is reserved. Students should exit their vehicles and enter the school building immediately upon arrival at school. Violation of the terms of the vehicle registration contract or parking violations can result in the suspension of the driving privilege and/or fines. Failure to register a car will result in suspension of driving privileges.

Driving privileges will be suspended for:

- a. reckless driving;
- b. excessive tardiness;
- c. leaving campus without permission;
- d. taking any student off campus without permission;
- e. improper parking;
- f. lack of registration.

NOTE: Violations of the vehicle registration policy may result in other forms of disciplinary action. Working in cooperation with the Blount County's Sheriff's Department, William Blount High School students who receive traffic citations may have their driving privileges suspended. Automobiles are subject to search by school authorities, in accordance with state law.

STUDENT PARKING

All student vehicles parked on campus must be registered in the Student Affairs Office. Students must have their hang-tag clearly displayed.

Consequences: 1st offense – \$5.00 fine
2nd offense – \$5.00 fine
3rd offense – Vehicle subject to booting or towing and loss of student parking privilege.

LOCKERS AND LOCKS

Lockers are provided for the convenience of the student. The school sells combination locks for \$5 at the academy (1 yr) or \$10 at the main building (3 yrs). If you have a locker, you must have and keep a school lock on your locker at all times. School officials reserve the right to

inspect all school property, which includes lockers, at any time to insure school safety and public welfare. **Not buying a lock for a locker leaves it open for theft and vandalism. Make sure your lock is secured after each use. The school is not liable for books stolen or vandalized.**

BLOUNT COUNTY STUDENT FEES

1. **SCHOOL FEES** – The general school fee of twenty dollars covers expenses for ID cards, duplicating supplies, absentee supplies, guidance supplies, evaluation supplies, and registration materials.
2. **COURSE FEES** – Certain courses require fees to cover materials used by the student in that course.
3. **GRADUATION** – A graduation fee of twenty dollars is required to cover the cost of the diploma, diploma cover, and transcripts.
4. **INSURANCE** – (Optional) – Insurance can be obtained by each student to cover the school day (direct route to school and back), or twenty-four (24) hour coverage. Student insurance claims should be filed with the main office as soon as possible after an accident.
 - All athletes are required by the school board to have insurance that will cover them in their sport. The regular school policy does not cover athletic participation.
 - Fee waiver request forms and free/reduced lunch request forms are available with the school lunch information and should be obtained from homeroom teachers.

LOST AND FOUND

A lost and found department is located in the hallway between the maintenance office and the cafeteria dish room. All items that have been found should be turned in at this location. Inquiries about lost possessions should be made at this location also. The school is not liable for stolen property. Students should keep personal belongings with them at all times

TORNADO AND FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURES

At specified times during the school year, fire or tornado evacuations shall be practiced. During evacuations, students will leave the school building as directed by the classroom teacher. During all evacuations, students will follow the instructions of their teacher. For safety reasons, there shall be no running.

ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

Assembly programs may take place during the school year as needed for various educational or entertainment groups. Good behavior is essential to the success and educational value of these assemblies. During assemblies, students are asked to follow these guidelines:

1. Take assigned seating quickly and quietly.
2. Be silent when the speaker approaches the microphone.
3. Give full and undivided attention to the speaker or activity.
4. Remain seated until dismissed.
5. No food or drink is to be taken into the auditorium or gym.

SCHOOL BUSES

School buses are privately owned property. To ride a school bus is a privilege, not a guarantee. Students who ride buses are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner at all times. Misbehavior on school buses or while waiting at an elementary or middle school bus zones will result in disciplinary action and possible suspension from bus transportation.

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINARY CODE

According to the Blount County Board of Education Policy Manual, the following disciplinary code is in effect on all school buses transporting students to and from school.

LEVEL I VIOLATIONS:

- Eating or drinking on bus after warning
- Failure to remain seated on the bus after being warned
- Improper boarding/departing procedures after being warned
- Refusing to obey the driver
- Loud, rude, or abusive behavior
- Profane language/obscene gestures
- Any behavior jeopardizing safety or good order on the bus

Consequences may be:

- Warning by bus driver
- Written reprimand/Parent contact
- Bus riding suspension (1-5 days)
- Bus riding suspension (Minimum 5 days for repeat of Level I violations)
- Out of school suspension
- Third violation of Level I action to be referred to Disciplinary Hearing Authority

LEVEL II VIOLATIONS:

- Tampering with bus operating or emergency equipment
- Fighting/pushing/tripping
- Bringing articles aboard the bus of injurious or objectionable nature unless approved by driver
- Destruction of property
- Possession and/or use of tobacco products
- Profane language/obscene gestures
- Throwing objects in or out of the bus
- Hanging out bus window

Consequences may be:

- Bus riding suspension (5 days minimum)
- Bus riding suspension (Minimum 10 school days for repeat of Level II violations)
- Out of school suspension
- Third violation of Level II action to be referred to Disciplinary Hearing Authority

LEVEL III VIOLATIONS:

- Physical assault/verbal threats of a violent nature, as defined in Tennessee Code Annotated, directed to driver
 - Attempting to or setting fire to seat, hair, clothing, etc.
 - Possession and/or use of illegal substances
 - Possession of a weapon
 - Use of chemical substances with the intent to do harm
- Consequences may be:*
- Refer to Disciplinary Hearing Authority

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

- a. School closings – School may be closed due to inclement weather or mechanical failure. Starting times may be delayed for the same reasons. When in doubt, listen to the local radio station for information or call 984-1213.
- b. Breakfast is served from 7:50-8:20 AM.

BLOUNT COUNTY SCHOOLS RANDOM DRUG TESTING

Blount County Schools is deeply concerned with the physical, emotional, and mental well being of all its students, including athletics and members of other extra curricular activities. These activities include athletics, band, chorus, and other extracurricular activities. Data collected across the United States indicates a significant number of teenagers are involved in the use of drugs and alcohol. Alcohol and drug use cannot and will not be tolerated due to the high risk involved. Blount County Schools is now implementing a drug testing policy in order to deter drug and alcohol use.

The primary purposes of the drug-testing program are:

1. TO DETER DRUG USE and where deterrence is unsuccessful, to terminate participation in athletics and other extracurricular activities.
2. To protect participants from the health related risks associated with drug and alcohol use.
3. To protect those students, and others with whom they compete, from potential injury as a result of misuse of alcohol or other drugs.
4. To provide drug prevention education to those in need.
5. To remove the stigma of drug abuse from athletes who are not users.
6. To reiterate that Blount County Schools does not condone drug use.
7. To give students an incentive to refuse alcohol and drugs.

DRUG TESTING PROCEDURES:

Student athletes will be primarily randomly tested for drug use. Blount County Schools also reserves the right to perform test based upon documented reasonable suspicion by a coach or administrator. Testing will be accomplished by the analysis of urine specimens, or other recognized analytical procedures. The procedure will ensure the specimen is pure and the sample is maintained. A professional laboratory selected by Blount County Schools will conduct the test analysis.

DRUG TESTING CONSENT FORM:

Students wishing to participate in athletics or extracurricular activities must sign a consent form by which agreeing to participate in the random drug-testing program. The form must include the signature(s) of the participant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The consent form will then be returned to the coach/sponsor and filed in the office of the athletic director. The form will be renewed annually.

**INTERNET ACCEPTABLE POLICY TERMS AND
CONDITIONS OF USE**

- 1. Acceptable use:** The use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with educational objectives of the school system. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material that is protected by a trade secret. Use for commercial activities is not acceptable. Use for product advertising or political lobbying is also prohibited.
- 2. Privileges:** The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The school system administrators will deem what is inappropriate use and their decision is final. Also, the system administrators may suspend privileges at any time.
- 3. Net Etiquette:** Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following. Avoid offensive or inflammatory speech. Be courteous and polite. Use appropriate language. Profanity or obscenities are not permitted at any time. Do not use the network in such a way that would disrupt the work of others. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property. Users may not quote personal communications without the author's consent.
- 4. Vandalism:** Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or other networks that are connected to the Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
- 5. Exception to terms and conditions:** These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supercede all prior oral and written agreements and understandings of the parties.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Blount County Schools is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in employment, recruitment, consideration, or selection on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, or veteran

status. Blount County Schools complies with the provisions of Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Age Discrimination Act of 1967; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It is the policy of Blount County Schools to maintain a learning work environment that is free from harassment because of an individual's race, color, sex, national origin, or disability. The school district prohibits any and all forms of harassment because of race, color, sex, national origin, and disability. It shall be a violation of district policy for any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of this district to harass a student through conduct of a sexual nature, or regarding race, color, sex, national origin or disability, as defined by this policy. It shall also be a violation of district policy for any teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of this district to tolerate sexual harassment or harassment because of an employee's race, color, national origin, ethnicity, or disability, as defined by this policy, by a student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel, or by any third parties who are participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in activities, including sporting events and other extracurricular activities, under the auspices of the school district. For purpose of this policy, the term "school personnel" includes school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district. The school system will act to promptly investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written of harassment because of race, color, sex, national origin, or disability; to promptly take appropriate action to protect individuals from further harassment; and if it determines that unlawful harassment occurred, to promptly and appropriately discipline any student, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who is found to have violated this policy, and/or to take other appropriate action reasonably calculated to end the harassment.

DEFINITIONS

Sexual harassment – For purposes of this policy, sexual harassment of a student consist of unwelcome and unsolicited sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct, or communication of a sexual nature when:

1. A school employee causes a student to believe that he/she must submit to unwelcome sexual conduct in order to participate in a school program or activity, or when an employee or third party agent of the school district causes a student to believe that the employee will make an educational decision based on whether or not the employee submits to unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. The unwelcome sexual conduct is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational, environment.

Examples of conduct which may constitute sexual harassment include:

- a. sexual advances;
- b. touching, patting, grabbing or pinching another person's intimate parts, whether that person is of the same sex or the opposite sex;
- c. coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another;
- d. graffiti of a sexual nature;
- e. sexual gestures;
- f. sexual or dirty jokes;
- g. touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others;
- h. spreading rumors about or rating other students as to sexual activity or performance;
- i. unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact.

This prohibition does not preclude legitimate, non sexual physical conduct such as the use of necessary restraints to avoid physical harm to person or property, or conduct such as teacher's consoling hug of a young student, or one student's demonstration of a sports move requiring contact with another student; or

- j. other unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, when accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's educational status or implied or overt promises of preferential treatment.

Harassment because of race or color – For purposes of this policy, racial harassment of a student consists of verbal or physical conduct relating to an individual's race or color, when:

1. The harassing conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefits from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational work environment;
2. The harassing conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's academic performance; or
3. The harassing conduct otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities. Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment because of race or color include:

- a. graffiti containing racially offensive language;
- b. name calling, jokes, or rumors;
- c. threatening or intimidating conduct directed at another because of the other's race or color;
- d. notes or cartoons;
- e. racial slurs, negative stereotypes, and hostile acts which are based upon another's race or color;
- f. written or graphic material containing racial comments or stereotypes which is posted or circulated and which is aimed at degrading individuals or members of protected classes;
- g. a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to race or color; or
- h. other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property which is motivated by race or color.

Harassment based upon national origin or ethnicity – For purposes of this policy, ethnic or national origin harassment of a student consists of verbal or physical conduct relating to an individual's ethnicity or country of origin or the country of origin of the individual's parents, family members or ancestors when:

1. The harassing conduct is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational work environment;
2. The harassing conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
3. The harassing conduct otherwise adversely affects an individual's learning opportunities. Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment because of national origin or ethnicity include:
 - a. graffiti containing offensive language which is derogatory to others because of their national origin or ethnicity;
 - b. threatening or intimidating conduct directed at another because of the other's national origin or ethnicity;
 - c. jokes, name calling, or rumors based upon an individual's national origin or ethnicity
 - d. ethnic slurs, negative stereotypes, and hostile acts which are based upon another's national origin or ethnicity;
 - e. written or graphic material containing ethnic comments or stereotypes which is posted or circulated and which is aimed at degrading individuals or members of protected classes;
 - f. a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, ethnicity or national origin; or
 - g. other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property which is motivated by national origin or ethnicity.

Harassment because of disability – For purpose of this policy, harassment because of the disability of a student consists of verbal or physical conduct relating to an individual's physical or mental impairment when:

1. The harassing conduct is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it affects a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity, or creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment;
2. The harassing conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
3. The harassing conduct otherwise adversely affects and individual's learning opportunities.

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment because of disability include:

- a. graffiti containing offensive language which is derogatory to others because of their physical or mental disability;
- b. threatening or intimidating conduct directed at another because of their physical or mental disability;
- c. jokes, rumors, or name calling based upon an individual's physical or mental disability;

- d. slurs, negative stereotypes, and hostile acts which are based upon another's physical or mental disability;
- e. graphic material containing comments or stereotypes which is posted or circulated and which is aimed at degrading individuals or members of protected classes;
- f. a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, an individual's physical or mental disability; or
- g. other kinds of aggressive conduct such as theft or damage to property which is motivated by individual's physical or mental disability.

DISTRICT POLICY AGAINST HARASSMENT

Everyone in Blount County Schools has a right to feel protected and safe. The following is our policy to prevent sexual harassment and harassment because of race, national origin, and disability.

1. A harasser may be a student or an adult. Harassment may include the following when related to sex, race, national origin, or disability:
 - a. Name calling
 - b. Pulling on clothing
 - c. Graffiti
 - d. Notes or cartoons
 - e. Unwelcome touching of a person or a person's clothing
 - f. Offensive or graphic posters or book covers; or
 - g. Violent acts
2. If any words or actions make you feel uncomfortable or fearful, you need to tell a teacher, a counselor, a principal, or the Human Rights Officer.
3. You may also make a written report. It should be given to a teacher, a counselor, a principal, or the Human Rights Officer.
4. Your right to privacy will be respected as much as possible.
5. We take seriously all reports of sexual harassment and harassment based upon race, national origin, and disability and will take appropriate action to investigate such claims, to eliminate that harassment, and to discipline any persons found to have engaged in such conduct.
6. The school district will also take action if anyone tries to intimidate or harm you because of filing such a report.

This is a summary of the district's policy against sexual harassment and harassment because of race, national origin, and disability. A complete copy of the policy is available at the Blount County Schools Central Office upon request.

STUDENT CONDUCT BULLYING/INTIMIDATION

The staff is authorized to take reasonable measures to establish appropriate school behavior. Any professional employee shall have the authority to control the conduct of any student while under the supervision of the school system. This authority shall extend to all activities of the school, including all games and public performances of athletic teams and other school groups, trips, excursions and all other

activities under school sponsorship and direction. Such measures may include the use of reasonable force to restrain or correct students and maintain order. A student shall not use violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance or any other conduct which causes the disruption, interference or obstruction of any school purpose while on school property, in school vehicles or buses, or at any school-sponsored activity, function or event, whether on or off campus. Neither shall s/he urge other students to engage in such conduct.

Harassment, intimidation and other conduct that may be considered "bullying" will not be tolerated. Students shall not engage in conduct that has the effect of unreasonably interfering with another student's academic development or that creates a hostile or offensive learning environment. A student found guilty of misbehavior may receive punishment ranging from verbal reprimand to suspension and/or expulsion dependent on the severity of the offense and the offender's prior record.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

REPORTING PROCEDURES

Any student who believes he/she has been the victim of sexual harassment or harassment based on race, color, national origin, or disability by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of the school district, or by any other person who is participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in activities, including sporting events and other extracurricular activities, under the auspices of the school district, is encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. Any teacher, administrator, or other school official who has or receives notice that a student has or may have been the victim of sexual harassment or harassment based on race, color, national origin, or disability by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel of the school district, or by any other person who is participating in, observing, or otherwise engaged in activities, including sporting events and other extracurricular activities, under the auspices of the school district, is required to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. Any other person with knowledge or belief that a student has or may have been the victim of sexual harassment or harassment based on race, color, national origin, or disability as set forth above, is encouraged to immediately report the alleged acts to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandated. Nothing in this policy shall prevent

any person from reporting harassment directly to a district human rights officer or the director of schools.

1. In each school building, the building principal is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of sexual harassment, or harassment based on race, color, national origin, or disability at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of sexual harassment, or harassment based on race, color, national origin, or disability shall inform the building principal immediately. Upon receipt of a report, the principal must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The principal may request but may not insist upon a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the principal to the human rights officer. If the reports were given verbally, the principal shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment report or complaint as provided herein will result in disciplinary action against the principal. If the complaint involves the building principal, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the director of schools or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or the complainant.

2. The school board has designated the supervisor of district wide services or the appointee of the director of schools as the school district human rights officer with responsibility to identify, prevent, and remedy harassment. The district human rights officer shall:

- a.** receive reports or complaints of sexual harassment, and harassment based on race, color, national origin, or disability;
- b.** oversee the investigative process;
- c.** be responsible for assessing the training needs of the district's staff and students in connection with the dissemination, comprehension, and compliance with this policy;
- d.** arrange for necessary training required for compliance with this policy; and

e. insure that any investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who has been trained in the requirements of equal educational opportunity, including harassment, who is able to apply procedural and substantive standards which are necessary and applicable to identify unlawful harassment, recommend appropriate discipline and remedies when harassment is found, and take other appropriate action to rectify the damaging effects of any prohibited discrimination, including interim protection of the victim during the course of the investigation. If any complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the director of schools. The school district shall conspicuously post this policy against harassment and violence in each school that the district maintains, in a place accessible to students, faculty, administrators, employees, parents, and members of the public. This notice shall include the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the human rights officer, (the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the state agency responsible for investigating allegations of discrimination in educational opportunities), and the mailing address and telephone number of the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

3. A copy of this policy shall appear in the student handbook and shall be made available upon request of parents, students, and other interested parties.

4. The school board will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees. Training on the requirements of nondiscrimination and the appropriate responses to issues of harassment will be provided to all school personnel on an annual basis, and at such other times as the school board in consultation with the district human rights officer determines is necessary or appropriate.

5. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

6. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individuals against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the district's legal obligation to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

INVESTIGATION

Upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging sexually harassment, or harassment based upon race, national origin, or disability, the human rights officer shall immediately undertake or authorize an investigation. That investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual against whom the complaint is filed, and others who have knowledge of the alleged incident or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of the evaluation of any other information or documents which may be relevant to the particular allegations. In determining whether the alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district shall consider:

1. the nature of the behavior;
2. how often the conduct occurred;
3. whether there were past incidents or past continuing patterns of behavior;
4. the relationship between the parties involved;
5. the race, national origin, sex, and age of the victim;
6. the identity of the perpetrator, including whether the perpetrator was in a position of power over the student allegedly subjected to harassment;
7. the number of alleged harassers;
8. the age of the alleged harasser;
9. where the harassment occurred;
10. whether there have been other incidents in the school involving the same or other students;
11. whether the conduct adversely affected the student's education or educational environment; and
12. the context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances. The investigation shall be completed (no later than fourteen (14) days from receipt of the report). The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the director of schools upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves

the director of schools, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be in violation of this policy. The school district human rights officer's obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be extinguished by the fact that a criminal investigation involving the same or similar allegations is also pending or has been concluded.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

1. Upon receipt of a report that a violation has occurred, the school district will take prompt, appropriate formal or informal action to address, and where appropriate, remediate the violation. Appropriate actions may include but are not limited to counseling, awareness training, parent teacher conferences, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. School district action taken for violation of this policy shall be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, state and federal law, and school district policies for violations of a similar nature or similar degree of severity. In determining what is an appropriate response to a finding that harassment in violation of this policy has occurred, the school district shall consider:

- a.** what response is most likely to end any ongoing harassment;
- b.** whether a particular response is likely to deter similar future conduct by the harasser or others;
- c.** the amount and kind of harm suffered by the victim of the harassment;
- d.** the identity of the party who engaged in the harassing conduct; or
- e.** whether the harassment was engaged in by school personnel, and if so, the school district will also consider how it can best remediate the effects of the harassment. In the event that the evidence suggests that the harassment at issue is also a crime in violation of Tennessee criminal statute, the school board shall also direct the school district human rights officer to report the results of the investigation to the appropriate law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such crimes.

2. The results of the school district's investigation of each compliant filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant and other parties by the school district in accordance with state and federal laws regarding data or records privacy, and consistent with the privacy rights of the alleged harasser.

3. If the results of the school district's evaluation of a compliant of harassment results in a conclusion that an individual has engaged in unlawful harassment in violation of this policy, or that school personnel have failed to report harassment as required herein, that individual may appeal this determination by use of established school board procedures for appealing other adverse personnel and/or education related actions. If the results of the school district's evaluation of a complaint of harassment results in a conclusion that no unlawful harassment has occurred, and individual who was allegedly subjected to harassment and believes that this conclusion is erroneous may appeal this determination by use of established school board procedures for appealing other adverse personnel and/or education related actions.

4. Copies of all complaints of harassment and the investigations conducted pursuant to them shall be maintained for a period of two years at the main administrative offices of the school district.

REPRISAL

Submission of a good faith complaint or report of sexual harassment, or harassment based upon race, color, disability or national origin will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, learning or working environment or work assignments. The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports an incident of alleged sexual, racial, ethnic or disability related harassment or violence, or any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding, investigation or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.

MINIMUM CONSEQUENCES

(8th grade through 12th grade)

1st Offense Five days Out of School suspension and student/parent conference and Sensitivity Training for student

2nd Offense Ten days Out of School suspension and referral to Disciplinary Hearing Authority

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

All disabled students between the ages of three and twenty-one(inclusive) shall receive the benefit of a free appropriate public education. This provides the assurance that these students will be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate, and should be placed in separate or special classes only when the severity of the disabled is such that education in regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Eligibility standards and options of service for special education services will be based upon the criteria for disabling conditions specified in Rules, Regulations, and Minimum Standards, Tennessee State Board of Education. Students receiving special education services shall not be restrained, except as permitted by law.

FERPA

Students' records maintained by the Blount County School System are protected under Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act. The statute governs disclosure of records maintained by educational institutions which receive federal funds. The statute provides that such institutions must provide parents of students access to official records related to the student an opportunity for a hearing to challenge such records on the grounds that they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate; that institutions must obtain written consent of parents before releasing personally identifiable data about students from records other than a specified list of exceptions; that parents and students must be notified of these rights; that these rights transfer to students at certain points; and that an office and review board must be established. This office is the Family Policy Compliance Office of the

U.S. Department of Education, charged with investigation and adjudication of violations and complaints under Section 438. A copy of the policy and administrative regulations, adopted by the Blount County Board of Education in compliance with Section 438 may be obtained by contacting Mr. Scott Kirkham at 984-1212.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

"Directory information" means information contained in an education record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes, but is not limited to the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational agency or institution attended. Student directory information for 11th and 12th graders shall be made available upon request to persons or groups which make students aware of occupational and educational options, including official recruiting representatives of the military forces of the State and the United States. *The student becomes an "eligible student" when he/she reaches age 18 or enrolls in a post-secondary school, at which time all of the above rights become the student's rights.

**PARENTS RIGHTS TO REVIEW PARAPROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
(HIGHLY QUALIFIED)**

Parents of students may request information about the highly qualified qualifications of teachers who instruct their child.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS

The school district shall be governed by the statutory definition of parent involvement as cited in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and shall carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition.

The Board shall implement the following as required by federal and state legislation:

- The school district will put into operation activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents.
- The school district shall incorporate activities and strategies that support this districtwide family and community engagement policy into its Tennessee Comprehensive Systemwide Planning Process (TCSPP).
- The TCSPP shall include procedures by which parents may learn about the course of study for their children and have access to all learning materials.

- The TCSPP shall include strategies for parent participation in the district's schools which are designed to improve parent and teacher cooperation in such areas as homework, attendance and discipline.
- The TCSPP shall identify opportunities for parents to participate in and support classroom instruction in the school. Such opportunities include, but are not limited to organizing fundraising activities, volunteering as a field trip chaperone, assisting in the library, computer lab, or on the playground, offering after-school clubs, and recycling clothes.
- If the school district's TCSPP is not satisfactory to the parents, the school district shall submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- To the extent practicable, the school district and its schools shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school district shall appoint a Family and Community Advisory Council that will annually assess, through consultation with parents, the effectiveness of the Family and Community Engagement Program and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental and community participation. In order to accomplish this, each advisory council shall be composed of representatives from parents of students in elementary, middle and high schools, community business leaders, a member of the school board, and representatives from the school district.
- Every school district shall ensure Title I schools are in compliance with the *No Child Left Behind* Act.

MEDIA ACCESS TO STUDENTS

School administrators shall be authorized to grant permission and set parameters for media access to students in their respective schools. Media representatives shall be required to report to the administration for prior approval before accessing students involved in instructional programs and activities not attended by the general public. The media may interview and photograph students involved in instructional programs and school activities including athletic events. Such media access shall not be unduly disruptive and shall comply with Board policies. Each year parents/guardians will be given the option to withhold permission for public news media interviews or photographs of their child at school. Specific parental/guardian permission must be obtained if the story or photograph covers topics of a sensitive nature. If any student is to be filmed or videotaped and will be identified or a primary subject of the filming or videotaping, prior written consent/release/waiver will be obtained from the student's parent/guardian. District employees may release student information to the media only in accordance with applicable provisions of the education records law and Board policies governing directory

information and personally identifiable information. Parents will be advised of this policy at the time of the student's registration and each fall in the student/parent handbook.

ZERO TOLERANCE OFFENSES

In order to ensure a safe and secure learning environment, certain offenses will not be tolerated. The designation of these offenses as zero-tolerance offenses means that violations of this policy will not be tolerated and that violators will receive certain, swift, and reasoned punishment. TCA 49-6-4216(b) (1). These zero-tolerance offenses will be divided into two (2) categories based upon the punishment for these offenses.

CATEGORY: ZERO TOLERANCE OFFENSES CARRYING A MANDATORY ONE

(1) CALENDAR YEAR EXPULSION

The following zero-tolerance offenses shall result in a presumptive one (1) calendar year expulsion, except that the Director of Schools may modify the expulsion on a case-by-case basis. (1) Bringing to school or to be in unauthorized possession on school property of a "firearm", as defined in 18 U.S.C. Section 921(2) Committing a battery upon any teacher, principal, administrator, or any other employee of a local education agency, or school resource officer: or (3) Unlawfully possessing any drug including any "controlled substance" as defined in TCA Sections 39-17-403 through 39-17-415, or "legend drug" as defined by TCA Section 53-10-101. Said drugs include, but are not limited to, opiates, opium derivatives, hallucinogenic substances such as LSD or mescaline, depressants, stimulants, cocaine, marijuana, and any drug which federal law prohibits dispensing without a prescription from a licensed doctor, dentist, optometrist, or veterinarian.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.D. Section 921, "firearm" includes any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive: the frame or receiver of any such weapon: any firearm muffler or firearm silencer: or any destructive device ("destructive devise" meaning any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter (1/4) ounce, mine or devise similarly to any of the devises described in the proceeding clauses).

CATEGORY 2: OTHER OFFENSES

The following zero-tolerance offenses shall require certain, swift and reasoned punishment, but reasoned punishment may include a spectrum of disciplinary measures designed to correct student behavior and promote student respect and compliance with codes of conduct and Board policies. Possessing, handling, transmitting, using or attempting to use any dangerous weapon in school buildings or on school grounds at any time, or in school vehicles and/or buses or off the school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, function or event, with dangerous weapons including, but not being limited to, a bowie knife, hawk bill

knife, ice pick, dagger, slingshot, switchblade knife, blackjack, brass knuckles, and other similar weapons, and consumption, possession distribution, marketing, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages in school buildings or on school grounds, in school vehicles or buses, or any school-sponsored activity at any time, whether on or off school grounds.

GANG ACTIVITY OR ASSOCIATIONS

Gangs, which initiate, advocate, or promote activities which threaten the safety or well being of persons or property on school grounds or which disrupt the school environment, are harmful to the education process. The use of hand signals, graffiti, or the presence of any apparel, jewelry, accessory, or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, symbol, or any attribute, which indicates or implies membership or affiliation with such a group, presents a clear and present danger. This is contrary to the school environment and educational objectives and creates an atmosphere where unlawful acts or violations of school regulations may occur. Incidents involving initiations, intimidations, and/or related activities of such group affiliations which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students are prohibited.

CHILD ADVOCACY CONTACT INFORMATION

Helen Ross McNabb Center
244 Calderwood Avenue
Alcoa, TN 37701
(865) 681-6990

New Hope Blount County Children's Advocacy Center
212 Cates Street
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 981-2000

Pregnancy Resource Center
3028 Old Niles Ferry Rd.
Maryville, TN 37804
(865) 977-8378

Tennessee Department of Children's Services
303 Home Avenue
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 981-2350

Tennessee Community Health Services
For variety of mental health & counseling; inc. drug & alcohol addiction
359 Ellis Avenue
Maryville, TN 37801
(865) 984-8280

Run Away Hotline
1-800-RUNAWAY (786-2929)

Suicide Prevention
1-800- SUICIDE (784-2433)

24 Hour Crisis Center
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Youth Mobile Crisis
1-866-791-9224

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT/SECTION 504

The Federal Americans with Disabilities Act protects persons with a disability, those who associate with the disabled and those who help or encourage others to exercise rights granted by the act. Blount County School System wants to ensure that these rights are protected, that everyone can participate in or benefit from the system’s programs, services, and activities offered. It is the right of each person to ask for a reasonable accommodation if it has not been provided. The ADA coordinator directs compliance efforts and serves as citizen liaison. Despite the best efforts of the system, problems may arise so a grievance procedure has been established to ensure that a complaint will be heard. Those who have problems or ADA related questions may call 984-1212.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual Enrollment courses offer juniors and seniors the opportunity to take college level courses while still enrolled in high school. Interested students should make an appointment with their guidance counselor for additional information. Students eligible to participate in the Tennessee Dual Enrollment Grant program may receive up to \$600 per award year (\$300 per semester), paid at the rate of \$100 per postsecondary semester/term credit hour. This grant is subject to the availability of funding and shall be applied only toward college tuition. Other college costs not covered by this grant are the responsibility of the student.

STAR STUDENT PARENT PORTAL

Parent Portal is a feature of the **Star Student Management System** that allows parents and guardians real-time access to information about their students. It will provide another communication tool for teachers, parents, and guardians in Blount County Schools. Parent Portal is free, easy to use, web-based, and secure. As a parent or guardian, you will have instant access to your child’s report card grades, daily grades and classroom assignments. You can also monitor their attendance, discipline, progress and performance. Teacher’s can be contacted through email links on the Parent Portal screen. You can only get information about Parent Portal through your child’s school. Please contact the school with any questions about the Parent Portal system. Parents must send an e-mail to wadel@blountk12.org to request a login/password.

ONLINE FREE & REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS

- Blount County Schools is pleased to announce the availability of applying for Free and Reduced Price Meals online. The process is safe, secure, private, and is available 24/7.
- Visit www.school lunchapp.com
- Follow the easy to use, step-by-step screens to enter student and household information
- Click “Apply” to submit your application for meal benefits.

INDEX

Alcohol and drug policy	16
Appeals	16
Assembly programs	24
Athletic eligibility	7
Attendance	8
Bomb threats	18
Bus information	9, 24
Cars	22
Cell phone policy	21
Cheating	19
Child advocacy contact information	40
Complaint procedure	32
Conduct/discipline code	14
Consequences for inappropriate behavior	19
Detention	13
Deliveries for students	9
Disabilities act –section 504	41
Disciplinary hearing authority	15
Dress code	12
Discrimination/harassment of students	27
Disease and vaccines	17
District policy against harassment	30
Drivers License Compliance	7
Drug testing	25
Dual enrollment information	41
Early check-outs	9
Emergencies	10
Equal opportunity employer	27
Evacuation procedures	23
Family life curriculum	17
Fees	23
FERPA	36
Fighting	18
Fire drill	23
Gang activity or associations	39
Graduation requirements	4
Guidance	4
Hall passes	11
Health screenings	17
Internet policy	26

Interrogation/search of students	20
Learning Expectations for Students	3
Library	12
Lockers	23
Lost and found	23
Media access	38
Medication	10
Military recruiter access	9
Mission, beliefs, vision	3
Other information	21
Parent conferences	4
Parents right to review teacher qualifications	37
Parent involvement policy	37
Release of directory information	36
Report cards	6
Rules	18
Safety	15
School calendar	1
School information	25
School telephone	22
Sickness procedure	10
Special education	36
Star Student parent portal	41
Student conduct – bullying/intimidation	31
Student ID’s & planners	4
Student parking	23
Suspension	14
Table of contents	2
Tardiness	11
Text-A-Tip line	15
Textbooks	11
Tobacco policy	16
Tornado drill	23
Unsafe school choice policy	15
Visitors	9
Weapons	18
Withdrawal or transfer	11
Withholding report cards/blue holds	11
Zero tolerance offenses	38