

Washington County High School

Student & Parent Handbook
2025-2026



ACADEMICS | ARTS | ATHLETICS

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www.washingtoncountyschoolsga.org



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A Message from the Principal

Dear Golden Hawk Families,

Welcome back to another exciting and successful year at Washington County High School! I hope you and your family had a restful and rejuvenating summer. As we begin the 2025–2026 school year, I want to express how thrilled we are to welcome our returning students and extend a warm greeting to the newest members of our Golden Hawk family.

This year, we are embracing the theme “WIN: Whenever, Wherever”—a message that reflects our commitment to helping every student succeed in all areas of life, whether in the classroom, on the field, in clubs, or beyond. Our staff has worked hard to prepare a positive environment that is engaging, rigorous, and meaningful.

As we launch this school year, I want to challenge our students to:

- **Be present at school every day, on time** – Consistent attendance and punctuality are keys to success.
- **Set goals** – Whether academic, personal, or extracurricular, setting clear goals helps students stay focused and motivated.
- **Be active in the learning environment** – Engage, ask questions, participate in class discussions, and take ownership of learning.
- **Get better every day** – Growth happens step by step. Commit to improvement daily, no matter how small.

At WCHS, we are focused on:

- **Academic Excellence** – Increasing mastery of standards and raising expectations for all learners
- **College, Career, and Life Readiness** – Preparing students for success beyond high school
- **Positive Relationships** – Fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive school culture

We encourage all students to get involved in Hawk Life. Whether through athletics, fine arts, or academic clubs and organizations, there's a place for everyone to shine at WCHS.

Let's work together to make this a remarkable year filled with achievement, growth, and Golden Hawk pride.

With Golden Hawk Pride,



Mr. Jamaal Wilcher, Principal
Washington County High School
420 Riddleville Road
Sandersville, GA 31082
jwilcher@washington.k12.ga.us

Washington County High School Staff List



| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. Jamaal Wilcher | Principal |
| Mrs. Leigh Anne Brooker | Assistant Principal |
| Mrs. Carla Poole | Assistant Principal |
| Mrs. Kelly Severance | Assistant Principal |
| Mrs. Amy Vickers | Assistant Principal / CTAE Director |
| Mrs. Christy Hinton | Counselor |
| Mrs. Tiffany McCoy | Counselor |
| Mrs. Megan McDade | Principal's Administrative Assistant |
| Mrs. Tabitha Hatfield | School Registrar |
| Ms. Comencia Jordan | Attendance Data Clerk |

Contact Information

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Main Office | 478-552-2324 |
| Main Fax | 478-552-3140 |
| Attendance Office | 478-552-2324, ext. 2204 |
| Counselor | 478-552-2324 |
| Counselor's Fax | 478-553-2807 |
| Records Fax | 478-553-2035 |
| Attendance Fax | 478-552-3140 |

Instructional Staff

Language Arts

Mrs. Jessica Griffin
Mrs. Christy Johnson, Chairperson
Mr. David Lamb
Mrs. Katie Pounds
Ms. Charlize Reynolds

Fine Arts

Mr. Robert Carroll – Chorus
Mr. Matthew Clements, Chairperson – Art
Mr. Max Libardi – Band
Mrs. Lauren Macke – Drama
Mrs. Jessica Watts – Dance

Mathematics

Mrs. Amy Brown, Chairperson
Mrs. Kimi Lewis
Mrs. Jacquelyn Sanders
Mrs. Megan Swint
Mrs. Brandee Tillman
Mrs. Jessica Watts

Science

Mrs. Wendy Duggan
Mrs. Logan Hartley, Chairperson
Mrs. Devon Mason
Mrs. Tammy May
Mrs. Alicia Norris

Social Studies

Mr. Cliff Avant
Mr. Jay English
Mr. Oluwafemi Erinle
Mr. Benjamin Martin, Chairperson
Mr. Ryan McCoy
Mrs. Andrea Miller

Clerical Staff

Mrs. Connie Brown
Mrs. Va'Lelethia Johnson
Ms. Comencia Jordan

Nurse

Ms. Katrina Jackson

Special Programs

Mrs. Melissa Andrews, Chairperson
Ms. Chiquita Anderson
Mrs. Casey Carroll
Mr. Joel Griffin
Mrs. Brooke Kitchens
Mrs. Kena Lindsey
Mr. Kevin Mobley
Mrs. Calia Seals
Mrs. Jennifer Smith

Health/Physical Education

Mr. Brandon Biggins, Chairman
Mr. Ronald Bonner
Mr. Robert Edwards
Mr. Kevin Mobley
Mr. Mohammad Smart
Mr. Demetro Stephens

Career, Technology, Agricultural Education

Ms. Karen David – Culinary Arts
Mr. David Earl – Construction
Mr. Marchello Graddy – Audio/Video Technology & Film
TSgt. Serpeca Holloman – USAF, Ret-AFJROTC
Mrs. Stephanie May – Early Childhood Education
Mr. Wesley Pope, Chairperson – Agriculture
Sgt. Ray Tennyson – USAF, Ret-AFJROTC
Mrs. Allison Tyson – Business & Computer Science
Mrs. Amy Vickers – Director
Mr. Jon Walraven – Automotive
Mrs. Juanita Walker - Pharmacy Tech.
Mr. Dean Wilcher – Work Based Learning

ESOL/ELL Teacher

Mrs. Juliana Parsley

Media Specialist

Dr. Leigh Holtapp

Student Support Coordinator

Mr. Robert Bonifay

Paraprofessionals

Ms. Ambreia Johnson
Ms. Florrie Smith
Ms. Tawanda Walker

IT

Mr. James Garner

Athletic Trainer

Mr. Keith Taylor

WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT



Mr. Timothy May, Superintendent of Schools

Board of Education Members

Mr. Robbie Blocker, Chairman

Dr. Al Gray, Vice Chairman

Ms. Rita Hunt

Mrs. Leigh Jordan

Mr. Rodney Walker

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Superintendent's Administrative Assistant | Mrs. Tracy Poole |
| Deputy Superintendent/Special Projects, School Finance and Budgeting | Mrs. Sandra McMaster |
| Director of Student Support Services | Ms. Georgia Larimore |
| Director of Human Resources | Ms. Masha White |
| Director of Literacy | Ms. Leah Clark |
| System Registrar/Data Information Coordinator | Mrs. Shaquonta Johnson |
| Director of K-12 Curriculum | Mrs. Audra Gilbert |
| Director of Workforce Development & CTAE | Mrs. Amy Vickers |
| Director of Digital Learning | Mrs. Jennifer Tatum |
| Director of Special Programs | Ms. Sherry Monroe |
| School Social Worker | Mrs. Misty Ivey |
| Director of School Nutrition Services | Mrs. Karen Yonchak |
| Manager of Transportation | Mr. Robert Ferebee |
| Manager of Maintenance/Facilities | Mr. Tim Chapman |
| Director of Technology | Mr. Lorenzo Watts |
| Director of Safety and Security | Mr. Terry Stephens |
| Ridge Road Primary School Principal | Ms. Lynn Pool |
| Ridge Road Elementary School Principal | Mrs. Christine McPherson |
| T.J. Elder Middle School Principal | Dr. Darryl Gilbert |
| Washington County High School Principal | Mr. Jamaal Wilcher |
| Achievement Academy Director | Mrs. Angie McCall |
| Innovative Gifted Accelerated Learning (IGAL) Academy Director | Mrs. Tamiko Watts |
| Pre-K Director | Mrs. Deborah Andrews |

Washington County High School at a Glance

Alma Mater

Held within our hallowed memories, firmly stands the best,
Found within the heart of Georgia, W.C.H.S.

A thousand thrilling hearts shall bless thee, Strong our hearts enfold,
Praise to thee dear alma mater, Hail the white and gold!

Down amidst the gleaming sunrays, Through enchanting halls,
Stands our dear alma mater, proudly loved by all.

School Colors

Black, Vegas Gold, and White

School Mascot

Golden Hawk

WCHS Mission Statement

EXPECTING all children to EXCEL in Academics, Arts and Athletics.

WCHS Vision Statement

Washington County High School will be a premier high school that produces well-rounded students ready to lead in our community and a global society

Portrait of a WCHS Graduate

A graduate will **communicate effectively** using oral and written skills.

A graduate will **read proficiently** for understanding and for pleasure.

A graduate will **think critically** in order to make decisions and solve problems.

A graduate will use **technology efficiently** to communicate with others and enhance their learning.

Job skills:

A graduate will seek and secure a job through appropriate application skills, interviewing skills, and career planning.

Individual Accountability:

A graduate:

- will be honest and act with integrity.
- will be organized such as managing time, setting and achieving goals.
- will effectively maintain a budget and plan for the future using personal finance.
- will work independently.

Social Accountability:

A graduate:

- will demonstrate tolerance, cultural diversity and good citizenship.
- will serve the community by volunteering time, money and/or service.
- will work cooperatively in a group.
- will be accepting of those who are different from him/her.

2025-2026 District Calendar

2025/26 Calendar

| July 2025 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| August 2025 | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| September 2025 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

| October 2025 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| November 2025 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

| December 2025 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| January 2026 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| February 2026 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | |

| March 2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

| April 2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

| May 2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| June 2026 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

Asynchronous Learning Days - Students & Staff

Professional Development Days - Teachers Only

School Begins - First Day of Semester for Students

End of 9 Week Period

School Holiday - Students & Staff

End 1st Semester - Early Release for Students

School Ends -Early Release for Students

= Number of Instructional Days in Month

= Number of Staff Days in Month

| Activity | Date |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Pre Planning | July 25-31 |
| First Day of School | August 1 |
| Labor Day Holiday | September 1 |
| End 1st 9 Weeks (44 Days) | October 2 |
| Asynchronous Learning Days - Students & Staff | October 3 |
| Begin 2nd 9 Weeks | October 3 |
| Columbus Day Holiday & Fall Break | October 13-17 |
| Thanksgiving Holidays | November 24-28 |
| End 2nd 9 Weeks (46 Days) | December 19 |
| End First Semester (90 Days) | December 19 - Early Release |
| Winter Break | December 22-January 2 |
| Professional Learning Day | January 5 |
| Begin 2nd Semester | January 6 |
| MLK Holiday | January 19 |
| Asynchronous Learning Days - Students & Staff | February 13 |
| President's Day Holiday | February 16 |
| End 3rd 9 Weeks (46 Days) | March 12 |
| Professional Learning Day | March 13 |
| Begin 4th 9 Weeks | March 16 |
| Spring Break | April 6-10 |
| Graduation | May 16 |
| End 4th 9 Weeks (44 Days) | May 21 |
| End 2nd Semester (90 Days) | May 21 |
| Last Day of School | May 21 - Early Release |
| Post Planning | May 22 |
| Memorial Day Holiday | May 25 |

Washington County High School Regular Bell Schedule 2025 - 2026

| | |
|-------|--|
| 7:30 | Teachers Sign In |
| 7:30 | Planning/Tutoring |
| 8:15 | First Bell / Move to First Period |
| 8:20 | Tardy Bell / Begin Announcements |
| 8:35 | Begin First Period |
| 9:25 | End First Period / Move to Second Period |
| 9:30 | Tardy Bell / Begin Second Period |
| 10:20 | End Second Period / Move to Third Period |
| 10:25 | Tardy Bell / Begin Third Period |
| 11:15 | End Third Period / Move to Fourth Period |
| 11:20 | Tardy Bell / Begin Fourth Period |
| 12:10 | End Fourth Period / Move to Fifth Period |
| 12:15 | Begin Fifth Period |
| | Tardy Bell (Lunch A) |
| 12:40 | End Lunch A / Students report to Fifth Period |
| | Begin Lunch B |
| 12:45 | Tardy Bell (Lunch B) |
| 1:10 | End Lunch B / Students report back to Fifth Period |
| | Begin Lunch C |
| 1:40 | End Lunch C / Move to Sixth Period |
| 1:45 | Tardy Bell / Begin Sixth Period |
| 2:35 | End Sixth Period / Move to Seventh Period |
| 2:40 | Tardy Bell / Begin Seventh Period |
| 3:30 | End Seventh Period / Student Dismissal |
| 3:45 | Teacher/Staff Dismissal |

School Public Safety Department

Rochelle Biggins, Chief

The Washington County Board of Education Police Department was established in 1985 to provide safety and security for the district's schools, students, and employees. Our jurisdiction covers all schools and administrative buildings, all students and employees. The department is a state-certified agency and is recognized as one of the top law enforcement agencies in Georgia. The attainment of state certification places the WCBOE Police Department among the best 180 agencies to meet the law enforcement standards that exhibit the highest regard for community, professionalism, and officer safety. As such, the Washington County Board of Education Police Officers have the right to carry a concealed weapon and to exercise the power of arrest when discharging their duties while in or out of uniform. The Officers also have the power to discharge their duties off-campus if engaging in intelligence gathering activity, investigating a crime committed on campus, or if specifically requested by the chief law enforcement officer of the city/county. The Washington County Board of Education Police Officers are responsible for the full range of law enforcement services. These include, but are not limited to, responding to and investigating incidents/offenses, medical emergencies, fires, bomb threats, auto accidents, parking lot patrol/violations, violations of state liquor, controlled substances, and weapons laws and other on-campus emergencies.

CTAE Public Notice

The Washington County School System offers Career, Technical, and Agriculture Education at T.J. Elder Middle School and Washington County High School. These programs are designed to prepare youth for a broad range of employment and further education and are offered under the guidance of certified teachers. The following Career Pathways are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, including those with limited English proficiency, sex or disability in grades 9-12:

Agriculture, Audio Video Tech, Automotive, Construction, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Entrepreneurship, Heavy Equipment Operations, JROTC, Pharmacy Tech, and Work-Based Learning.

Persons seeking further information concerning Career, Technical and Agriculture Education offerings should contact:

CTAE Director:
Mrs. Amy Vickers
Washington County High School
420 Riddleville Road
Sandersville, GA 31082
478-552-3981 ext. 2228
Avickers@washington.k12.ga.us

Standardized Testing

PSAT

This examination is an excellent opportunity for students to understand the requirements of the SAT, which is a critical reasoning exam used as a criterion in college admissions. Tenth grade students who participate in the October administration of the PSAT at their home high school receive a detailed Score Report Plus in December. The Score Report Plus provides students with a comprehensive skills' analysis of their performance and gives them a code which provides access to a website with additional test information and an interactive career information program called My Roads. Students who pay to take the PSAT as a junior are eligible to be considered for National Merit Scholarship. Confer with your student's counselor in August about ordering the PSAT for your junior. Students may take the PSAT as freshman or junior for a fee.

SAT

The SAT reasoning test is a measure of the critical thinking skills needed for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well a student analyzes and solves problems. All colleges and universities in Georgia accept scores from the SAT for admission purposes. The College Board determines the national testing dates and testing sites for the SAT exam. Students may register online for the SAT at:

www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat.

The College Board offers fee waivers for students meeting certain financial criteria. See guidance counselor for details.

ACT

The ACT examination assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college level work. All colleges and universities in Georgia accept scores from the ACT for admission purposes. ACT determines the national testing dates and testing sites for the ACT exam. Students may register online for the ACT at www.actstudent.org. ACT offers fee waivers for students meeting certain financial criteria. See guidance counselor for details.

EOCA

Georgia Milestones Assessment System End-Of-Course Assessment (EOC)

The purpose of the Georgia Student Assessment Program is to measure student achievement of the state-adopted content standards and inform efforts to improve teaching and learning. Results of the assessment program are utilized to identify students failing to achieve mastery of content, to provide teachers with feedback about instructional practice, and to assist school districts in identifying strengths and weaknesses in order to establish priorities in planning educational programs. High school students take an end-of-course assessment for each of the four courses designated by the State Board of Education. Students at the high school level will take an end-of-course assessment in the following four courses:

English Language Arts - Literature and Composition II

Mathematics - Algebra: Concepts & Connections

Science - Biology

Social Studies - United States History

The end-of-course measures are administered at the completion of the course, regardless of the grade level. These measures serve as the final exam for the course and contribute 10% to the student's final course grade. For additional information, please visit the following website:

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Milestones-Assessment-System.aspx>

College Entrance Board Tests

Recommended Grade and Time Scheduling for Test

| | |
|--|--|
| Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude (PSAT) | 10th and 11th Grades (Oct. of each year) |
| Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) | 11th Grade (Jan., Mar., or May) |
| Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) | 12th Grade (Nov., Dec., or Jan.) |
| American College Test (ACT) | 11th Grade (Feb. or Apr.) |
| American College Test (ACT) | 12th Grade (Sept., Oct., Dec., or Feb.) |

The WCHS Guidance Department recommends this schedule of College Board testing for all students who plan to enter college after high school. Counselors will review student records and recommend which test, the SAT or ACT, is better suited to the student. Students are strongly encouraged to take the PSAT before attempting the SAT. Contact the Guidance Department for registration and more detailed information regarding College Board testing.

ADVISEMENT PROGRAM/GRADUATION PLAN

All students are required to participate in the advisement program to create and monitor their four-year graduation plan. Parents should check their child's transcripts, monitor progress through Infinite Campus, and meet with counselors periodically to ensure student success. Students will be required to meet with their counselors each semester in order to stay up-to-date with their graduation plan. An evening advisement session will be held to provide parents an opportunity for input regarding course selection during the month of March.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular attendance at school is an absolute necessity for good student performance. Pursuant to Georgia Law (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-690.1), all students between the age of 6 and 16 are required by law to attend school daily unless they have a lawful reason to be absent. Ages 4- and 5-year-old students, if enrolled in a school program for 20 days, are automatically covered under the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law.

Any child subject to compulsory attendance who during the school calendar year has more than five (5) days of unexcused absences is considered truant (O.C.G.A. Section 20-2-735). School days missed because of out-of-school suspension shall not count as unexcused days for the purpose of determining student truancy (S.B.O.E 160-5-1 .10).

Parents or guardians who do not ensure the regular attendance of their child/ren are subject to being taken to court and fined as established in State Board Rule (160-5-1-.10) and in accordance with (O.C.G. A- Section 15-11-67) the possible denial of a driver's license for a child. The Washington County School District Attendance Policy is written according to Georgia Law to reduce unexcused absences.

Parent/guardian and student (age 10 and above) must sign the receipt of attendance policy by September 1 of the school calendar or within 30 days of student enrollment.

Excuses, for unexcused absences, will not be accepted after the last day of school.

Definition of an Absence

An absence for an entire school day will be a student who misses more than 3.5 hours during the school day (8:35 - 3:30). An absence for a class period will be a student who misses more than half the amount of time of the class period.

Excused Absences

1. Personal illness or attendance in school endangering a student's health or the health of others. With proper verification, a student may be eligible for hospital/homebound instruction (S.B.O.E. Rule 160-4-2-31).
2. A serious illness and/or death of an immediate family member.
3. Students may have an excused absence when attending a funeral of an immediate family member.
4. A court order or order by a government agency mandating absences from school.
5. A foster care student who attends court proceeding relating to the student's foster care shall be credited as present by the school and shall not be counted as an absence, either excused or unexcused for any day, portion of a day or days missed from school as set forth in O.C.G.A 20-2-692.2
6. Celebrating religious holidays that may necessitate a reasonable absence from school.
7. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety.
8. Visiting with a military parent prior to deployment or during leave from an overseas \ combat zone (up to 5 days per school year).

Procedures for Addressing Excused Absences

1. A statement from a doctor or medical facility; funeral director and/or pastor and court summons.
2. If a student is sent home by the school nurse, it will be counted as an excused absence.
3. A parent/guardian may submit undocumented excuses for no more than three (3) days per semester for a total of six (6) days per year. These undocumented absences may be used for days the student is ill and does not seek medical attention or illness of an immediate family member and/or extreme family emergency which necessitates student being absent. The following information must be specified on each excuse:
1) The date excuse is written; 2) The date(s) and day(s) of absence(s); 3) The reason for absence(s) and 4) The signature of parent/guardian with a valid contact number. **These days may not be used for an out-of-town trip or vacation.
4. Students who have received excused absences will be allowed to make up schoolwork.

Procedures for Addressing Unexcused Absences

1. After three (3) unexcused absences the school shall contact parents by telephone or send letter by student requesting a conference to discuss concerns regarding attendance. After two (2) reasonable attempts to reach and notify parent/guardian without response, the school shall send a notice to parent/guardian by first class mail. The letter is to include a copy of the Compulsory Attendance Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1)
2. After five (5) unexcused absences the school shall contact parents by telephone or send a letter by the student requesting a conference to discuss concerns regarding attendance. After two (2) reasonable attempts to reach and notify parent/guardian without response, the school shall send a notice to parent/guardian by first class mail. The letter is to include a copy of the Compulsory Attendance Law (O.C.G.A. 20-2-690.1)
3. After six (6) unexcused absences the school shall send a letter to parents/guardian (by certified mail, return receipt requested) informing them that the student is truant and in violation of compulsory attendance and will be referred to School Social Worker.
4. School Social Worker shall contact and work with guardian and student to improve attendance.
5. After ten (10) unexcused absences per school calendar, the School Social Worker/Attendance Officer shall refer parent/guardian/student to CHINS committee which consist of members from Judicial Court System, Department of Family and Children Services, Mental Health and school district.

2nd Semester Exam Exemption Attendance (for middle and high school)

After the 2nd Semester exam exemption form deadline, excuses will not count for exam exemptions. Those excuses, if acceptable according to policy, will count for attendance only.

Students will be counted present when they are serving as Pages of the Georgia General Assembly and/or while representing the school in an activity approved by the school and/or the Washington County Board of Education.

WCHS students should note the following:

- To receive an award for perfect attendance, a student may **not** have an absence (unexcused or excused) for any period, tardy to class (unexcused or excused), tardy to school (unexcused or excused), or be signed out before the end of the instructional day.
- Skipping constitutes an unexcused absence.
- Students who are failing more than 2 classes may not be allowed to attend a scheduled non-Instructional activity at the discretion of the principal.

ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-aptitude battery that measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military. It is administered annually to more than one million military applicants, high school, and post-secondary students. It is usually administered to WCHS juniors (mandatory) and seniors (optional) at least once each school year. The ASVAB assesses students' knowledge of general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics knowledge, electronics information, auto and shop information, and mechanical comprehension.

The ASVAB is offered to high school and post-secondary students as part of the ASVAB Career Exploration Program. The program provides tools to help students learn more about career exploration and planning, in both the civilian and military worlds of work. ASVAB scores are used primarily to determine enlistment eligibility, assign applicants to military jobs, and aid students in career exploration.

Military recruiters of each branch of the Armed Forces are available to assist students with career exploration within the military; however, students do have the right to decline the services of military recruiters. See your school counselor for any questions or concerns. Study Guide materials are available in the counselor's office or online.

BULLYING POLICY

The Washington County School District believes that all students can learn better in a safe school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of any student will not be tolerated. Bullying, as the term is defined in Georgia law, of a student by another student is strictly prohibited. Such prohibition shall be included in the student Code of Conduct for all schools within the school system.

Bullying is defined as follows: An act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system, that is:

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
2. Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - a. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
 - b. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - c. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
 - d. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process, as stated in the Code of Conduct. However, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to the alternative school. Upon a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an act of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the administrator or designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or other person having control or charge of the student by telephone call or through written notice, which may be done electronically.

Students and parents will be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition by posting information at each school and by including such information in the student/parent handbooks.

BUS POLICY

The school bus is considered an extension of the classroom. Behavior appropriate for the school setting is expected. When students arrive on campus they must go directly into the building. For example, students are not allowed to get off of the bus, leave campus or go to the parking lot for any reason.

The district reviews procedures during the summer to improve safety measures and service to students. After our summer review, we determined that "bus changes" should be improved in order to ensure the safety of students. In order to ensure that your child arrives at the location that you have requested, we will require a note from the child's guardian or guardian designee. No phone calls will be taken for bus changes.

If you need to make a bus change during the day, the guardian or a designee of the guardian (person must be listed on the student's sign-out list), must come to the school to complete a bus pass. This change will help us provide a safe environment for the children.

Board Policy JCDAD: Bus Conduct

Original Adopted Date: 04/04/2002

Status: ADOPTED

While the law requires the school district to furnish transportation, it does not relieve parents of students from the responsibility of supervision until such time as the child boards the bus in the morning and after the child leaves the bus at the end of the school day.

Once a child boards the bus — and only at that time — does he or she become the responsibility of the school

district. Such responsibility shall end when the child is delivered to the regular bus stop at the close of the school day.

In view of the fact that a bus is an extension of the classroom, the Board shall require children to conduct themselves in the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior.

In cases when a child does not conduct himself properly on a bus, such instances are to be brought to the attention of the Building Principal by the bus driver. The Building Principal will inform the parents of the misconduct and request their cooperation in checking the child's behavior.

Children who become a serious or chronic disciplinary problem on the school bus may/will have their riding privileges suspended. Suspension may be short term up to one calendar year as determined by the principal. In such cases, the parents of the children involved become responsible for seeing that their children get to and from school safely.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Note: To access the policy references, click here [State of Georgia Terms and Conditions](#) and close the LexisNexis tab, which will return you to the policy. Click on the links below to be taken to each specific code. You should ONLY have to do this one time per session.

State

O.C.G.A. 20-02-0751.5

O.C.G.A. 20-02-1126

Rule 160-5-3-.13

Rule 160-4-8-.15

CAMPUS SEARCHES

The principal or assistant principal shall be responsible for conducting reasonable interviews of students in order to investigate misconduct properly. Searches are based on a reasonable suspicion of the presence of dangerous items and for other good and sufficient reasons. Lockers and student vehicles are subject to inspection, if reasonable suspicion has been established. Lockers may be rented to students by the school, but the lockers remain the sole property of the Washington County Schools and are subject to unannounced searches by school personnel. The principal at Washington County High School may deny a student the privilege of bringing a vehicle on campus.

Use of metal detectors to search a student is permitted when there is reasonable suspicion that the student possesses a weapon of any kind or when a student exhibits predisposition to violent behavior or the use of force.

Use of Drug Dogs - The school system in cooperation with established InterQuest K-9 Services may use dogs to detect drugs when deemed appropriate. The use of dogs shall conform to state and federal law. Any vehicle searches based on a positive K-9 alert will be conducted by the school administrator, InterQuest, and school law enforcement personnel.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria, a non-profit organization, is operated by Washington County Board of Education School Food Services for students' convenience. Menus are developed in accordance with state guidelines. Breakfast and lunch meals are served to students at no charge. Cafeteria Rules:

- The breakfast line will close when the 8:15 bell rings.
- Not eating breakfast does not entitle a student to two lunches.
- All discipline rules apply in the cafeteria. Breaking in line is considered a discipline offense. Any discipline problems should be referred to the administrators on duty.
- Students are responsible for cleanup of their areas. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.
- Students should enter their PIN numbers in the digital keypad.

- Students may not, under any circumstances, use someone else's PIN number to get a meal.
- After lunch, students will remain in the commons area. No students should be in the hallways or other off-limit areas during lunch.
- Students may not leave campus to purchase meals. Sack lunches and/or breakfasts from food establishments may not be brought on campus by students or delivered to students.
- Tables and chairs are not to be moved.

All food, snacks, and drinks will be eaten only in the cafeteria and other designated areas. Commercially prepared food cannot be taken to the cafeteria nor can persons outside of the school deliver it to a student on campus. Students should go to the cafeteria in an orderly manner. Cutting in the lunch lines will not be permitted. All papers, food, etc. should be removed from the floor, table, and grounds before the students leave lunch. Good manners and cleanliness are expected in the cafeteria at all times.

During lunch, students are not allowed anywhere in the building except the lunchroom, or outside courtyard area (Seniors) by the cafeteria. Unauthorized items will be confiscated. Students are not permitted to go to lockers or use the phone during lunch periods. Students may only go to lockers during class changes, before or after school.

CHILD FIND PROCEDURES

Each LEA must have in effect policies and procedures to ensure that all suspected children with disabilities, including those who are homeless, are wards of the State or are attending private schools, regardless of the severity of their disability, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located and evaluated. [34 C.F.R. § 300.111]. Each LEA shall ensure that before conducting any significant activity that is designed to identify, locate or evaluate children, annual notice must be published or announced in newspapers or other media, or both, to notify parents of this activity. [34 C.F.R. § 300.612 (b)] These policies and procedures shall provide for the screening and evaluation of all children with suspected disabilities birth through age 21 to include: Children birth through age three. An LEA may fulfill its child find responsibility through referral to the Babies Can't Wait early intervention program operated by the Department of Community Health. Preschool children, ages 3-5, not yet eligible for state-funded kindergarten. Children enrolled in the LEA schools including public charter schools. Children who are suspected of being children with disabilities and in need of special education, even though they are progressing from grade to grade. [34 C.F.R. § 300.111(c)(1)]. Highly mobile children, including migrant children. [34 C.F.R. § 300.111(c)(2)]. Children who are detained or incarcerated in city/county operated jails or correctional facilities. Children who reside in the LEA and are enrolled in home school/study programs. Parentally placed private school children. [34 C.F.R. § 300.131(a)] (i) Children enrolled by their parents in private, including religious, elementary and secondary schools located in the LEA's jurisdiction. [34 C.F.R. § 300.130] 160-4-7-.03-1

CLASS RINGS

Students must have earned ten (10) units of credit at the beginning of first semester to order class rings. The vendor selling the rings will be responsible for all activities concerning the rings. The school is not responsible for problems with deposits, ordering, workmanship, etc.

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

Juniors and Seniors will be allowed two excused absences for the purpose of visiting universities, colleges, technical or vocational schools in a school year. During fall and spring semesters the college visits will be excused. For visits to be counted as excused, students must furnish the Attendance Office an official letter from the institution visited. This letter must be on official letterhead of the institution and must include the student's name, the date visited, a brief statement of activities the student engaged in during the visit and be signed by a school official.

COMPUTER LAB

Upon entering and/or leaving the computer lab, students should check in with the media specialist in charge of the lab. Students are expected to be on task in the computer lab at all times. All non-educational software is strictly prohibited in the computer lab and having such will be a discipline offense. Students who use the Internet must also have on file with the lab teacher a completed Internet objective form signed by the teacher issuing the assignment. It is against the computer lab code of ethics to access the file of another student or

access a program or site other than what a teacher has assigned. Violations of this policy will be dealt with as a discipline offense. Internet Usage Policy can be referenced on the district's website.

CONCESSION/FOODS

All food, snacks, and drinks will be eaten only in the cafeteria and other designated areas. Students not in compliance with this rule are subject to having their food and drink items confiscated. Students will not be allowed to bring commercial food, snacks, or drink when entering the school during normal school hours. All items will be confiscated, and these items will not be returned.

CONFISCATED ITEMS

Confiscated items (i.e., hats, electronic devices) may be picked up in the discipline office by a parent/guardian.

DAR GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

Teachers will nominate candidates for the DAR Good Citizen Award. Students must be in good standing with the faculty with no at-home suspensions. The faculty will then vote for one (1) of the three (3) students who received the most nominations.

DEBTS

A student debt is defined as lost or damaged textbooks, chromebooks, technology equipment and/or classroom materials, club fines, extracurricular activity fees, library fines and destruction of school property. These debts must be paid in cash or money orders. Replacement copies of textbooks and/or library books will not be accepted.

Refunds are made if textbooks are found. Non-payment of these debts will result in ineligibility for various school activities, such as the prom, field trips, exemption for fourth nine-week exams, and school ambassador eligibility. The school reserves the right to submit unpaid debts to the Washington County Collection Agency for collection. A collection fee will be added to the debt. Note: Washington County High School will no longer accept personal checks of any kind. All financial transactions must be handled in cash or money order. Washington County High School graduates will also have a hold placed on his/her transcript and diploma for debts.

DELIVERIES

No deliveries may be made to the school. Students should not bring gifts into the school for other students on special occasions such as Valentine's Day. In the event that this happens, the items will be confiscated and may or may not be returned.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Policy JCDB: Student Dress Code

The student along with his/her parents is responsible for appropriate dress and adherence to the Washington County Dress Code while attending Washington County Schools. A neat, dignified, and well-groomed appearance is expected of every student. We strive to instill a level of excellence in our students in order to develop their personal best in academics, extra-curricular activities, and appearance. We are preparing students for their future-today!

The administrative staff and faculty are responsible for the enforcement of the Washington County Dress Code. If a student is not in uniform or not adhering to the dress code rules, then he/she will be in violation of Washington County Schools Dress Code. This will be a discipline offense, and the student will be dealt with accordingly. The dress code will also apply to all formal events and field trips.

The Washington County School System requires all students in Pre-K through 12 to wear a school uniform. All students in Pre-K through 12 (except those deemed exempt) must adhere to this mandatory school uniform policy with the following dress code being applied in all schools:

- Solid black, khaki colored or navy-blue, or gray pants/slacks (no hospital scrubs, knit pants, leggings(as an outer garment), jogging or cargo pants; no zippers or pockets on pant legs).

- Uniform pants must be worn and belted at the natural waist and made of standard uniform material (cotton, twill, or a blend of uniform-type material, not including denim or denim look alike).
- Belt buckles must be no more than 2 inches wide with no designs or graffiti.
- Belts must be worn.
- Any solid color or striped short/long sleeve shirts; must be collar-style shirts (Polo or Oxford style) If the logo is worn on the shirt it must be no larger than three (3) inches.
- Shorts, capris, wrap skirts, skirts, and jumpers must be no shorter than two (2) inches above the knee (front and back). The colors are solid black, khaki colored, or navy blue (standard uniform material – cotton, twill, or a blend of uniform type material, not including denim).
- Any solid color dress may be worn but must be no shorter than 2 (two) inches above the knee in front and in back. Strapless dresses are not allowed. Thin-strapped dresses must have a solid color polo-style shirt underneath.
- No hooded jacket, no hooded sweaters or no hooded pull-overs can be worn at grades Pre-K-12 inside of the school building.
- Closed-toe and closed-back shoes are required. The foot must be completely covered.
- Leggings cannot be worn as an outer garment but may be worn under a dress or skirt.
- Any solid-colored sweaters (no hooded) or vests will be permitted.
- All shirts must be tucked in for girls and boys.
- All shirts must be long enough to be tucked in for boys and girls.
- Tank tops, thermal undergarments, and turtlenecks in a solid color may be worn under the uniform top.
- No extreme hair color/style that causes disruption or interferes with the learning environment will be allowed. Hair color is defined as a natural hair color.
- No hats, caps, sweatbands, do-rags, skull caps, scarves or sunglasses may be worn in the building. • No skin-tight clothing.
- No heavy, metal jewelry with symbols.
- No bedroom shoes.
- No offensive or sexually suggestive nail art, tattoos or belts.
- No pajamas.
- No denim or denim look alike (any color) jeans, skirts, dresses, jumpers, jackets, etc. (Except on a principal's approved Spirit Day)
- No grills may be worn in the mouth.
- No visible piercings may be worn except in the ears.

The principal may adjust the code as needed for special events such as Homecoming Week, Red Ribbon, Spirit Friday (jeans and spirit wear with Washington County Logos), School Prom and special situation(s) for individual students. Jeans with holes are not allowed during Spirit Fridays. This will be left to the discretion of the school administrator.

FERPA – FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Students who are not enrolled in a 6th and/or 7th period class must leave the campus immediately following dismissal from their last class. Students with early dismissal must provide their own transportation and may not return to campus for transportation. Students who are not able to leave campus will be assigned a 6th and/or 7th period class. There will be no exceptions.

Fourth Nine Weeks: Students who require the following for high school graduation will not be allowed early dismissal: course recovery, and/or failing required courses.
(For additional information, see Senior Release)

EXAM EXEMPTION POLICY

Students with satisfactory grades and exemplary attendance and promptness to class/school may be eligible to exempt final exams in the spring. There are three steps to the exam exemption policy.

Step 1: Students will earn exemptions based on their attendance and tardies **in each class period**. Students must have **7 or less unexcused absences** and **10 or less tardies** in each class period for the year to be eligible to exempt their final exam for each period they are wanting to exempt. See example below. Attendance Reward Requirement includes unexcused absences only. Excuses for absences will not be accepted for exam purposes after the attendance report has been generated for exemption forms.

Step 2: Academic Reward Requirements

- A student must have a passing yearly average in a class

Step 3: Clear Any School or Library Debts - A student must pay any school or library debt before an exemption can be granted for any reason. Debt notices will be mailed during the school year, and a list of students with debts will be issued prior to exemptions being announced.

Student A

| Class Period | # of tardies | # of unexcused absences | Year Average | Exempt yes or no |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1st | 15 | 5 | 72 | no due to tardies |
| 2nd | 3 | 2 | 89 | yes |
| 3rd | 0 | 2 | 94 | yes |
| 4th | 0 | 2 | 92 | yes |
| 5th | 10 | 7 | 65 | no due to average |
| 6th | 4 | 8 | 80 | no due to absences |
| 7th | 2 | 11 | 78 | no due to absences |

Student B

| Class Period | # of tardies | # of unexcused absences | Year Average | Exempt yes or no |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1st | 7 | 12 | 74 | no due to absences |
| 2nd | 12 | 2 | 84 | no due to tardies |
| 3rd | 3 | 0 | 97 | yes |
| 4th | 0 | 0 | 95 | yes |
| 5th | 2 | 0 | 88 | yes |
| 6th | 4 | 3 | 90 | yes |
| 7th | 11 | 10 | 72 | no due to tardies and absences |

SENIOR EXAM EXEMPTION POLICY

As a senior privilege, a senior who has ten (10) or fewer unexcused absences, 10 or fewer tardies, and a passing average in a class, may exempt his/her final exam in that class. Excuses for absences will not be accepted for exam purposes after the attendance report has been generated for exemption forms.

END OF THE SCHOOL DAY

The regular school day ends at 3:30 pm. At this time, students are dismissed to their cars, bus ramp or car rider line. All parent pickup after school will be located on the South end of the building facing the baseball field. Only students who ride the bus after school should be on the bus ramp. All students should be off campus no later than 4:00 pm unless they are under direct supervision of a school faculty or staff member. Students who are not picked up on time will be asked to ride the bus.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

To be eligible for extracurricular activities, students must have successfully passed a minimum of five (5) subjects in the semester immediately preceding participation and must be actively enrolled in at least five (5) courses during the semester in which they participate. These subjects must carry credit toward graduation. Summer school is an extension of the second semester. Students not meeting this requirement will be ineligible for one semester, and they will remain ineligible until they pass five (5) subjects during the semester preceding participation. A student must be considered on track toward graduation. To be considered on track for eligibility, the following criteria must be met:

- 10th grade (2nd year) 5 Carnegie units
- 11th grade (3rd year) 11 Carnegie units
- 12th grade (4th year) 17 Carnegie units

Students learn teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and many other social skills through participation in extracurricular activities. Participation in extracurricular activities is considered an integral part of high school life that enhances the development of the total student. To participate in competitive extracurricular activities,

students must meet all eligibility requirements and other policies governing participation as set forth by Georgia High School Association and the local Board of Education who are responsible for establishing eligibility requirements. Below are the general guidelines for eligibility. All eligibility issues should be discussed with the athletic director.

The following information is in effect as of July 2018:

All academic requirements are based on a minimum passing grade of 70.

GHSA refers to the Georgia High School Association activities that are governed by that body.

State Board of Education No Pass/No Play policy pertains only to competitive interscholastic activities.

Approved high school and middle school summer school is an extension of the spring semester. All students must meet the following requirements to be eligible:

- Age - To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities a student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to May 1st preceding his/her year of participation.
- Semesters - students are only eligible to participate for 8 consecutive semesters from the time they enroll in their first 9th grade course. (Alg. I in the 8th grade does not count in the semester rule).
- Home school enrollment - Students must participate in activities at the school where they first entered the 9th grade.
- Students who enroll in another high school during their 8 semesters are subject to migratory rule requirements and a form B must be completed.
- Students must pass 5 out of 7 classes and meet on-track requirements.
- All students who are entering the 9th grade for the first time are eligible for the first semester enrolled, provided they meet the age requirement.
- At the end of the 1st semester and every semester thereafter, students must pass 5 out of 7 classes, meet on-track requirements, and satisfy the age requirements.

In addition to the above GHSA and state requirements, all students must have a current physical form on file, a parent permission form, and an insurance waiver form to be eligible to participate. **In order to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must be counted present on the day of participation.** Ex: A student may not stay home for the day then participate in a contest that afternoon or evening. Students should remember that the same discipline expectations, rules, and regulations are in effect at any school sponsored event in any location as would be expected on our campus during the school day.

FIELD TRIPS

Optional occasional field trips are a part of the yearly curriculum. Details of dates, activities, and costs are provided prior to each field trip. Prior written permission from the parent is required for participation. Students must have all teachers sign off on their field trip participation form before the day of the field trip. Students who do not return parent permission forms will not be allowed to participate. Class absences are excused, but the student is responsible for making up any missed work. No student will be denied participation in a scheduled field trip due to inability to pay. A field trip may be canceled should donations for the trip fail to meet expenses of the trip. Field trips are a privilege—not a right. All teachers reserve the right to recommend to the principal that a student remain on campus in lieu of participating in the trip because of a failing grade in a class missed, poor conduct in class, or numerous absences (regular or non-instructional). All work previously announced prior to the trip is due on the first day of return to class. The principal reserves the right to deny a student his or her field trip privilege based on academic progress (grades), attendance including tardies, debt, and/or discipline record.

Chaperones must be parents or legal guardians of the child attending the trip and must ride the bus as a chaperone with the students. All chaperones must refrain from smoking, vaping, using profanity, and taking pictures or videos of WCHS students, except their own children. Chaperones must understand that they are going on the trip to help supervise students. Chaperones who pay but are not selected through the selection procedure will be reimbursed for the cost of the trip. Chaperones who pay and then decide not to chaperone will not be reimbursed. **All chaperones must go through the process of being approved to be a chaperone (including a background check).**

FIRST AID

All medication (prescription and nonprescription) needs to be left at the front office. Students should not have

any medication in their possession. Teachers will not give students any medication. Arrangements will be made for getting students home or to a doctor in case of an emergency. If a student is taken to a doctor or the hospital, the parent or guardian will be notified immediately and will be expected to assume responsibility for the student. Prescription drugs must be secured in the front office upon the student's arrival at school.

FORGED/FALSE RECORDS

Forgery of materials given to school officials for a student's excuse, dismissal, tardy, absence, pass to class, etc. is a serious offense. Making such false statements will result in serious disciplinary action. All parent notes should be signed by the parent and should include the date of the note, date of the absence, time of release if it is an early dismissal, reason, and a number where the parent can be reached. Any note presented by a student is subject to verification by school personnel. This procedure is not a negative reflection on the student or parent, but rather a precautionary measure to ensure student safety and compliance.

FREE AND APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

All students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE). This includes children who are eligible for special education from the ages of three through twenty-one (21). Definition of FAPE: The special education and related services that make up the FAPE are provided to children identified with disabilities who have an IEP at no cost to the parent. Special education and related services, including special education at the preschool, elementary, and secondary levels, are services that are provided so eligible students can make progress toward and/or meet the educational standards of Georgia. All students will be provided an education that includes access to the Georgia curriculum and addresses the unique needs of the individual student and his or her disability. While the education provided to the student with an IEP must be appropriate and must address what the individual student needs in order to make educational progress, this is neither a guarantee of achievement of each goal on the IEP nor a guarantee of promotion, passing grades, or graduation. Likewise, passing from grade-to-grade or receiving all passing grades does not mean that a student is receiving FAPE. Each student is an individual and his or her appropriate education is determined on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the term "appropriate" is not the same as "best"; "appropriate" is a minimal standard that assures the student has the opportunity to make educational progress. If a parent, guardian, or adult student has a question about FAPE, contact the district Director of Special Programs, Sherry Monroe at 478- 552-3981.

FUNDRAISERS

All fundraising projects must be approved by the Washington County Board of Education. Students must submit all money related to the project within one (1) week after the completion of the project. Students who do not submit funds collected will be placed on the school debt list and could be subjected to criminal charges. Note: Washington County High School will no longer accept personal checks of any kind. All financial transactions must be handled in cash or money order.

GOOD BEHAVIOR DAY

Each 9-weeks the student rewards committee sponsors Good Behavior Day for students who have no discipline referrals and no more than three tardies to class. This celebration will consist of various rewards or activities as discussed and determined by the current Student Council.

GEORGIA'S HOPE AND ZELL MILLER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The HOPE Scholarship is a merit-based award available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. A HOPE Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum core 3.0 grade point average and maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. The scholarship provides tuition assistance to students pursuing an undergraduate degree at a HOPE Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia. HOPE-eligible students must also meet high school course rigor requirements (four courses such as Algebra 2, Chemistry, Pre-Calculus, Human Anatomy, 2nd Year Foreign Languages, AP courses, etc.). For more information, visit Georgia Student Finance Commission website at www.gsfc.georgia.gov.

The Zell Miller Scholarship is a merit-based award available to Georgia residents, similar to the HOPE Scholarship, but with more stringent academic requirements and a higher level of tuition assistance. A Zell

Miller Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum core 3.7 grade point average combined with a minimum SAT score of 1,200 on the math and reading portions or a minimum composite ACT score of 26 in single national test administration and maintain a minimum 3.3 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible. Eligible students are provided full-tuition assistance while pursuing an undergraduate degree to attend a Zell Miller Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia. Eligible students must also meet high school course rigor requirements. For more information, visit Georgia Student Finance Commission website at www.gsfc.georgia.gov.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Final Grades for: 9 Week Grading Period, Advanced Placement (AP), Course Recovery, and Summer School

- Nine weeks' average shall be determined by counting the average of the teacher's daily and test grades as follows: 60% daily grade and 40% test grade.
- Nine weeks' average shall be determined by counting the average of Advanced Placement (AP) classes teacher's daily grades as follows: 50% daily grade and 50% test grade.
- Course Recovery is completed through an online curriculum. The average shall be determined by the course grade earned in the online platform.
- Summer School's average is determined as follows: 60% of the final course grade + 40% of the summer school grade.

Semester Exam

- A Semester exam will be administered for all courses at the end of each semester and will count as 15% of the semester grade.
- Nine weeks' average shall be determined by counting the average of the AP teacher's daily and test grades as follows: 35% daily grade and 50% test grade and the Semester Exam as 15% for the 2nd and 4th nine weeks.

Final grade for courses with a Georgia Milestone Assessment or another approved exam:

- The two final semester grades will be averaged together and will count 90% for all students.
- The score earned on the corresponding Georgia Milestone Assessment will count 10% for all students.

INFINITE CAMPUS

All faculty members are expected to maintain Infinite Campus. Information should be accurate and up to date. Graded assignments should be entered in Infinite Campus within five (5) school days for class assignments and ten (10) school days for tests from the time they are given. The Parent Portal is available for parents to monitor his/her child's academic performance.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All Students Must:

1. Earn a total of 24 Carnegie units of high school credit.
2. Satisfy attendance requirements for high school graduation as established by the Washington County Board of Education in compliance with State Board Policy.
3. Satisfy the Georgia Dept. of Education's testing requirements.

*University System of Georgia 4-year institutions require all incoming freshmen (2011) to have a minimum of 2 units of the same foreign language. Students are eligible to attend 2- year institutions and technical colleges without having any foreign language units. Foreign language is not a requirement for graduation from Washington County High School. The course of study for students entering the 9th grade is as follows:

| | |
|----------|---|
| 4 Units | English |
| 4 Units | Math |
| 4 Units | Science |
| 4 Units | Social Studies |
| 1 Unit | Health/Fitness |
| 3 Units | CTAE &/or Foreign Language &/or Fine Arts Electives |
| 4 Units | Electives |
| 24 Units | Required |

General Academic Options:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature / Composition I • Literature / Composition II • American Literature • British Literature | Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations of Algebra • Algebra: Concepts and Connections • Geometry: Concepts and Connections • Advanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections • College Readiness • Pre-Calculus | Science: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Science • Biology • Chemistry • Human Anatomy / Physiology • Forensics | Social Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Government / Civics • World History • US History • Economics |
|--|---|---|---|

Honors/AP Academic Options:

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| English: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Literature / Composition I • Honors Literature / Composition II • AP Language and Composition • AP Literature and Journalism | Math: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Algebra: Concepts and Connections • Honors Geometry: Concepts and Connections • Honors Advanced Algebra • Honors Pre-Calculus • Honors Calculus | Science: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Physical Science • Honors Biology • Honors Chemistry • Honors Forensics • AP Chemistry | Social Studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honors Civics • Honors World History • Honors U.S. History • Honors Economics |
|--|---|---|---|

Grade Classification Chart

| Grade | Units |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 9th grade | less than 6 units |
| 10th grade | 6-11 units |
| 11th grade | 12-16 units |
| 12th grade | 17 or more units |

Counselors will work with students and parents to determine that personal records and graduation plans are correct, up-to-date, and that completion of graduation requirements are satisfactorily completed.

GUIDANCE/COUNSELING OFFICE

Services available through the guidance/counseling office include personal counseling to students, individual and group activities for academic, emotional and career development, information about course offerings and programs, college and career information and counseling, scholarship and financial assistance for post-secondary opportunities.

The Counseling office also coordinates intervention/prevention services, maintains all student records, provides ASSET, PSAT, SAT, and ACT information, and coordinates school-wide testing services. Counseling services will be offered to all students based upon student need and desire to participate unless written parental notice requests that services not be offered. Parent conferences should be scheduled through the counseling office.

Counselor

Mrs. Christy Hinton
Mrs. Tiffany McCoy
Mrs. Tabitha Hatfield

Grade

9th and 11th Grade, Dual Enrollment Coordinator
10th and 12th Grade
Registrar

Parents should call 478-552-2324 to schedule an appointment with the appropriate counselor.

HALL TRAFFIC

Students should not stand in the center of the corridor or stop in the center to talk to friends. Students are requested not to use the halls during lunch where classes are in sessions. Adjustments to hall traffic will be made if necessary.

HIPAA HEALTH INSURANCE PRIVACY ACT

This Notice Describes How Medical Information About You May Be Used and Disclosed and How You Can Get Access to This Information. Please Review It Carefully.

The School District is required by the privacy regulations issued under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") to maintain the privacy of Protected Health Information and to provide our students, parents, and employees with notice of our legal duties and privacy practices concerning Protected Health Information. In the event applicable law, other than HIPAA, prohibits or materially limits our uses and disclosures of Protected Health Information, as set forth below, we will restrict our uses or disclosure of your Protected Health Information in accordance with the more stringent standard. We are required to abide by the terms of this Notice so long as it remains in effect. We reserve the right to change the terms of this Notice of Privacy Practices as necessary and to make the new Notice effective for all Protected Health Information maintained by the District. In the event the District changes any of its policies with respect to privacy or this Notice of Privacy Practices, such change shall be reflected in subsequent annual District publications.

Protected Health Information ("PHI") means individually identifiable health information, as defined by HIPAA, that is created or received by the School District and that relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual; the provision of health care to an individual; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to an individual; and that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the individual.

HONORS DAY for Class of 2026 and beyond

Honors Day participants receiving academic recognition will be those with a weighted, ongoing cumulative average of 90.0 or above for the year in General Education Classes, beginning in the ninth grade. The current yearly average will be calculated through the 3rd 9 weeks of the present year but adding the final averages of the previous high school years in order to determine Honors Day participants.

HONOR ROLL AND MERIT LIST

For each nine-week grading period:

- Students earning **all A's** will be placed on the **Honor Roll**.
- Students achieving an **overall A average** will be placed on the **Merit List**.
- Students who receive only A's and B's, without achieving an overall A average, will be recognized on the **A & B Honor Roll**.

HONORS/AP PROGRAM

Washington County High School is pleased to offer Honors-Level Courses. Honors Courses are designed for students who wish to take courses that challenge them beyond what is offered through regular college preparatory classes. Advanced Placement (AP) courses offer material that is intellectually stimulating and challenges students with the study of ideas, themes, and problems.

Honors/AP coursework will demand the use of higher order thinking skills including abstract reasoning, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students and parents need to be aware of the academic workload and the additional time that must be devoted to study before committing to Honors/AP courses. The following criteria has been set for entry into the Washington County High School Honors/AP program.

Students must meet the following criteria in order to be considered for Honors/AP classes:

- Have an academic average in corresponding Advanced/Honors classes of 85 or above.
- Be in good standing related to behavior
- Be in good standing related to attendance
- Be in good standing as related to tardiness
- Obtained a proficient or distinguished score on the Georgia Milestone in the content area.

- Receive two favorable Teacher Recommendation Forms from previous content area teachers of the requested Honors course.

The following rubric will be used to assess student criteria. A student can earn a total of 28 points as discussed in the 7 areas below:

Academic Performance in Content Classes

A student must have earned at least an 85 or higher in the previous Advanced/Honors class. Points will be awarded using the following point value according to their final class average:

| Final Average | Points Earned |
|---------------|---------------|
| 93 or above | +4 |
| 90-92 | +3 |
| 85-89 | +2 |
| 81-84 | +1 |
| 80 or below | 0 |

Student Behavior

Students that request to enroll in Honors classes must be in good behavior standing. Points will be awarded using the following point value according to the number of minor referrals received during the previous year:

| Number of Referrals | Points Earned |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 0 | +4 |
| 1 -2 | +3 |
| 3 - 4 | +2 |
| 5 | +1 |
| 6 or more | 0 |

Student Attendance

Students that request to enroll in Honors classes must maintain great school attendance. Points will be awarded using the following point value according to the number of days that the student was marked absent to class or school during the previous year:

| Number of Days Absent | Points Earned |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 0 - 1 | +4 |
| 2 - 3 | +3 |
| 4 - 5 | +2 |
| 6 | +1 |
| 7 or more | 0 |

Class/School Tardies

Students that request to enroll in Honors classes must maintain great school attendance. Points will be awarded using the following point value according to the number of days that the student was tardy to class or school during the previous year:

| Number of Tardies | Points Earned |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 0 - 1 | +4 |
| 2 - 3 | +3 |
| 4 - 5 | +2 |
| 6 | +1 |
| 7 or more | 0 |

Georgia Milestones Assessment

Students that request to enroll in Honors classes must score proficient or distinguished on the Georgia Milestone Assessment for the content area requested. Points will be awarded using the following point value

according to the student's performance level during the previous years' assessment results:

| GMAS Performance | Points Earned |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Distinguished Learner | +4 |
| Proficient Learner | +3 |
| Developing Learner | +2 |
| Beginning Learner | +1 |

Teacher Recommendation Forms

Students that request to enroll in Honors classes must receive two Teacher Recommendation Forms from previous content area teachers of the requested Honors class. The Teacher Recommendation Form will be structured to provide qualitative feedback regarding the student's readiness for the Honors/AP Program.

The student is academically motivated with a high work ethic.

The student produces quality work.

The student has the ability to manage stress.

The student possesses critical thinking skills.

The student possesses time management skills.

The student embodies a level of integrity and character

The student has the ability to work collaboratively with others.

Points will be awarded using the following point value according to the results of the student's Teacher Recommendation Form:

Teacher Recommendation Form 1

| Teacher Recommendation 1 | Points Earned |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Strongly Recommend | +4 |
| Highly Recommend | +3 |
| Moderately Recommend | +2 |
| General Recommendation | +1 |

Teacher Recommendation Form 2

| Teacher Recommendation 2 | Points Earned |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Strongly Recommend | +4 |
| Highly Recommend | +3 |
| Moderately Recommend | +2 |
| General Recommendation | +1 |

Accumulation of Points

Students can earn a total of 28 points within this rubric. The point system within the chart below will be used to determine each student's eligibility. Students that attain the required points will be granted admission into the program. Students not meeting the requirements for admission may earn enough points to request a probationary placement within the program. The request will be submitted to the Honors/AP SMART Team of teachers and administrators that will be responsible for reviewing the student's application. The results of their review will determine whether or not a student possesses the ability to be granted placement within the program on a probationary period from one nine weeks to one year. The student will have to show that he or she can perform at the level of rigor that is expected within the Honors/AP Class while maintaining at least an 85 average.

| Points Earned | Status |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 25 to 28 | Eligible |
| 21 to 24 | Probationary Entry * |

| | |
|--------------|--|
| | <p>If the student is failing an Honors class after the first 9 weeks progress report, there will be a required parent-teacher-Honor's Committee conference.</p> <p>If the student is failing after the 1st 9 weeks, the student will be removed from the course. In addition, if a student is in danger of failing for the year, at any point, the student may be withdrawn from the course and moved to a non-honors course. The final decision will be made by the Honor's Committee.</p> |
| 17 to 20 | Not Eligible |
| 16 and below | Not Eligible |

Students in Honors/AP courses are expected to maintain an average of 85+ throughout each grading period in order to remain in the Honors/AP program.

ID CARDS

Each student must keep their ID cards with them at all times. ID cards will be checked every day during the first period and throughout the day upon request. Students must keep their ID cards intact and not deface the ID card. Defacing the ID card will result in the purchase of a new one and could result in a discipline referral for the student. Replacement ID cards will be sold in the Media Center for \$5.00. Students may only credit one ID card.

IMMUNIZATION CERTIFICATES

All students are required to have an immunization certificate on file in the guidance office. Students entering from another school must provide proper immunization certificates.

INTERNET USAGE POLICY

Students are required to have on file at WCHS the Board of Education's regulation IFBGA Internet form signed by their parents or guardians. A copy of the Internet Usage Policy can be found on the WCHS website.

LRE - LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Each LEA shall have policies and procedures to ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities in Georgia shall be educated with children who are not disabled. [34 C.F.R. § 300.114(a)(2)(i)]

Special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular class environment shall occur only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. [34 C.F.R. § 300.114(a)(2)(ii)]

DETERMINING EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENTS

In determining the educational placement of a child with a disability, including a preschool child with a disability, each LEA must ensure that the placement decision:

- Is made by a group of persons, including the parents, and other persons knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options; and
- Is made in conformity with the LRE provisions contained in this rule. [34 C.F.R. § 300.116(a)(1) – (2)]

The child's placement is determined at least annually, is based on the child's IEP and is as close as possible to the child's home; [34 C.F.R. § 300.116(b)(1) – (3)]. Unless the IEP of a child with a disability requires some other arrangement, the child is educated in the school that he or she would attend if nondisabled; [34 C.F.R. § 300.116(c)] In selecting the LRE, consideration is given to any potential harmful effect on the child or on the quality of services that he or she needs; and [34 C.F.R. § 300.116(d)]

A child with a disability is not removed from education in age-appropriate regular classrooms solely because of needed modifications in the general education curriculum. [34 C.F.R. § 300.116(e)]. Please refer to local BOE policy and state rule 160-4-7-.07-1.

LOCKERS

The administration may assign lockers to students. Combinations are given and can be changed by the administration if necessary. Students should not exchange lockers and are encouraged to keep lockers locked at all times. Lockers in the gym are for student use during P.E. classes only. Students should not go to their lockers during 5th period. If there are not enough lockers for every student to have an individual locker, then students will be required to share lockers. All lockers are the property of Washington County High School and are subject to random drug dog searches or inspection by school authorities. The school is not responsible for stolen items. Any locker problem should be reported to an administrator immediately. All books should be removed until the locker is repaired.

LOSS OR DAMAGE (CALCULATOR/CHROMEBOOK/TEXTBOOK)

Students are responsible for excessive wear or damage to their calculators/chromebooks/textbooks. All books and technology will be barcoded. If the barcode is removed or damaged, the student will be charged 100% of the purchase price. Students who lose and/or damage their calculators/chromebooks/textbooks will be charged the replacement cost of the calculators/chromebooks/textbooks. Students should remember that they are directly responsible for all items issued to them. That responsibility does not transfer to someone else.

MAKE-UP POLICY

The number of days allotted to make up work is the total number of consecutive school days the student was absent. For instance, a student who has been absent for one (1) day would have one (1) day to make up her/his work, a student who has been absent for three (3) consecutive days would have three (3) school days to make up her/ his work. A teacher is authorized to extend the number of days if the teacher feels that the circumstances warrant the extension. Students who are absent due to a field trip or a school-sponsored activity will be allowed to make up all work missed. However, students must be prepared to continue with regular class activities upon their return.

If a student has missed a test due to an absence, the student will be expected to make up the test the day he/she returns to school or follow the guidelines of the individual teacher. Class work, quizzes, and tests missed due to skipping class or truancy may not be made up.

All inquiries, arrangements, and written confirmation of arrangements for make-up work after absences are the student's responsibility and not their teacher. Should the student fail to inquire about and arrange for make-up work within the allotted time frame, zeros will be assigned for all work missed. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the student support team (SST).

If a student is absent from school, the assignment that was missed will be coded as an "M" in Infinite Campus. The "M" will be calculated as a 0 until the student turns in the assignment.

Students will do makeup tests/quizzes before school, after school, or in the classroom as arranged with the teacher. Tests and quizzes are the only makeup work to be completed at school. Other assignments (such as homework or class work, etc.) are to be completed at home and returned to the teacher within the same time frame as indicated in the makeup policy. Classroom explanations missed because of an absence become the responsibility of the student, even though the explanations missed are related to a test or quiz.

Students under short term out of school suspension will be allowed to make up work upon returning to school. All inquiries, arrangements, and written confirmation of arrangements for make-up work after suspensions are the student's responsibility and not their teacher's responsibility.

No make-up work will be accepted after the nine weeks grading period ends.

MISSING WORK POLICY

Missing work is defined as assignments that have not been turned in while the student was present in the classroom or assigned ISS on the assignment due date.

10 points will be deducted each day that the assignment is late. Students will earn a "0" if the assignment is not turned in 1 day after the assignment due date. No missing work will be accepted after the nine weeks grading

period ends.

Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the student support team (SST).

MEDIA CENTER

All books and materials checked out of the library must be properly scanned at the circulation desk using a student ID card. Students must check out books for their use only. All books may be checked out for a period of two (2) weeks. Students must receive special permission to check out three (3) or more books. Lost or damaged books must be paid in cash by the person who has checked out the book. The price charged will be determined by the cost of the book. Students who have overdue books or who owe fines in the library may not check out other books. During lunch break, a student must have a pass signed by an administrator to enter the library. The Media Center opens daily at 8:10 am and closes at 3:30 pm. Students are encouraged to use the Media Center before and after school, during lunch, and as needed during class time.

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS

In the event of an extenuating emergency situation by a parent, an administrator or counselor should be notified and will provide assistance in locating the student. Emergency messages generally will be limited to notification of deaths or serious illness in the family, family disasters, or medical appointments that have been unexpectedly changed.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

In compliance with Georgia law, at the opening of school on every school day in each public-school classroom, the teachers in charge shall conduct a brief period of quiet reflection for not more than 60 seconds with the participation of all pupils. At WCHS, this opening activity is conducted over the intercom to begin the school day. This moment of quiet reflection is not intended to be a religious service or exercise but shall be considered as an opportunity for all individuals to silently reflect on the anticipated activities of the day.

Teachers and administrators shall not suggest or imply that students should or should not use the moment of reflection for prayer, nor shall they deny any student the right to use it for a moment of quiet prayer. Students and/or staff may not under any circumstances use the moment of quiet reflection to audibly pray, individually or collectively.

NCAA ELIGIBILITY

The National Collegiate Athletic Association has policies in force regarding athletic eligibility for Division I and Division II schools. Students planning to participate in athletics in Division I or II colleges or universities must be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. Make sure to consult with your high school's athletic director and your school counselor on how to begin the application process. For more information, visit the NCAA Eligibility Center website at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE, SCHOOL DISTRICT/SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITES

Events and programs in public education are often considered newsworthy and of interest to local communities. Schools often solicit media coverage to publicize successful programs and special events concerning students and faculty. Your child may on occasion be interviewed or photographed by the news media for positive school news coverage, or publicly recognized at a School Board meeting. Additionally, your child's image, name or intellectual property may be included in School District publications or school web pages and through social media. If a parent/guardian objects to his/her child being included in any or all of the above, he/she must annually inform the school by signing the No Photography form and returning it to the school.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the Washington County Board of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, age, race, physical handicap, religion or national origin in the education programs and activities or admissions to facilities operated by the Board or in the employment practices of the Washington County Board of Education. The Board shall comply with all aspects of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Complaints or questions regarding possible discrimination in violation of Title IX, Title VI, Section 504, or in the Americans with

Disabilities Act should be made to the school principal or local coordinator.

Nondiscrimination Notice State Law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of school systems (equity in Sports Act. O.C.G.A. 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that the Washington County School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs. Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator.

Title IX for the school system is:
Mrs. Amy Vickers
Washington County Board of Education
501 Industrial Drive
P.O. Box 716
Sandersville, Georgia 31082-0716
Phone: (478) 552-3981

The sports equity contact at Washington County High School is:

Mr. Terry Stephens
Washington County High School
P.O. Box 1057 Sandersville, Georgia 31082-1057 Phone: (478) 552-2324

OBLIGATIONS

Students are directly responsible for all debts incurred during the school year. Students should be aware that items issued directly to them are their responsibility until the item is officially returned and their obligation released. Students are also warned that they are directly responsible for any and all books, calculators, or equipment issued to them during the school year. All student obligations shall be cleared before the end of the semester they are incurred. Students will not be issued replacement textbooks or equipment until the obligation has been cleared. Students will not be allowed to participate in prom and field trips until all fines are cleared. Seniors will not receive diplomas until all debts have been paid. Students will not be allowed to exempt any final exam until all fines are cleared.

Parental Involvement

The Washington County School District strongly believes in parent engagement and transparency as it relates to local board policy and school procedures. We wholly welcome parents contacting the district office for any clarification on any local policy and contacting principals for school related procedures.

District: info@wacoschools.org
478-552-3981

New Parent Centered Policies

The Washington County School District is committed to fostering a strong positive working relationship with our parents and community stakeholders. Keeping our parents informed is critical. We take pride in maintaining transparency and an open-door policy to nurture a positive and professional relationship. This upcoming school year there will be several new policy updates. These updates will ensure that the Washington County School District adheres with state law and federal guidelines. During the summer months of June and July 2022 the Washington County Board of Education approved the following revised and new board policies.

Policy IEDA (Revised): Unstructured break time

This policy addresses scheduled recess for all students K-8, at the discretion of the school principal.

Policy IKBB (New): Divisive concepts complaint resolution process

This new policy allows parents (or guardians) a more formal complaint resolution process regarding topics that the parents (or guardians) have concerns about their children being potentially exposed to in the learning and teaching environment.

Policy IKBC (New): Material harmful to minors complaint resolution process

This new policy helps to address complaints, submitted by parents or guardians, alleging that material that is

harmful to minors has been provided or is currently available to his or her child enrolled in the Washington County School District.

Policy JRB (New): Parents Bill of Rights

The Washington County Board of Education promotes parental involvement in the school district. This new policy and procedure ensures that each school within the district has in place and makes available a procedure to review records relating to his or her minor child. This includes learning about courses of study, instructional materials intended for use in the classroom, the opt-out option to instructional materials, withdrawing their child from a prescribed course of study in sex education, and providing written notice that photographs or video or voice recordings of his or her minor child are not permitted, subject to applicable public safety and security exceptions.

All above listed policies may be read in their entirety by visiting the Washington County School District website, calling the principal, or scheduling a meeting with the Superintendent of Schools.

PARENTS' NIGHT

Parents are encouraged to attend WCHS Parents' Night held four (4) times a year. These meetings are scheduled at the mid nine (9) weeks grading period on September 2, 2025, November 11, 2025, February 10, 2026, and April 21, 2026, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Parents will be notified regarding Parent Night via Parent Square and social media. Parents are encouraged to watch for these important communications that may alert a parent of teacher concerns regarding a child's school progress.

PARENT PORTAL

Parents will have access to their child's grades through the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus. Graded assignments should be entered in Infinite Campus within five (5) school days for class assignments and ten (10) school days for tests from the time they are given. Access to the Parent Portal may be obtained by contacting the registrar at Washington County High School.

PARKING

The operation and parking of a vehicle on the WCHS campus is a privilege granted by the school to students who have a valid driver's license. Students should remember that they are directly responsible for every item in their vehicle. Vehicles are subject to random search at any time. Random drug dog searches will be conducted on a regular basis. All students are expected to observe traffic regulations. The school reserves the right to suspend and/or revoke campus parking privileges of any student who violates parking rules and regulations or is not in good standing in the school. Students whose permits are revoked will not be reimbursed any portion of the parking fee. The speed limit is 10 miles per hour on all areas of the school campus.

All vehicles must be registered if they are parked on campus during the school day. This year all parking spaces will have unique numbers. All student drivers must park in the numbered parking space that corresponds with their parking permit. Failure to park in the assigned parking space will result in the student receiving parking fines. The registrant of a motor vehicle is held responsible for the proper use, all contents, parking, and operation of his/her vehicle. Illegally parked vehicles will be fined at the expense of \$20.00. All vehicles must have a visible parking permit on the rear window while on school property. No parking permit is to be transferred, sold, loaned, or given to another student. Reproduction, sale, or use of "Fake" or unauthorized parking permits will be treated as major theft and punished accordingly. Students with more than one vehicle must officially register all vehicles used and purchase one permit for all vehicles. Parking permits will cost \$10 for the school year. All parking permit purchases should go through Mrs. Renee Ogden in the CTAE office.

Below are the rules and regulations all students must sign when purchasing a parking permit at WCHS:

- WCHS assumes no responsibility for any damage or loss to motor vehicles driven or parked on campus.
- All persons (occupants of motor vehicles as well as operators) shall comply with any direction (s) given by authorized school personnel.
- The parking permit must be displayed on the rear-view window. Vehicles that are parked without permits or in unauthorized areas are subject to being booted and the students will possibly receive a fine.

- Upon arrival at school, students are required to enter the school building.
- Students may not return to the parking lot after arriving without following the proper checkout procedures.
- Students are not allowed to ride in the back of pickup trucks or on the outside of any vehicles. All involved will lose the right to drive on campus.
- Students are to follow the arrows in the parking lot. Cutting across the lot is dangerous.
- The students involved in accidents must report all accidents to the police immediately. Students should contact an administrator for assistance with this matter.
- All student parking is assigned in the back or side parking lots. Any student who parks in a space other than his/her assigned space will be subject to disciplinary action. No students should park in visitor or staff parking spaces.
- Driving off campus during the school day without checking out is considered skipping and will result in immediate suspension of parking privileges.
- Students that are parked in a reserved or painted parking spot of another student will possibly be fined.
- Students that park in faculty/staff parking lots will possibly be fined.

POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS

Dual Enrollment is Georgia's program that allows high school students (10th – 12th grade) to earn college credit while working on their high school diploma. 10th grade students may only enter dual enrollment for CTAE through the Technical College System of Georgia. The Dual Enrollment program now covers tuition, mandatory fees and required textbooks. For more information, please contact your guidance counselor.

PROM

Students with twelve (12) units of credit at the beginning of second semester will be allowed to participate in the Jr-Sr prom. Students who attend must clear all school debts and must be currently enrolled at WCHS. Students currently enrolled at Washington County Achievement Academy or students who have been permanently expelled from Washington County Schools are not eligible to attend the prom. Students should not have any school debt. The minimum age limit for a guest is fourteen (14) years old and currently enrolled as a freshman in high school. The maximum age limit for a guest is twenty (20) years old. Guests who do not attend WCHS are required to present a valid picture ID, which must be submitted along with the prom application. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit a copy of the picture ID. All guests will go through an approval process by the teacher prom committee.

Dress code for the prom is as follows:

- Male and female dress attire should be formal (Formal prom attire may be classified as a formal dress or tuxedo/dress suit, including a tie/bow tie and shirt. Shirts are to be worn at all times. Pants are to be worn at the natural waist.)
- Dresses cannot show excessive cleavage. Visible chest area is not permitted, nor sheer material in chest area.
- Dresses may be strapless or include spaghetti straps. Bare, open, or see-through backs or midriffs are permitted.
- Splits in dresses must not exceed mid-thigh area.
- Length of cocktail dresses should be no shorter than mid-thigh.
- Dresses cannot show hip/pelvis area (no sheer material in hip/pelvis area)
- Dresses should not have extremely low dropped waists or have cut outs of any kind.
- A two-piece dress should not have a bikini style top.
- No props are allowed during the premiere.
- If the criteria above is not met, the student will not be allowed to participate in the prom and/or premiere and the fee for prom will be forfeited.

All attire should be in good taste. Final decisions in the matter of appropriate dress are to the discretion of the administration. Students who do not adhere to the above dress code policy will not be allowed to attend the Junior Senior Prom. Violations of this policy may be dealt with as a discipline offense. Prom is a formal and special night for WCHS students. We hope to maintain the integrity and formality of this night by implementing this simple dress code. There are hundreds of beautiful, tasteful, and appropriate apparel selections available. Students who are wearing inappropriate attire that is not within the dress code above will be asked to leave the

dance.

Washington County's Code of Conduct will be enforced. The building principal has discretion to restrict a student's prom attendance for students not actively enrolled in their district's home school.

PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA)

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) is a federal law that affords certain rights to parents of minor students with regard to surveys that ask questions of a personal nature. Briefly, the law requires that schools obtain written consent from parents before minor students are required to participate in any U.S. Department of Education funded survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning the following areas: Political affiliations; Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family; Sex behavior and attitudes; Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior; Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.)

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 contains a major amendment to PPRA that gives parents more rights with regard to the surveying of minor students, the collection of information from students for marketing purposes, and certain non-emergency medical examinations. In addition, an eighth category of information (*) was added to the law.

RECORDS AND TRANSCRIPTS

Washington County High School will maintain permanent records for students currently enrolled. Records will also be kept for three years after graduation and until the date of graduation for withdrawn students. After this time records will be archived as county records. Written parental permission or a signature of an 18-year-old is required for the release of a student's permanent record. WCHS will send transcripts to universities, colleges, etc. upon request of students or parents.

Transcripts sent electronically through GAFutures are free. Transcripts can be purchased via Scribbles at <http://washingtoncountyschoolsga.scribborder.com/>.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are issued at the end of each nine (9) weeks grading period. Students will also receive progress reports at the 4 ½ week point of each nine (9) weeks. It is suggested that parents check for these progress reports throughout the year. Parents should contact individual teachers with questions concerning grades. If a conference is necessary, the parent should contact the front office to request a parent/teacher conference. Credits are granted at the end of each year.

Grades can be viewed in real time on Infinite Campus. Parents must register online to obtain a username and password. Parents must have the student number, student social security number, and date of birth to register online. Grades are entered in a timely manner, daily grades are entered within five (5) days of being completed and test grades are entered within ten (10) days of being completed.

RESPECT FOR FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT

We are fortunate in that we have the privilege of attending school in a modern, attractive, air-conditioned building. Students should take pride in their school and make every possible effort to keep the building as clean as possible. Students are required to put all paper, cans, food, etc. in trash cans. Each student is expected to assume responsibility for the care of all school property. Students who damage property accidentally are responsible for paying for the damage. Students who willfully deface or damage school property in any way shall pay in full for all damages and will receive severe disciplinary action.

It is the student's responsibility to comply with classroom and school rules. Students are required at all times to obey reasonable requests from faculty members. This includes identifying themselves to faculty members when asked to do so. Failure to respond appropriately or refusal to follow the direct request of a faculty

member will result in severe disciplinary action.

RETAKING ASSESSMENTS

Students will be allowed to retake an assessment (test) if their initial score is below a 70. When a student retakes an assessment (test), the highest grade he or she can make is a 70. **Students will be expected to attend tutoring prior to retaking the assessment (test).** A retest should be completed by the end of the 9 weeks. The time frame for retesting can vary by teacher.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The Washington County School District (WCSD) has student and staff safety at the forefront and is fully committed to providing and maintaining safe and orderly operating schools. We not only enjoy a strong partnership with local and state agencies, but WCSD also employs a certified law enforcement department (SRO). All school buildings in the district utilize a camera monitoring system and a controlled access system for visitors who wish to enter the facilities. Our SROs patrol campuses each day, and our local and state law enforcement agencies periodically walk through the buildings. Our safety measures also include canine searches, the use of metal detectors for students at the beginning of each day, and before spectators enter school-sponsored events. Also, video cameras are maintained on school buses. Finally, background checks are required for all staff, substitutes, and volunteers before working with students.

RESPONSE TO A PANDEMIC SITUATION STATEMENT

During a pandemic situation, the WCSD will collaborate with local and state agencies to activate the District-Wide Pandemic Plan. This plan will include options for short- and long-term closures, activation of remote blended learning for students, modified lunch program, summer feeding program, providing remote and school-based social-emotional and mental health support for students, consideration for modified transportation options, and implementing intensive safety protocols for the safety of all students and staff members.

Washington County School District (WCSD) is committed to the safety of all students and personnel. In a pandemic situation, the district will communicate action steps for students and personnel via the district website, Facebook, and the district call-out system. In our school district, masks are the expected norm. However, the school district will follow the guidelines of the CDC in situations where less than 3 ft. of space is achieved. Stakeholders may read the Washington County Pandemic Safety Plan in its entirety on the District Website. WCSD reserves the right to make changes to this safety plan for the safety of all students and personnel. Principals working with the Superintendent will establish a protocol for changing expected norm(s) to a requirement as needed during the school year while in a pandemic crisis.

SCHEDULE CHANGES/DROPPING COURSES

Students should refer any scheduling problems to the Registrar at the beginning of the school year. The deadline for making schedule changes is the 10th day of school. Student withdrawals from a foreign language course will require a parent signature.

After registration, schedules will only be changed for the following reasons:

- A student is in a class for which he/she has already received credit.
- A student needs a credit for graduation.
- A student is enrolled in a class that he/she has previously failed under the assigned instructor.

Neither students nor parents are allowed to “request” teachers or change schedules from selections made at registration. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to check schedules at the beginning of the year to make sure the student is in the appropriate level and proper course sequence. Any scheduling concerns should be addressed with the appropriate grade level counselor.

SCHOOL AMBASSADORS

In 2001, Washington County High School created a prestigious service organization known as the WCHS Ambassadors. Ambassadors at WCHS serve as student body representatives at school and community functions. These students are nominated by faculty members during their 9th grade year, and then are chosen

through an interview process. Ambassador candidates are students who display exemplary behavior, have leadership skills, are on track with their grades, display school spirit in their demeanor, have no school debts, and are wellrounded in their activities. Ambassadors serve throughout their high school years as long as they remain on track academically and behavior is acceptable.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Washington County High School Council serves as an advisory body. The council shall provide advice and recommendations to the school principal and, where appropriate, the local board of education on any matter, including but not limited to, the following:

- School calendar
- School codes for conduct and dress
- Curriculum, program goals, and priorities
- The responses of the school to audits of the school as conducted by the Office of Education Accountability
- Preparation and distribution to the community of a school profile which shall contain data as identified by the council to describe the academic performance, academic progress, services, awards, interventions, environment, and other such data as the council deems appropriate

SECTION 504

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a directive to any person, business or government agency that receives federal funds to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities.

If a parent, guardian, or adult student has a question about parental or student rights under Section 504, contact the district Section 504 Coordinator, Alicia Dunn at 478- 552-3981.

SEMESTER/FINAL EXAMS

Final exams will be given on the last five days of each semester. Students and parents are asked not to schedule vacations and out-of-town trips on exam days. Any exception to the final exam schedule must be pre-approved by the principal. Exams will not be given early in any semester.

SENIOR HONOR STUDENTS

SENIOR HONORS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026 AND BEYOND

The following criteria will determine honor graduate status.

- **Honor Graduate**
 - 90.0 overall weighted cumulative average in general education classes
 - Complete a:
 - CTAE (Career, Technical, Agricultural, and Engineering) Pathway **or** Fine Arts Pathway
- **Honor Graduate with Distinction**
 - 91.5 overall weighted cumulative average
 - Complete two pathways:
 - CTAE and (1) Fine Arts pathways or
 - CTAE Pathway (1 or 2 pathways) or
 - Fine Arts Pathway (1 or 2 pathways) or
 - Receive high school credit for Honor classes, Advanced Placement courses and/or Dual Enrollment courses (4 or more classes)
- **Honor Graduate with Highest Distinction**
 - 95 overall weighted cumulative average
 - Complete two pathways:
 - CTAE and (1) Fine Arts pathways or
 - CTAE Pathway (1 or 2 pathways) or
 - Fine Arts Pathway (1 or 2 pathways) or
 - Receive high school credit for Honor Classes, Advanced Placement courses or Dual Enrollment (4 or more classes)

- **Super Graduate**

- 95 overall weighted cumulative average
- Associate Degree or Technical Degree/Diploma/ Certificate
- Complete two pathways:
 - CTAE and (1) Fine Arts pathways or
 - CTAE Pathway (1 or 2 pathways) or
 - Fine Arts Pathway (1 or 2 pathways) or
 - Receive high school credit for Honor classes, Advanced Placement courses & or Dual Enrollment (4 or more classes)

Courses taken through a dual enrollment program will carry weighted advanced quality points effective during the 2019–2020 school year and beyond.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Determination

The valedictorian and salutatorian must have attended Washington County High School for three full years of the four years of their high school career including their senior year. A full year is defined as attending on the first day of the Board approved calendar and remaining enrolled for the entire school calendar year for each of the three qualifying years. For selecting honor graduates including salutatorian and valedictorian, final average grades will be calculated at the end of the third nine-week period of the senior year.

The **valedictorian** shall be the student who has earned the highest four-year weighted average in all subjects and at a minimum, met “Honor with Highest Distinction or Super Graduate” criteria.

The **salutatorian** shall be the student that has earned the highest four-year weighted average in all subjects and at a minimum, met “Honor with Highest Distinction or Super Graduate” criteria.

In case there is no statistical difference, < 0.03 weighted average in all subjects, between the top two students in the graduating class, co – valedictorians will be named. In such a case, a salutatorian will not be selected. In case there is no statistical difference, < 0.03 weighted average in all subjects between two or more students with the second highest four-year cumulative numerical average, the students will be named co – salutatorians.

- To attain the status of Honor Graduate and/or Honor Usher, students are required to be enrolled and excel in regular, advanced academic, and/or CTAE classes. The student must be on track to graduate as a junior.
- Students enrolled in any remedial course in grades 9 – 12 will not be eligible to attain the status of Honor Graduate or Honor Usher.

The following courses are considered advanced and/or honors courses and will carry weighted points to help achieve equality for students enrolled in the more rigorous courses:

- All Honor Courses
- All Advanced Placement (AP) Courses
- All Dual Enrollment Courses

SENIOR RELEASE

As a privilege, seniors who have met all graduation requirements may be allowed to leave after their 6th hour class. Any senior that does not leave campus will be enrolled in a 7th period class. Seniors who have failed required courses and have not made them up or are currently failing a required course must attend a remediation/course recovery class during 7th period.

SIGN-IN POLICY

Students are expected to be in their scheduled first period class by the 8:20 AM tardy bell. To ensure accurate attendance records and student safety, the following procedures are in place for late arrivals:

- **Late Arrival (8:20 AM - 9:25 AM):** Students arriving at school after the 8:20 AM tardy bell must report directly to the **Attendance Clerk to sign in**. A **pass signed by the Attendance Clerk** is required before a student will be admitted to class.
- **Extended Late Arrival (After 9:30 AM):** Students who are tardy to school after 9:30 AM must be **signed in by a parent or guardian and/or present a valid excuse**. Acceptable valid excuses include, but are not limited to, doctor's notes, court summons, or official school-related appointments. **Without a valid excuse, the student will not be permitted to enter the school building.**

SIGN-OUT PROCEDURE FORM

Because of liability issues and concerns, we will no longer allow any sign-outs by phone, email or fax. If a student needs to sign-out, someone on the student's sign-out sheet must come to the school, present a picture ID and sign them out. Pre-sign-outs are still an option. The students will have a sign-out form in their first day of school packets. Please make sure that you check your child's information sheet to make sure that you have everyone you need on the sign-out form. Only people on a student's sign-out sheet will be allowed to sign them out. If you call and tell us that you are sending someone to sign them out and that person is not on the form, we still will not be able to allow your student to leave. This procedure is for the welfare of your child and it will be enforced and followed 100%. Our children are our most precious resource and we must ensure their safety and well-being at all times. In order to effectively close out the school day, we ask that sign-outs NOT take place after 3:15.

STAR STUDENT

The STAR student must meet all of the following requirements:

- Have the top SAT score and be in the top 10 percent of the senior class academically.
- Take the SAT anytime during his/her high school career. Verbal and math scores cannot be combined from different test sessions.
- Score equal to or higher than the latest available national high school average.

STUDENT ELECTIONS (SCHOOL-WIDE)

Student Elections are held for the following positions: Class Officers (President, Vice President Secretary/Treasurer), Class Queens (Miss Freshman, Miss Sophomore, Miss Junior, Miss Senior, and Miss WCHS), Club Queens, Homecoming King, Prom King, Prom Queen, Prom Prince, and Prom Princess.

Criteria for Student Elections

- An 85 overall average for previous year or an 80 cumulative average
- Must pass five subjects during the previous semester
- Be on track for graduation
- No out of school suspensions from previous year until conclusion of all Homecoming Activities/Parade
- No more than 3 referrals from the previous school year until conclusion of all Homecoming Activities/Parade
- No more than ten (10) unexcused absences from the previous school year. Out of school suspension days are considered unexcused absences.
- No school, textbook, or library debt
- Must have been a member from previous year and considered in good standing with club advisor (applies to Club Queens only)
- Have principal approval

If during the school year, an elected student fails to meet the above academic criteria or is involved in any disciplinary misconduct resulting in out of school suspension, he/she will be removed from office and not permitted to be considered for any student honor or privileges during that school year in which the disciplinary action was taken.

Homecoming Activities: Homecoming escorts may be a male or female relative and must be approved by the WCHS Homecoming Committee. Campaign posters, flyers, and/or stickers may be posted on appropriate surfaces (no painted walls or doors) and removed at the conclusion of the election. Stickers should not be affixed to textbooks and/or chromebooks. Miss Freshman, Miss Sophomore, Miss Junior, the top five Miss

Senior candidates, and the top five Miss WCHS candidates will participate in the Homecoming Activities. Miss Freshmen, Miss Sophomore, Miss Junior, Miss Senior, and Miss WCHS will ride the float in the Kaolin Parade if such an event is held. If WCHS's Homecoming Coronation does not precede the parade, the participation on the Homecoming float will be the top five Miss WCHS candidates. Dress code for Homecoming events shall be the same as for the Junior-Senior Prom.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

All students attempting to enroll in Washington County Schools will report to the Board of Education office for enrollment. Contact person for enrollment will be Mrs. Shaquonta Johnson.

STUDENT MEDICATION

All medication (prescription and nonprescription) needs to be left with the school nurse.

Students should not have any medication in their possession. Teachers will not give students any medication.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Students at Washington County High School must be enrolled in seven courses. Seniors must be enrolled in a minimum of five (5) courses. Fifth year students will take the number of courses deemed appropriate by the principal. An academic year shall be defined as the period of time commencing with the first student attendance day of the approved school calendar and ending with the last scheduled student attendance day of summer school. A student may earn a maximum of ten (10) credits during an academic year provided that no more than seven (7) credits are earned during the regular school day and any additional units be earned through a course credit recovery program. A student must be enrolled in classes that count at least 2.5 credits toward graduation to participate in GHSA events.

TEEN-AGE AND ADULT DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY ACT CERTIFICATE

Each student who applies for a driver's license or permit must submit a Certificate of Enrollment to the examining station. This form serves as certification that the student is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school. Students will be given the first certificate of enrollment free of charge. Students will be required to pay a fee of \$5.00 for additional forms after the first one is given free of charge.

TELEPHONE

All office/classroom phones are business phones and will not be used by students to make or receive personal calls. Only in case of an extreme emergency will an administrator accept messages for students on the office phone. Students will not be excused during classroom time to make phone calls.

TEXTBOOKS

It is the students' responsibility to properly check in and out bar-coded textbooks from the library's computer. Failure to properly check in bar-coded textbooks will result in student debts.

TITLE IX

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the education programs and activities. Washington County High School does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs and activities. Any inquiries concerning Title IX may be referred to our school's Title IX Coordinator, Mrs. Amy Vickers at 478-552-2324, Ext. 2228.

VISITOR PROCEDURES USING THE CONTROL ACCESS SYSTEM

Washington County High Schools has a Visitor's Policy to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The visitor's policy has many purposes.

- To enhance the safety of students and staff while maintaining a welcoming environment
- To easily identify visitors, volunteers and parents.
- To assist administrators, school staff, Safety personnel and police in identifying trespassers.
- To provide administration with the names of people in the school in the event of a school emergency.

Procedure: Every visitor entering a Washington County High School during school hours is required to enter using the main entrance to clear the metal detector prior to entering the main office. Upon clearing the metal detector, visitors will be asked to present a current driver's license or identification card to check in at the Main

desk.

While some of these measures may be perceived as creating inconvenience or delay, they are necessary steps to provide the safest and most secure learning environment possible. To ensure that you experience a quick and easy process, we ask that all visitors refrain from bringing personal bags and items that would require the staff to inspect and search.

WITHDRAWING FROM SCHOOL

The parent must come to the school to withdraw the student. All books must be returned, and fines cleared before completing the withdrawal process. Records will not be released to a new school unless the receiving school has sent an official request for records.

WORK BASED LEARNING

All work-based learning students must leave campus immediately when dismissed from their last campus class. If temporarily unable to do so (transportation problems, etc.), students should report directly to their work-based learning teacher and REMAIN directly under the teacher's supervision until school is dismissed. Under NO circumstances, should students return to campus to pick up a friend or sibling. Necessary contact with a teacher or the office can be made by telephone. Work based learning students will be issued a release card that must be carried with them at all times.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

It is the purpose of the Washington County Board of Education to operate each school in a manner that will provide an orderly process of education and that will provide for the welfare and safety of all students who attend the schools within the district. In accordance with that purpose, the Board of Education has adopted a policy which requires all schools to adopt codes of conduct which require students to conduct themselves at all times in order to facilitate a learning environment for themselves and other students. These standards for behavior require students to respect each other and school district employees, to obey student behavior policies adopted by the Board and to obey student behavior rules established at each school within the district. The school's primary goal is to educate, not to punish; however, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions may be necessary for the benefit of that individual and the school as a whole. Accordingly, students shall be governed by policies, regulations and rules set forth in the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is effective during the following times and in the following places: At school or on school property at any time; Off school grounds at any school activity, function or event and while traveling to and from such events; On vehicles provided for student transportation by the school system and at school bus stops.

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

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

Authority of The Principal

The principal is the designated leader of the school and, in concert with the staff, is responsible for the orderly operation of the school. In cases of disruptive, disorderly or dangerous conduct not covered in this Code, the principal may undertake corrective measures which he or she believes to be in the best interest of the student and the school provided any such action does not violate school board policy or procedures.

Authority of The Teacher

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

Each teacher shall comply with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 20-2-737 which requires the filing of a report by a teacher who has knowledge that a student has exhibited behavior that repeatedly or substantially interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in his or her class or with the ability of

such student's classmates to learn, where such behavior is in violation of the student code of conduct. Such a report shall be filed with the principal or designee on the school day of the most recent occurrence of such behavior, shall not exceed one page, and shall describe the behavior.

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

Progressive Discipline Procedures

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

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

- Warning and/or Counseling with a School Administrator or Counselor
- Loss of Privileges
- Time Out
- Removal from Class or Activity
- Notification of Parents
- Parent Conference
- Detention
- Placement in an Alternative Setting
- Behavior Contract/Disciplinary Probation
- Short-term Suspension
- Referral to a Tribunal for Long-term Suspension or Expulsion
- Suspension or Expulsion from the School Bus

Referral to Law Enforcement or Juvenile Court Officials: Georgia law requires that certain acts of misconduct be referred to the appropriate law enforcement officials. The school will refer any act of misconduct to law enforcement officials when school officials determine such referral to be necessary or appropriate. Parents or students may elect not to contest whether a student has violated the Code of Conduct or the appropriate discipline, and in such cases, an agreement may be negotiated which would include the parents or students waiving a right to a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

Discipline

An attempt has been made to identify types of students' misbehavior and the punishment(s) that apply to misconduct. However, the Washington County School System reserves the right to punish behavior which endangers the welfare and/or safety of other students, faculty or staff or causes disruption to good discipline in the schools, even though such behavior is not specified in the written student discipline offenses.

All rules and regulations of the Washington County School System pertaining to student discipline shall apply at all activities on school premises and to and from all school sponsored and supervised activities during the regular school year, summer vacation and holidays.

Referrals to the Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal are for consideration which includes but not limited to, the alternative placement, long term suspension and/or expulsion from the Washington County School System. Students and parents must be aware that teachers, secretaries and school system administrators have authority over the students. Students are to follow the instructions of any school employee. Students assigned to alternative placement, ISS or suspended from school shall not participate in any school activities until their assignment is completed. Students assigned to alternative placement will not return to regular school until positive behavior changes occur and they have completed their assigned time.

2010 Georgia Code: TITLE 20 - EDUCATION

CHAPTER 2 - ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

ARTICLE 16 - STUDENTS

PART 2 - DISCIPLINE

SUBPART 4 - ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

§ 20-2-768 - Expulsion or suspension of students for felonies; alternative educational system; policy

O.C.G.A. 20-2-768 (2010)

20-2-768. Expulsion or suspension of students for felonies; alternative educational system; policy

(a) Each local board of education is authorized to refuse to readmit or enroll any student who has been suspended or expelled for being convicted of, being adjudicated to have committed, being indicted for, or having information filed for the commission of any felony or any delinquent act under Code Section 15-11-28 which would be a felony if committed by an adult. If refused readmission or enrollment, the student or the student's parent or legal guardian has the right to request a hearing pursuant to the procedures provided for in Code Section 20-2-754.

(b) A hearing officer, tribunal, panel, superintendent, or local board of education shall be authorized to place a student denied enrollment in a local school system under subsection (a) of this Code section in an alternative educational system as appropriate and in the best interest of the student and the education of other students within the school system.

(c) It is the policy of this state that it is preferable to reassign disruptive students to alternative educational settings rather than to suspend or expel such students from school.

Student Offenses and Sample Discipline Procedures

The following list of disciplinary offenses and possible disposition are in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Washington County Board of Education. They are submitted as information to school personnel, students and parents. The school principal or assistant principal will take initial disciplinary action. The disciplinary measures will be imposed in a progressive manner depending on the severity of the offenses and the number of occurrences. A citation may also be issued for infractions of the rules.

The principal's discretion may be used to address severe citations or duration and/or intensity. Administrators will determine the Disposition Level after conducting the investigation of each incident.

Minor Offenses - Level 1 offenses that result in lesser consequences.

Major Offenses - Level 2 and 3 offenses that result in more serious consequences.

Rule 1 - Disruption and Interference with School (Level 1-3)

No Student Will:

Block the entrance or exit of any school building or property or room thereof so as to deprive others of access thereof; Prevent or attempt to prevent the convening or continued functioning of any school, class, activity, or lawful meeting or assembly on the school campus; Prevent students from attending a class or school activity; Continuously and intentionally make noise or act in any manner as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct the class; Misuse computers (including piracy) Misbehave at an assembly or pep rally; Speak loudly and boisterously in the halls, lunchroom, or classrooms; loud outbursts; Urge encourage or counsel other students to violate any of the preceding paragraphs of this rule. Possess, sale, or use fireworks on school property or at school functions. Chewing gum, excessive talking, sleeping in class and other off-task behavior.

Disposition

Minor Offense (Level 1-2) Degree of Disruption and Interference with School Operations. (Administrator's Discretion)

After teacher intervention

- **1st Offense:** Warning
- **2nd Offense:** 1 day ISS
- **3rd Offense:** 2 days ISS
- **4th Offense:** 5 days ISS

Major Offense (Level 3)

- **1st Offense:** 3 - 10 days OSS
- **2nd Offense:** 10 days OSS pending referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 2 - Theft, Damage or Destruction of School Property or Private Property (Level 3)

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property or steal or attempt to steal private property either on the school grounds or during a school activity, function, or event off school grounds. Willful and malicious destruction of and/or threat to destroy school property including such action as the use of threats or bombs, explosives, setting fires, and the deliberate and serious destruction of school property; Willful and malicious vandalism of public or private property while student is under school supervision; Theft of school property while student is under school supervision

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** Restitution and 5 days OSS
- **2nd Offense:** Restitution, 10 days OSS, and referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 3 - Assault on a School Employee (Level 3) Assault – a physical or verbal attack on another person.

A student will not assault or attempt to assault a school employee:

On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours; On the school grounds or any other time when the school is being used by a school group; off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event, or enroute to and from school or at school bus stops.

Disposition

- 10 days OSS, Referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, and Referral to Law Enforcement

Rule 4 - Physical Assault on a Student/Fighting (Level 3) Assault – a physical attack on another person.

A student shall not do bodily harm to any person:

On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours; On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group; off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event or, en route to and from school or at school bus stops.

Disposition

- 10 days OSS, Referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, and Referral to Law Enforcement

Rule 5 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments (Level 3)

Students may not possess, handle, use or transmit a weapon within a school safety zone, at a school building, school function, or on school property or on a bus or other transportation furnished by the school system. For the purposes of this code of conduct, a weapon means any object specified in

O.C.G.A. § 16-11-127.1 or any object that is or may be used to inflict bodily injury or to place another in fear for personal safety or well-being and includes the following:

Pistol (handgun), rifle, revolver, or any weapon designated or intended to propel a missile of any kind, or any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of three or more inches, straight edge razor, spring stick, metal knuckles, blackjack, or any flaying instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as nun chahak, nun chuck, nun chaku, shuriken, or fighting chain or any disc of whatever configuration having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or original dart, or any weapon of like kind and any stun gun or taser;

A knife of any size or blade length, a firearm, explosive, firecracker, razor blade, a club or any instrument or article designed to be used as a weapon.

Disposition

A student who brings a firearm to school in violation of federal law.

- 10 days OSS, Referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, and Referral to Law Enforcement

Rule 6 - Illegal Drugs and Alcohol (Level 3)

A student shall not possess, sell, use, distribute, or be under the influence of any prohibited drug to include alcohol, narcotics (e.g., edible), depressants, stimulants, hallucinogens, amphetamines, barbiturates, or any intoxicant of any kind. Proper use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule. The possession, use, sale or transmission of alcoholic beverages, any drug, whether legal or illegal, or any substance which is represented to be, or which reasonably appears to be alcoholic beverages, or any drug is prohibited. Any student bringing prescription or over-the-counter medication to school must follow the procedures required by school policy. Failure to follow these procedures will result in the student being in violation of this rule and subject to punishment. Illegal drugs and alcohol in vehicles that are driven by the student, that student will be held accountable for possession.

This rule applies for all students:

On the school grounds before, during and after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by any school group; Off the school grounds while in attendance at a school activity, function or any other school related event; Engaged in travel to and from school and at school bus stops.

Disposition

- 10 days OSS, Referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, and Referral to Law Enforcement

Students who come to school smelling of marijuana will be addressed by the administration.

- **1st Offense:** Discipline referral, OSS for remainder of the day, and Engagement OSS
- **2nd Offense:** 10-day placement at WCAA

Rule 7 - Smoking, Possession, and/or Use of any Tobacco/Vaping Product or Instrument Use Prohibited (Level 3)

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product at any time, including non-school hours 24 hours per day, seven days per week: In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Washington County School District. On any school grounds and property - including athletic fields and parking lots - owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Washington County School District; or at any school-sponsored or school-related event on-campus or off-campus. In addition, no student is permitted to possess tobacco, electronic cigarettes, or vapor products. The policy may permit tobacco products to be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco/vaping product.

Tobacco and Vape Products: Lighters, matches, vapes and vape cartridges are considered illegal smoking products. Administrators will determine the Disposition Level after conducting the investigation of the incident.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 10-day Placement at WCAA, Complete school assigned Tobacco Prevention Online Program, Placed on Disciplinary Probation, DFACs referral (age 16 and under), and a Referral to Law Enforcement
- **2nd Offense:** 45-day Placement at WCAA, Placed on Disciplinary Probation, DFACs referral (age 16 and under), and a Referral to Law Enforcement
- **3rd Offense:** 90-day (1 Semester Placement) at WCAA, Placed on Disciplinary Probation, DFACs referral (age 16 and under), and a Referral to Law Enforcement

Rule 8 - Disrespect, Including Failure to Follow Commands (Level 1-3) Degree of Disruption and Interference with School Operations. (Administrator's Discretion)

Refuse to identify himself/herself upon request of any teacher, principal, superintendent, school bus driver, or other authorized school personnel: Rude and disrespectful behavior; Refusal or failure to carry out instructions of staff member; (includes failure to report to the office or to the Academic Center during Academic Probation).

Major Disruption of classroom instruction.

A student shall not fail to comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, paraprofessional,

principals, school bus driver, or other authorized personnel when:

On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours;

On the school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by a school group;

Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event, or enroute to and from school or at school bus stops

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 3 days ISS
- **2nd Offense:** 5 days ISS
- **3rd Offense:** 3 days OSS and MTSS Behavior Referral
- **4th Offense:** 5 - 10 days OSS and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 9 - Unexcused Absences

A student shall not be absent from school or from any class or other required school function during required school hours except for illness or other providential cause, except with written permission from a duly authorized school official, nor shall any student encourage, urge or counsel other students to violate this rule.

Rule 10 - Habitual Offender

Any student sent to the office ten (10) times will be considered a chronic behavior problem and will be placed on disciplinary probation. Disciplinary probation means that a student may be expelled by the Washington County Disciplinary Tribunal for any further misbehavior.

Rule 11 – Bullying

It shall be the policy of the Washington County Board of Education that the bullying of a student by another is prohibited. In accordance with Georgia law, bullying is defined as:

Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

Discipline for any act of bullying shall be within the discretion of the principal which may range from a reprimand to out-of-school suspension. However, upon a finding that a student has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, at a minimum the student shall be assigned to an alternative setting.

Disposition (Administrator will determine Level of infraction)

- **Level 1:** Student Conference
- **Level 2:** 3 days ISS and Parent Conference
- **Level 3:** 3 days OSS and Parent Conference

Rule 12 - Student Dress Code and Grooming (Level 1-3)

The principal and/or other duly authorized school officials shall determine whether any particular mode of dress, apparel, jewelry, grooming or use of emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols results in interference or disruption of school and/or violates the student dress code policy. Articles of clothing worn to school may NOT have slogans, symbols, or pictures which represent any of the following: drugs; alcohol; profanity; tobacco products; offensive or sexually suggestive behavior; gang association; or religious, racial or ethnic slurs.

Disposition

- **1st Offense (3 dress code referrals):** discipline referral and engagement ISS
- **2nd Offense (6 dress code referrals):** discipline referral, 1 day ISS, and engagement ISS
- **3rd Offense (9 dress code referrals):** discipline referral, 2 days ISS, and engagement ISS

Each additional dress code referral will result in a discipline referral, 2 days ISS, and engagement ISS

The number of dress code referrals will start over each nine weeks for all students.

At the discretion of the administrator, the following will result in ISS time and engagement ISS until the violation is corrected.

- Piercings other than in the ears, sagging pants, no belt, and any other dress code violation

Rule 13 - Solicitation (Level 1-3)

A student shall not sell merchandise of any type without prior approval of the principal. All merchandise and/or monies will be confiscated items. **Administrators may or may not return confiscated items to parents.**

The principal's discretion may be used to address severe citations or duration and/or intensity. Administrators will determine the Disposition Level and consequences after conducting the investigation of each incident.

Rule 14 - Medications (Level 1-3)

Students are not allowed to carry medications of any type on their person. **ALL** medications must be turned in to the school nurse's office or the front office if a school nurse is not available.

The principal's discretion may be used to address severe citations or duration and/or intensity. Administrators will determine the Disposition Level and consequences after conducting the investigation of each incident.

Rule 15 - Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Devices (Level 1-3).

No personal electronic devices allowed; including but not limited to; cell phones, smart watches, etc. Devices will be taken up and the parent/guardian must pick-up. The Principal may apply the disposition for failure to follow commands and respond appropriately.

Disposition (Not Concealed)

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: 1 day ISS

3rd Offense: 3 days ISS

Every offense after the 3rd will result in 3 days ISS.

Disposition (Concealed)

1st Offense: 3 days ISS

2nd Offense: 3 days ISS and Parent Engagement

3rd Offense: 5 days ISS

Every offense after the 3rd will result in 1 day OSS.

Rule 16 - Inappropriate Public Display of Affection/ Or Comments/ Items (Level 1-3) Disposition

Disposition (Administrator will determine Level of infraction)

- **Level 1:** counseling with student and parent contact (written/phone)
- **Level 2:** 3 days ISS
- **Level 3:** 5 days ISS
- **Level 4:** 3 days OSS and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 17 - Threatening or Intimidating a Faculty/Staff Member (Level 2 or 3)

Disposition

- **1st Offense (Level 2):** 5 - 10 days OSS
- **2nd Offense (Level 3):** 10 days OSS, Referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, and Referral to Law Enforcement

Rule 18 - Possession or Use of Any Hazardous Instrument/Object

A student shall not possess or use any hazardous object, including any dirk, bowie knife, switchblade knife, ballistic knife, any other knife having a blade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which maybe known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any

instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or Taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

Articles Not Allowed at School, on a school bus, or any school function

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Alcohol | Drugs |
| Toys | Noise Making Devices |
| Chemical Irritants | Tobacco Product |
| Matches | Lighters |
| E-Cigarettes (Vaping Instruments) | Weapons Look Alike |
| Drugs, etc. | Cameras |
| Toy Weapons | Video Games |
| Laser Pointers | Knives |
| Cards or Dice | Smart Watches |
| Cell Phones | Fireworks |
| Electronic Devices/Tablets | Splat ball guns or any gun look alike |
| Pepper Spray | Shiv / Shank |
| Ammunition | |

The principal's discretion may be used to address severe citations or duration and/or intensity. Administrators will determine the Disposition Level and consequences after conducting the investigation of each incident.

If a student is found to be in possession of any of the items listed above, the student will be subject to the disciplinary process at the discretion of the administrator.

The principal reserves the right to amend the use of certain articles typically not allowed as it pertains to classroom instruction, school function or school athletic events and projects. Example – cameras used for school projects, school activities or athletic events.

The principal or designee will confiscate items not allowed at school or bus and retain them until the end of the school term. Some of the items not allowed at school will be confiscated and retained by law enforcement as evidence.

Rule 19 - Threatening or Intimidating Another Student

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 3 days OSS
- **2nd Offense:** 5 days OSS
- **3rd Offense:** 10 days OSS and referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 20 - Use of Profane, Vulgar, or Obscene Words, Gestures or Racial Slurs, Possession of Inappropriate Material (Level 2-3).

The nature of this offense will be considered with the option of OSS on the 1st Offense:. Directed towards staff members, directed toward a student or in general conversation.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 2 days ISS
- **2nd Offense:** 3 days ISS
- **3rd Offense:** 3 days OSS and referral to MTSS
- **4th Offense:** 5 days OSS and referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 21 - Tardiness to Class (Level 1-2) (for the nine weeks)

Disposition

- **3rd tardy:** 1 day of lunch detention and parent notification by letter or call will be attempted
- **6th tardy:** 1 day ISS and Engagement ISS
- **9th tardy:** 1 day ISS, Engagement ISS, and placed on Disciplinary Probation
- **12 or more tardies:** 10 day placement at the Washington County Achievement Academy, administrator discretion

Other consequences could include but are not limited to: discipline referral, loss of privileges including parking pass, attendance at good behavior day, field trips, ISS time, placement at the Washington County Achievement Academy

A student must be inside the classroom before the tardy bell stops ringing. A student must report to the discipline office upon being identified as tardy. Emergency situations with restroom use or locker problems must be cleared with the teacher before the tardy bell sounds and have a written pass given by the teacher.

Rule 22 - Student Behavior/Gang or Gang Related Activities (Level 2-3)

It is the purpose of the Washington County Board of Education to operate these schools in a manner that will initiate and promote activities which provide for the safety and well-being of persons and/or property. The Board of Education will make every effort to provide an orderly process of education. Students shall be governed by all policies of the Board of Education which are applicable in the school, on the school campus, at school activities away from school, on the way to and from school, at the school bus stop, and on the school bus. Students who violate this policy may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Each student shall attend school clothed in a manner which is clean, not hazardous to him/herself and which does not distract from the educational environment. Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, accessories or grooming that indicate or imply a person is a member of a gang or gang-like group which advertises or promotes activities which threaten people or property. Such items are deemed in and of themselves to interfere with the orderly process of school. Students may not display symbols of gang or gang-like groups or participate in activities involving initiations, hazing, intimidation and/or related activities. This includes throwing gang signs or wearing towels around the neck or carrying towels around the school. Students may not participate in gang and/or gang-like activities which are likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, and degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to students.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 3 days ISS and notification of law enforcement
- **2nd Offense:** 5 days ISS or OSS, notification of law enforcement
- **3rd Offense:** 10 days OSS pending referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, notification of law enforcement

Rule 23 - Extortion or Attempt to Extort (Level 3)

To incite or encourage inappropriate and unacceptable behaviors or actions.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** Parent notification, restitution, 3 days ISS
- **2nd Offense:** Restitution, 3 days OSS
- **3rd Offense:** Restitution, 5 days OSS, and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 24 - Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Harassment (Level 2-3)

Sexual Misconduct may include:

Engaging in sexual activities on school grounds or during school activities; physical and unwelcome sexual advances; lewd gestures or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature; requests for sexual favors; Inappropriate sexually based behavior including but not limited to sexting; lewd behavior; possession of inappropriate materials; simulated sex acts; possession of sexually explicit images; gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment.

Disposition (Administrator will determine Level of infraction)

- **Level 2:** 3 - 10 days ISS and parent contact
- **Level 3:** 3 - 10 days OSS and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 25 - Activation of Fire Alarms, Extinguishers, Or Other Fire Prevention Devices Under False Pretense (Level 3)

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 3 days OSS and restitution if applicable
- **2nd Offense:** 5 days OSS and referral to law enforcement
- **3rd Offense:** 10 days OSS, referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal, and referral to law enforcement

Rule 26 – Gambling (Level 1-3)

Gambling on school property or while attending an activity under school supervision is not allowed. No cards or gambling materials will be allowed at school or school activities, except used by the teacher in educational activities.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** 3 days ISS, parent contact
- **2nd Offense:** 3 days OSS, disciplinary probation
- **3rd Offense:** 5 days OSS
- **4th offense:** 10 days OSS and referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 27 - Irresponsible Behavior (Level 1-3)

Includes, but not limited to skipping school/class, leaving campus without permission, lying or forgery, not signing in with the attendance clerk when tardy to school and not signing in and out in the office during the school day if you must leave during school.

Cutting Class without leaving campus: 1 day of ISS for every period missed.

Disposition for all other irresponsible behaviors

- **1st Offense:** minimum 3 days ISS
- **2nd Offense:** minimum 5 days ISS
- **3rd Offense:** minimum 3 days OSS
- **4th Offense:** minimum 5 days OSS
- **5th Offense:** 10 days OSS and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Students who miss school in violation of the compulsory attendance law, as well as the parents of such students, may be reported to appropriate law enforcement officials.

Rule - 28 Bus Discipline Procedures

Any bus misconduct which is in violation of local, state and federal laws could result in referral to the law enforcement. Principals and drivers will inform the Transportation Director of any student violating any laws while on the school buses. Riding the bus is a privilege and proper conduct is expected at all times. This privilege may be revoked based on behavior of the student. The level of the offense will be determined at the administrator's discretion.

Disposition Minor (Level 1)

- **1st Offense:** Parent Engagement
- **2nd Offense:** 1 day bus suspension (minimum)
- **3rd Offense:** 3 - 5 days bus suspension Behavior Contract/Agreement
- **4th Offense:** 10 days bus suspension
- **5th Offense:** Bus suspension for the remainder of the school term

NOTE: No student shall be allowed to ride any Washington County School bus if the student's riding privileges have been suspended. If the school year ends and the student has not served his/her entire bus suspension, then the student shall finish the bus suspension at the beginning of the next school year.

Discipline Major (Level 2-3)

- **1st Offense:** 10 days bus suspension
- **2nd Offense:** 3 days OSS and 10 days bus suspension/Behavioral Contract
- **3rd Offense:** 10 days OSS, possible referral for long term bus suspension, and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Major misconduct includes but is not limited to physical threats, physical violence, gross insubordination to a driver, possession of drugs and/or dangerous weapons, fighting, vandalism of a bus, and any other action that presents danger to other students, the driver, or the safe operation of the bus.

*The illegal drugs and alcohol or weapons rules will be applied in cases where students possess drugs, alcohol or weapons on the school bus or at school bus stops.

Rule 29 - Parking and Traffic Violations on School Property (Level 1-3)

Driving and parking on campus is a privilege which may be revoked at any time. Each student who chooses to park or operate a vehicle on school property must follow the rules and regulations of Washington County School District and Washington County High School. Vehicles on school campus are subject to search with probable suspicion as outlined in Board Policy. The level of the offense will be determined at the administrator's discretion.

Disposition

Level 1: \$20 fine All Level 1 traffic and parking tickets will result in a \$20 fine.

Level 2: 10 - 30 days loss of driving privileges

Level 3: 30 days or more loss of driving privileges

Rule 30 - Violation of ISS Rules (Level 1-3)

Minor violations include but are not limited to sleeping, failure to do assignments, talking, being disruptive, failure to follow instructions, etc.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** (Minor or Level 1) - conference with student/warn of OSS

Major violations or 2nd referral to office from ISS. Major violations include but are not limited to extreme disrespect, insubordination, complete refusal to follow the rules.

Disposition

- **1st Offense (Major or Level 2-3):** OSS, parent contact, and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing (Administrator's Discretion).

Rule 31 – Cheating/Plagiarizing (Level 1-3) Teacher or Administrator's Discretion

Cheating including Plagiarizing on School Assignments

Cheating will not be tolerated. Parents will be notified and the following consequences will apply.

Disposition

- **Level 1:** Discipline referral, warning, parent engagement, schedule appointment with teacher to redo assignment, highest grade will be a 75.
- **Level 2 and/or 3:** Discipline referral, 2 - 5 days ISS, parent engagement, schedule appointment with teacher to redo assignment, highest grade will be a 70. No extra credit will be applied to the assignment.

Rule 32 – Trespassing, School Visitors & Unauthorized Entry (Level 2-3)

A student shall not invite a visitor or enable the entry of any unauthorized person into the school building or campus facility (this includes small children) to attend any part of the school day. The Parent/Guardian will be notified, and the visitor(s) will be asked to leave. The visitor may be charged with trespassing and the student may be subject to the following consequences:

Disposition

- Minimum ISS days, possible OSS days, and possible referral to Disciplinary Hearing Tribunal

Rule 33 - Student ID's - They must have the IDs with them every day at school. (Level 1-3)

Losing your ID will result in the replacement cost of \$5. Refusal to replace a lost ID will result in the following disposition:

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** replacement for \$5.00 and Warning
- **2nd Offense:** replacement for \$5.00 and parent conference
- **3rd Offense (and refusal to replace):** replacement for \$5.00 and 1 day of ISS
- **4th Offense (and refusal to replace):** replacement for \$5.00 and 3 days of ISS

Students cannot deface ID's (for example, drawing, chewing, cutting, coloring, displaying or adding objects or stickers to the ID.) Students cannot display another student's ID at any time.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** Warning (written)
- **2nd Offense:** 2 days ISS/ parent notification
- **3rd Offense:** 3 days ISS
- **4th Offense:** 5 days ISS
- **5th Offense:** 2 days OSS
- **6th Offense:** Principal's Discretion

Rule 34 – Horseplay (Level 1-3)

Disposition

- **Level 1:** minimum 1 day ISS
- **Level 2:** 5 - 10 days ISS
- **Level 3:** 3 - 10 days OSS and/or possible referral to Tribunal/Disciplinary Hearing

The level of the offense will be determined at the administrator's discretion.

Rule 35 – Inciting A Fight (Level 2-3)

Disposition

- **Level 1:** minimum 1 day ISS
- **Level 2:** 5 - 10 days ISS
- **Level 3:** 3 - 10 days OSS and/or possible referral to Tribunal/Disciplinary Hearing

The level of the offense will be determined at the administrator's discretion.

Rule 36 – Outside Food and Beverages

No outside food or beverages will be allowed in the school building unless it is sealed and not more than one person can eat and/or drink. Non Perishable items will be confiscated and the student may pick up from the teacher/administrator at the end of the day. Perishable items must be discarded. Students will not be allowed to bring in any food from fast food restaurants or any other local restaurants.

Key Restrictions:

- **Sealed Requirement:** Any outside beverages brought in must be sealed (unopened).
- **Single-Serving Rule:** The amount of food or beverage must be limited to what one person can reasonably consume. This prevents students from bringing in large quantities to share.
- **Fast Food/Restaurant Ban:** Absolutely no food from fast food establishments or any other local restaurants is permitted. This is a complete prohibition on prepared, takeout meals.
- **No Metal Tumblers:** This is a specific and strong restriction. Brands like Stanley, Yeti, TAL, Ozark Trail, RTIC, Owala, and similar metal insulated tumblers are explicitly forbidden.
- **Transparent Plastic Bottles Only:** For beverages, the only acceptable container is a plastic, transparent bottle. This allows staff to clearly see the contents.

To ensure our students are well-hydrated and ready to learn, only water is permitted as a beverage in the classroom and during lunch, unless otherwise specified by school staff for special events or sold in student vending machines.

Disposition

- **1st Offense:** Warning
- **2nd Offense:** Parent Engagement
- **3rd Offense:** 1 - 3 days ISS
- **4th Offense or more:** 3 or more days of ISS.

Academic Behavior Student Center (ABS)

Some discipline referrals may result in a referral to the ABS Center. The ABS Center provides an additional level of support to students who may be experiencing issues related to academics, behavior, or social-emotional problems. In this case, a teacher or staff would refer the student to the ABS Center. A team of teachers and staff will assess and review the referral and assess the student for the next course of action. Refer to the ABS Center Section in the Handbook for additional information.

What is the purpose of the Academic-Behavior Student Center (ABS Center)?

The ABS Center is a positive proactive strategic intervention Tier II or Tier III option in the RTI/MTSS conceptual framework to help students be successful with academics, behavior, self-efficacy development, and social-emotional wellness using various interventions and strategies to address the students' individual needs.

Who assigns a student to the ABS Center?

The student may be assigned by a collective group made-up of at least four members: Principal, assistant principal, counselor, lead teacher, content teacher, social worker, parent, nurse, school psychologist, IEP case manager, outside support persons, district personal, BCBA, OT, PT, and SLP. Principal or designee's signature is required on the compact and final approval of the assignment.

What is the duration of the student's stay in the ABS Center?

The assignment to the ABS Center can be for one-hour or less, extended hours, one full day, weekly, or monthly during school and after-school as designated by the MTSS or the Student Support Team (SST). The parent/guardian(s) must be notified via a phone call and/or given a written notice.

How will the parent engage in the process of assigning the student to the ABS Center?

The parent/guardian should be contacted by the teacher of record, counselor, administration, RTI/MTSS/SST coordinator, or the social worker to inform about a required meeting or phone conference to consider the ABS Center if the stay will be longer than a two-day stay. Any assignment less than two days will require a parent contact by phone for notification by administration.

What documentation is required for the student attending the ABS Center?

Parent contact documentation (Infinite Campus)
Not There Yet Form and attendance report
Teacher Tier I school classroom intervention documentation
Student work sample(s) and academic status
Administrative information/Infinite Campus
Other appropriate information required in the RTI/MTSS & SEL process

Consideration for a student on Academic Probation

Students that are failing 3 or more courses during the first semester will be placed on academic probation and may be required to attend the Academic-Behavior Student Center (ABS Center), during 7th period and possible enrollment in the after-school program. Additionally, if a student participates in extracurricular activities and he/she is failing a course at the end of the 4½ weeks grading period or 9 weeks grading period, they will be required to attend after-school tutoring (3:30-4:30 PM) during the 3rd 9-week period. Also, he or she will not be allowed to participate in the corresponding sport or event until the end of the next 4 ½ weeks grading period.

If a student is on academic probation, he or she can't participate in athletics (consideration of GHSA eligibility requirements for WCHS), field trips, and other school-based activities unless the student support team (MTSS/SST) with the principal's approval is given. If the student is on an athletic GHSA high or middle team, the coaching staff must host a study hall session with student-athletes on academic probation or on a

Behavioral Contract.

Students may be required to keep an ABS Center notebook/folder for documentation and review.

Students on academic probation will be required to report to the ABS Center as determined by the SST or administration.

Consideration for a Student Placed on a Behavior Contract

The Washington County High School Administrative Staff and the MTSS/Student Support Team may place a student on a behavior contract for major offenses and/or after the student has received four disciplinary referrals. Additionally, any student returning to Washington County High School from the Washington County Achievement Academy or another alternative education program will be placed on a behavior contract for a minimum of one (1) semester.

Parental Engagement

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

CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

Students are strongly encouraged to become involved in as many activities at the school as possible. At Washington County High there are many different types of organizations that should provide something for everyone. Club activities are not governed by GHSA eligibility rules, thus criteria for involvement remains with each club sponsor.

Listed below are the approved clubs/organizations/activities available at WCHS.

Air Force JROTC

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Sgt. Holloman/Sgt. Tennyson / Dues: none

Mission/Purpose: To develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community. Activities and Teams:

Awareness Presentation Team (APT): Designed to provide a positive role model for elementary and middle school students. Cadets prepare and deliver presentations. APT badges can be earned.

"Thundering 31st": The drill team is a cohesive group that learns to work and perform maneuvers together. Drill teaches cadets to appreciate the need for discipline and to understand the importance of following orders promptly and precisely. Each year AFJROTC units compete at the local, state, and national drill competition level. Additional activities occur throughout the year.

Ambassadors

Faculty/Sponsor: Andrea Miller / Dues: none

Mission/Purpose: To build student leadership

These students serve as representatives at school and community functions and are nominated by faculty members, primarily during their ninth-grade year. Final selection is made through an interview and application process.

Ambassador candidates are students who display exemplary behavior, are on track with their grades, and have no school debts. Some functions of WCHS Ambassadors are serving as guides for Parents' Night and open house, as well as community school tours.

Anchor Club

Faculty/Sponsor: Leigh Holtapp / Dues: \$25.00/year

This organization allows young people to make a difference in their world through volunteer service. Members learn to be good citizens for the rest of their lives. This service club works with the local Pilot Club to promote awareness and provide service to people with brain-related disorders. Anchor meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:40 a.m. Goals: To increase membership and become more active in the community this year.

WCHS Band

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Mr. Max Libardi / Dues: TBA

Membership Requirement: Membership is open to all band students

Mission/Purpose: The marching band offers opportunities for students to perform. Activities: The Football Band performs at football games and parades. The Competition Band competes with other school bands during the fall of each year.

BETA Club

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: / Dues \$20 year - \$40 one time induction fee

Membership Requirement: Students must have a 95 or above grade average (3.5 GPA) and obtain and fill out an application, which includes recommendation forms. Once the full application has been submitted and processed, students will be contacted regarding membership acceptance. 9th grade students will begin the application in the spring. All other grades will apply in the fall semester.

Mission/Purpose: The National Beta Club is a student-centered organization which continually develops and nurtures individuals by providing opportunities and experiences which enables them to demonstrate Beta ideals of character, achievement, service, and leadership in a global community.

Activities: Annual fundraiser, a variety of community service activities, state and national competitions, and scholarship competitions.

Debate Team

Faculty/Sponsor: Benjamin Martin / Dues: none

The debate team competes in policy debate and other public speaking events. Debate meets on Wednesday from 3:35-5:00 when not in conflict with faculty meetings. Goals: To compete in at least three qualifying tournaments and to accrue enough points to qualify for state debate.

Drama Club

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Mrs. Lauren Macke / Dues: TBA

Membership Requirement: Students interested in Drama

Mission/Purpose: The Drama Club provides an opportunity for those students interested in theatre to expand their skills and knowledge through theatre games and improvisation.

Activities: Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Mrs. Stephanie May / Dues: none

Mission/Purpose: FCCLA is a national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer science education. Chapter projects focus on a variety of youth concerns. Involvement in FCCLA offers members the opportunity to expand their leadership potential and develop skills for life.

Activities: FCCLA meets monthly. Members will also have the opportunity to attend regional and state activities.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA):

Faculty/Sponsor: Benjamin Martin & Andrea Miller / Dues: \$25 per year

The purpose of FCA is to present to athletes and coaches and all whom they influence the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and the fellowship of the church.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Allison Tyson / Dues: \$25 per year

Membership Requirement: Open to all

Mission/Purpose: FBLA's mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs.

Activities: FBLA meetings are every third Wednesday of each month with planned programs. Additionally, students attend Fall Motivational Rally, Fall Leadership Conference, Regional Conferences, and other community and school service projects.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: John Pope / Dues: \$15 per year

Membership Requirement: None

Mission/Purpose: The FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

Activities: FFA members participate in monthly meetings, officer elections, leadership contests, livestock shows, dairy judging contests, landscaping activities, summer camp, and greenhouse plant sales.

Golden Times

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Vacant / Dues: none

The staff of the Golden Times studies journalism and gains experience by using their knowledge to prepare the school's newspaper. Goals: To inform, educate, and entertain readers.

Interact

Faculty/Sponsor: Dues: \$15.00 per year.

Meeting times will be 3rd Wednesday of each month in room 408 at 7:15 am until 8:15am

This organization is a Rotary-sponsored service club. The program gives young people an opportunity to participate in fun, meaningful service projects while developing leadership skills through community involvement. Goals: To participate in a community, national, and international service project.

International Thespian Society

Faculty/Sponsor: Lauren Macke/ Dues: \$22 per year

The purpose of this organization is to recognize students who have demonstrated commitment and excellence in the school's theatre program. Members meet once each month. Goals: To perform more community service.

Literary Competition

Faculty/Sponsor: Lauren Macke / Dues: none

Students chosen to compete in literary competitions strive to uphold the WCHS tradition of excellence in academics and fine arts. Students meet after school for rehearsals and practices before regional and state literary events. Students are chosen through an audition process to compete in the following areas: girls' and boys' essay, spelling, dramatic interpretation, extemporaneous speaking, solo, girls' trio, boys' quartet. Goals: To develop students' academic and fine arts skills and to win the region and state literary events.

Math Team

Faculty/Sponsor: TBD / Dues: none

The Math Team is dedicated to enriching students' knowledge of mathematics and increasing their ability to communicate effectively with peers. The team will practice once a week after school from 3:35-4:30. All tournaments will be on Saturday. Goals: To compete once a month at various tournaments.

Mock Trial Team

Faculty/Sponsor: Mr. Ryan McCoy & Mrs. Christy Johnson / Dues: TBA

Mock trial is a competition in which students will have the opportunity to simulate real trials. This program teaches students in grades 9-12 about the law and the legal system through participation in simulated trials. This program also allows experienced professionals to share their expertise about the elements of argument, the law and legal skills.

Octagon Club

Faculty/Sponsor: Benjamin Martin / Dues: \$20.00

The objective of the Octagon Club is to utilize the Optimist Creed to promote an active interest in our government and to aid and encourage the development of youth through the giving of themselves in service to others. Meeting Time: TBA Goals: Adopting underprivileged families for Thanksgiving and Easter, assembling Christmas gift bags for the residents of Smith's Nursing Home, and volunteering services in fundraising activities at the local primary schools.

Skills USA

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: David Earl / Dues: \$15 per year

Membership Requirement: Must have taken or be enrolled in at least one semester of Engineering, Graphics,

or Fine Furniture/Cabinetmaking.

Mission/Purpose: Skills USA's mission is to help its members become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens.

Activities: Our program focuses on professional development, community service, employment, SkillsUSA Championships, public relations, social activities, skills, and attitudes.

Spanish Club:

Faculty/Sponsor: Vacant TBD / **Dues:** \$20 per year

The mission of the Washington County High School Spanish club is to celebrate the Spanish (and Hispanic) language and cultures, and to have fun. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Members of the Spanish club must be currently enrolled in Spanish or have completed their Spanish courses prior to becoming a member

Talon

Faculty/Sponsor: Leigh Holtapp / **Dues:** none

The Talon is WCHS's yearbook, which is produced annually by the WCHS Talon Staff. Students are chosen to participate through an application process. Working together and meeting deadlines are important components of the class.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

Faculty/Sponsor: Mr. Robert Carroll & Mr. Max Libardi / **Dues:** none

The Tri-M Music Honor Society is the international music honor society for middle/junior high and high school students. It is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership. Through more than 5,500 chartered chapters, Tri-M has helped thousands of young people provide years of service through music in schools throughout the world. Tri-M is a program of MENC: The National Association for Music Education.

Student Council

Faculty Sponsor/Contact: Mr. Jamaal Wilcher / **Dues:** none

Membership Requirements: Elected by the Student Body (class officers)

Mission/Purpose: Involve students in activities that make them more aware of the needs of their school and community. Engage students in activities that allow them to make a difference. Prepare students for future leadership by developing skills and building their confidence as well as their awareness of their community.

Activities: Student Council will participate in various school and community service projects. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Video Production

Faculty/Sponsor: Marchello Graddy / **Dues:** none

Students are selected to participate in video production by an application process. If selected, students are taught the proper use of equipment, interviewing, and stop motion animation. The students prepare a school television show as entertainment to the school. The show is called "What's Up Waco?".

Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP)

Sponsor: Dean Wilcher **Dues:** None

The Youth Apprenticeship Program offers students school-based and work-based learning opportunities that are related to the student's career interest area. Students participating in the Youth Apprenticeship Program are able to earn wages while learning from skilled professionals, increase career options and future employability, strengthen academic skills, and experience the connection between education and real-life work skills.

Note: Washington County High School will no longer accept personal checks of any kind. All financial transactions must be handled in cash or money order.

ATHLETICS

As student athletes, you are bound by a stricter moral and behavioral code than non student-athletes. As such, you will be responsible for conducting yourself in a manner above and beyond non student athletes. Every member of the Washington County Athletic Program has a duty to represent himself/herself, the team, and the school in the best manner possible. This applies to your behavior both in school and out of school. You are expected to avoid situations where you might be accused of wrong-doing. Being in the “wrong place at the wrong time” is not an excuse if you chose to be there in the first place. In-school discipline problems resulting in ISS or Suspension may result in dismissal from the team. Other reasons to be dismissed from the team include:

1. Possession of or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco at any time.
2. Allowing yourself to be in a situation, in school or away from school, where you are accused of/arrested for an illegal activity.
3. Missing practice (unless excused by the Coach).
4. School attendance issues. Students must be PRESENT at school to compete in events that day.
5. Academics (includes failing grades and missing assignments). You should not be failing more than 2 classes at any given time.
6. Poor sportsmanship
7. Harassment (verbal/physical/sexual/etc...) of another student, team member, or staff.
8. Any act (in school or away from school) which in the opinion of the coaching and/or school administration, reflects the WCHS Athletic Program negatively (gang affiliation, use of profanity, disrespectful behavior, etc...)
9. Electronic communication (text, Facebook, Twitter, etc...) should be positive and should never negatively reflect on other teammates or coaching staff. If it is not positive, don't post it.
10. Failure to follow school rules stated in the student handbook.

Although coaches for individual sports set attendance policies, a student must be present at school for at least ½ of their assigned class periods on the day of a sporting event to participate in the event or in practice. Students assigned to ISS (full days) are not eligible to play unless they have completed serving their ISS time but may attend practice any day that they are serving their time. Students assigned to OSS are not eligible to play or practice during their assigned OSS days. Coaches or the Athletic Director have the right to remove a student from play or from the team altogether due to poor sportsmanship or failure to maintain appropriate behavior or academic standing in the classroom setting. Their decision will be final.

Athletes must be picked up within 30 minutes of the end of practice or the return from a game. Students will not be able to participate in athletics if they are listed on the current school debt list. Students may not quit a sport and begin another sport until the season for the sport they initially started has ended.

Baseball

Baseball is a spring sport for Varsity, Junior Varsity and 9th Grade teams. Baseball try-outs are each year in the spring. The mission is to produce quality young men who are not only quality baseball players, but high achieving students as well. In order for a student to participate in baseball, they must have a physical and be eligible according to the Georgia High School standards (pass 5 out of 7 classes and be on track for graduation).

Head Coach: Mr. Kevin Mobley

Basketball - Girls

Girls basketball is a Varsity and Junior Varsity sport whose season runs from mid-October to late February. Girls have to try out to make the team and must have all the needed forms to be eligible. In order for a student to make the team, she must first meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the GHSA. Practices will be after school with rotating times with the boys' basketball team.

Head Coach: Mrs. Colleen Baker

Basketball - Boys

The boys' basketball program includes students from grades 9-12. Games include statewide competition and are sanctioned by the Georgia High School Association. The Washington County boys' basketball program is divided into three separate teams: varsity, junior varsity, and 9th grade. Tryouts occur in October at a date set by the Georgia High School Association. In order for a student to make the team, he must first meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the GHSA. After meeting these requirements, each student goes through a tryout period where the coaches evaluate each player's abilities. At the completion of tryouts, the coaches meet and determine who will be chosen to be on each team. The basketball schedule includes 1-2 hours of practice, 5-6 days a week as well as games 1-3 times a week. The practice and game schedule also include Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays along with other school holidays.

Head Coach: Mr. Brandon Biggins

Bass Fishing – Boys/Girls

The Georgia High School Association is pleased to announce the addition of Bass Fishing to its lineup of sponsored sports and activities beginning in the 2021-22 school year. Bass Fishing will be a co-ed sport where girls and boys may compete side by side in this State Championship event. Bass Fishing will be an activity with no designated season.

Head Coach:

Cheerleading - Basketball

This sport promotes school spirit and good sportsmanship. Basketball cheerleaders must be academically eligible and must try out in the spring.

Head Coach: Ms. Laquanna Pierce

Cheerleading - Football/Competition

It shall be the purpose of this organization to promote and uphold school spirit, to develop good sportsmanship among students, to support athletic programs, and to develop positive relationships in the community and between schools during athletic events. Cheerleaders must be academically eligible. Tryouts for the following year will be held in the spring. Cheerleading practice begins with summer workouts. Practice will be held most days during the cheer season which goes from August to mid-November.

Head Coach: Mrs. Casey Carroll

Competitive Dance

The team's mission is to develop dance skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship while representing the school. Information on the competition schedule, required appearance standards (costumes, hair, makeup), and competitive rules will be provided once a student makes the team.

Head Coach: Mrs. Jessica Watts

Cross Country - Boys/Girls

Both boys and girls may participate on the Cross-Country Team. The goal of this team is to train student-athletes to compete at the highest level, both in the classroom and on the course. The season runs from August to November.

Boys Head Coach: Mr. Brandon Biggins

Girls Head Coach: Ms. Shonterria Kitchens

Football

Football is a fall sport with a Junior Varsity and Varsity team. An advanced weight training class is required during the school year in order to develop strength and conditioning. Spring football practice begins in May and lasts for two weeks. Practice times are usually 3:30-5:30p.m. Summer workouts begin in June. Fall football practice starts before the beginning of school and lasts until the end of the season.

Head Coach: Mr. Robert Edwards

Note: Primary, elementary and middle school students must be accompanied by an adult in order to gain entrance into the stadium. Adults will be responsible for supervising the student(s) that they bring to the game. It is important that school personnel managing the event have the ability to contact an adult on site if there is a concern.

Girls Flag Football

Girls' Flag Football is a state championship event organized on an Area basis in three classifications (1A – 4A), (5A – 6A,) and (7A) with eight areas in each classification, playing during the late Fall each year. Tryouts and practice will be held in September with games beginning in October. The season goes through December.

Head Coach: Mr. Jay English

Golf - Boys/Girls

Team competition in which members of the team compete in 9 and 18 hole matches or tournaments. Usually the top 4 scores out of 5 to 6 team members' scores are recorded for a total team score.

Selection of team members are conducted in a 4-day tryout competition in which low 12 scores make the golf team. Top six scores will be varsity while low four scores will be JV. No senior is kept for JV thus he must make the top six. Practice is daily Monday through Thursday at rotating golf courses in the community.

Head Coach: Mr. Jay English

Gymnastics

Girls gymnastics is a state championship event open to schools in all classifications. There will be two championship divisions: A-5A and 6A-7A. 1. Competition in all meets will be held in the following events: Balance Beam, Uneven Parallel Bars, Vault, Floor Exercise, All-Around (competition in preceding four events). Tryouts and practices begin in January with the season lasting through April.

Head Coach: Mrs. Casey Carroll

Soccer – Boys/Girls

Soccer is open for all students in grades 9-12. Tryouts are usually held at the beginning of January.. The goal of the soccer team is to provide players with the opportunity to participate in a quality program that develops soccer skills and discipline. Students must have a physical and all required paperwork completed in order to participate.

Boys Head Coach: Mr. Joel Griffin

Girls Head Coach: Mr. Oluwafemi Erinle

Softball

Softball is open for all girls in grades 9-12. Tryouts are usually held in May. Softball is a team sport played by two teams of nine players each, involving batting, fielding, and pitching. Students must have a physical and all required paperwork completed in order to participate.

Head Coach: Mr. Adam Price

Tennis - Boys/Girls

Washington County High School Tennis is composed of boys and girls teams whose seasons run concurrently from January to the beginning of May. The sport is open to students in ninth through twelfth grades.

The season will consist of dual matches and tournament matches. As with any team sport, our goal is to compete with the best. What is more important though is to compete with integrity and class while making the experience one that all students remember.

Head Coach: Mrs. Logan Hartley

Track - Boys/Girls

The WCHS Track Program develops and enhances an athlete's skills and abilities of speed, endurance, flexibility, strength, competitiveness, discipline, and respect for the physical fitness component of running. The top 4 teams/individuals of region heats advance to Region Finals. The top two finishers at region automatically qualify for state. Practices will be held after school. Students must have a physical and all required paperwork completed in order to participate.

Boys Head Coach: Mr. Greg Cooper

Girls Head Coach: Ms. Morgan Jordan

Wrestling - Boys/Girls

Wrestling is an individual combat sport where two opponents compete to gain control and score points through various maneuvers, takedowns, reversals, escapes, and near-falls. The ultimate goal is often to pin the opponent's shoulders to the mat. Students must have a physical and all required paperwork completed in order to participate.

Head Coach: Mohammad Smart

Wrestling Team

The wrestling team develops not only well-rounded athletes, but also well-rounded young men. Wrestling is a sport intended to build toughness, perseverance, and respect for other athletes. and we compete in tournaments locally and across the state. The season runs from November to February.

Head Coach:

Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity in this school system may be submitted to the sports equity coordinator. The sports equity contact at Washington County High School is:

Athletic Director, Mr. Terry Stephens
Washington County High School
P.O. Box 1057
Sandersville, Georgia 31082-1057
Phone: (478) 552-2324

STUDENT AND PARENT SCHOOL GUIDE AND INFORMATION

IF YOU NEED

Accident Insurance Claim Form/School Insurance
Clerk Attendance Information
Announcements
Approval of Activities
Athletic Information
Claims and Workman's Comp.
Audio/Visual Information
Certificate of Attendance
Class Schedule
Club Information
College Entrance Requirements
College Scholarship & Transcript Information
Discipline Information
ID Cards-Purchase Replacements
Lockers
Lost & Found
Medical Attention
School Tardy
Student Debt
Tech/Career Information
Textbook Debt
Vandalism Report
Voter/Draft Registration
Withdrawal from School

GO TO

Attendance
Attendance
Administrative Office
Principal
Athletic Director
Attendance Clerk
Media Center
Registrar
Registrar
Club Sponsor
Counselors
Counselors
Any Administrator
Media Center
Assistant Principal
Assistant Principal's Office
Main Office
Attendance Clerk
Secretary
Tech/Career Director
Media Center
Any Administrator
Social Studies Dept. Chair
Registrar

Washington County School District (WCSD) is committed to the safety of all students and personnel. In a pandemic situation, the district will communicate action steps for students and personnel via the district website, Facebook, and the district call-out system. In our school district, masks are the expected norm. However, the school district will follow the guidelines of the CDC in situations where less than 3 ft. of space is achieved. Stakeholders may read the Washington County Pandemic Safety Plan in its entirety on the District Website. WCSD reserves the right to make changes to this safety plan for the safety of all students and personnel. Principals working with the Superintendent will establish a protocol for changing expected norm(s) to a requirement as needed during the school year while in a pandemic crisis.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Jamaal Wilcher, Principal

Mrs. Leigh Anne Brooker
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Carla Poole
Assistant Principal

Mrs. Kelly Severance
Assistant Principal



Mrs. Amy Vickers
Assistant principal/CTAE Director

Mrs. Christy Hinton
Counselor

Mrs. Tiffany McCoy
Counselor

Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals

Date: August 1, 2025

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Every year, in compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Washington County High School would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student's teacher(s) and/ or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher—
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child's teachers and/or paraprofessional's qualifications, please contact the Washington County High School at 478-552-2324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jamaal Wilcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Jamaal Wilcher, Principal
Washington County High School
420 Riddleville Road
Sandersville, GA 31082
jwilcher@washington.k12.ga.us