

STUDENT HANDBOOK | 2026-2027



WANTON

Local School District

High School

High School: 601 North Main Street | t: (419) 826-3045 | f: (419) 826-1611

This handbook book belongs to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Student ID# _____ Locker # _____

Table of Content

SWANTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 2026-2027 CALENDAR	5
FOREWORD	6
EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY	6
SCHOOL DAY	6
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES	7
INJURY AND ILLNESS	7
SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION	8
ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL	8
SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT	10
EARLY DISMISSAL	12
WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL	12
IMMUNIZATIONS	12
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION	13
USE OF MEDICATIONS	13
NON PRESCRIBED (OVER-THE-COUNTER) MEDICATIONS	13
CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE	14
CONTROL OF NON CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	14
CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS	15
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	15
HOMELESS STUDENTS	16
PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS	18
STUDENT FUNDRAISING	20
STUDENT VALUABLES	20
MEAL SERVICE	20
SAFETY AND SECURITY	21
FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS	21
EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS	21
PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS	22
VISITORS	22
USE OF THE LIBRARY	22
USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES	22
LOST AND FOUND	22
USE OF OFFICE TELEPHONES	22
ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES	23
SECTION II – ACADEMICS	23
SWANTON VIRTUAL ACADEMY	23
STUDY HALL	23

CREDIT RECOVERY	24
FIELD TRIPS	24
GRADES	25
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	27
PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE	30
EARLY GRADUATION	30
EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS	31
COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS POLICY	32
RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT	34
ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY	35
CHROMEBOOK POLICY	40
TRANSMISSION OF RECORDS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS	40
SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES	40
SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES	40
NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES	41
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT	41
SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT	41
ATTENDANCE	41
FULTON COUNTY UNIFORM TRUANCY PROCEDURES	44
CODE OF CONDUCT	50
BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION	52
STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE	56
DISCIPLINE	63
DUE PROCESS RIGHTS	64
SEARCH AND SEIZURE	66
INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS	67
STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION	67
SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION	68
BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL	68
BUS CONDUCT	68
VIDEOTAPES ON THE SCHOOL BUS	69
PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS	69
TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE	69
SELF-TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL	69
SECTION VI – ATHLETICS	70
ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT	70
PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS	70
REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION	71
PHYSICAL EXAMS AND INSURANCE	71

ELIGIBILITY	71
DROPPING OR TRANSFERRING SPORTS	72
EQUIPMENT	72
SELECTING SQUAD MEMBERS	73
COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY	73
CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	73
ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE	73
TRAVEL	74
ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS	74
CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS	75
DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION	77
DRUG TESTING POLICY SWANTON SCHOOLS	77
ATHLETIC	80
EXTRACURRICULAR (Club or Activity)	80
STUDENT DRIVERS	81

NOTE:	<p>This Student/Parent Handbook is based in significant part on policies adopted by the Board of Education and Administrative Guidelines developed by the Superintendent. Those Board Policies and Administrative Guidelines are incorporated by reference into the provisions of this Handbook. The Policies and Administrative Guidelines are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to the documents reviewed in this Handbook since it was printed in 2024. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific issue or document, contact your school principal or access the document on the District's website: www.swanton.k12.oh.us and finding the specific policy or administrative guideline in the Table of Contents for that section.</p>
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Student/Parent Handbook

SWANTON HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to Swanton High School. The staff and I are pleased to have you as a student and will do our best to help make your experience here as enjoyable and successful as you wish to make it. To help provide a safe and productive learning environment for students, staff, parents and visitors, the Board of Education publishes this updated Student/Parent Handbook annually to explain students' rights, responsibilities and consequences for misbehavior.

Parents are encouraged to take a few minutes to review and discuss the information in this Handbook with their school-age children. Teachers will also review this Handbook with students at the beginning of the school year

Thank you for taking the time to become familiar with the important information in this Handbook. If you have any questions, please contact either Mr. Menna or Mr. Horen at the numbers or email addresses listed below.

Sincerely,

Anthony Menna
Principal

Matt Horen
Assistant Principal

Phone: 419.826.3045

Email: anthony.menna@swantonschools.org

matt.horen@swantonschools.org

Principal

Assistant Principal

Adopted by the Board of Education on June 10, 2026.
Student Code of Conduct (including Student Discipline Code) adopted by
the Board of Education on June 10, 2026.

SWANTON

Local School District
2026-2027 Calendar

Thursday	August 13	Professional Development Day – No Students
Friday	August 14	Teacher Orientation/Workday – No Students
Monday	August 17	Teacher Orientation/Workday – No Students
Tuesday	August 18	First Day of School for Students (PreK, 1-5, 9)
Wednesday	August 19	First Day of School for Students (6-8, 10-12)
Friday	August 21	First Day of School for Kindergarten
Monday	September 7	School Closed – Labor Day
Tuesday	September 8	School Closed – Jr. Fair Day
Wednesday	September 23	Professional Development Day – No Students
Thursday	October 15	4 pm – 8 pm (K-4 Parent/Teacher Conferences)
Friday	October 16	9:00am - 3:00pm (K-4 Parent/Teacher Conferences)
		No School Grades K-4, SHS & SMS IN SESSION
Wednesday	October 28	Professional Development Day – No Students
Thursday	November 19	4 pm – 8 pm (5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences)
Friday	November 20	8 am – 3 pm (5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences)
		No School Grades 5-12, SES in Session
Monday	November 23	School Closed – Fall Break
through		
Friday	November 27	School Closed – Fall Break
Monday	December 21	School Closed – Holiday Break
through		
Friday	January 1	School Closed – Holiday Break
Monday	January 4	Teacher Orientation/Workday – No Students
Monday	January 18	School Closed- Martin Luther King Day
Thursday	February 4	4 pm – 8 pm (K-4 Parent/Teacher Conferences)
Thursday	February 11	4 pm – 8 pm (5-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences)
Friday	February 12	NO SCHOOL
Monday	February 15	School Closed – Presidents' Day
Wednesday	March 3	Professional Development Day – No Students
Monday	March 22	School Closed – Spring Break
through		
Friday	March 26	School Closed – Spring Break
Wednesday	May 5	Professional Development Day – No Students
Thursday	May 27	Last Day for Students – WHOLE DAY
Friday	May 28	Last Day for Staff/Workday

Calendar includes 173 days for students with 10 workdays/orientation/conference days for teachers.

Middle School and High School Semester/Quarter Ends

First Quarter Ends.....	October 16, 2026	41 days
First Semester Ends	December 18, 2026	39 days
Third Quarter Ends.....	March 12, 2027	45 days
Second Semester Ends.....	May 27, 2027	48 days

Elementary School Trimester Ends

First Trimester Ends.....	November 13, 2026
Second Trimester Ends.....	February 26, 2027
Third Trimester Ends.....	May 27, 2027

✦Makeup days will be made up in May and June if needed✦

FOREWORD

This Student Handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. Please take time to become familiar with the important information contained in this Handbook and keep the Handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this Handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal. This Handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This Handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of June 11, 2025. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after June 11, 2025 the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. Copies of current Board policies and administrative guidelines are available from the building principal and on the District's web site.

MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

The mission of Swanton High School is to educate all students to their highest level of academic performance, to realize their potential as a human being, and to become productive members of a global society. They Empower, Lead, Excel & Persevere.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

This District provides an equal educational opportunity for all students.

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of religion, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, military status, ancestry or age in its programs, activities or employment. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of the aforementioned criteria while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer(s):

Chris Lake
Superintendent
419.826.7085

Anthony Menna
SHS Principal
419.826.3045

Kristi Molter
SES Principal
419.826.8991

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures described in this Handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer(s) can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity

SCHOOL DAY

Classes start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:50 pm. Students arriving prior to 7:50 must report to the Commons.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The School's rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and to obey all school rules.

Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the School Counselor.

Adult students (age 18 or older) must follow all school rules. Students who are 18 years of age or older must still obtain parent/guardian permission and follow all established school sign-out procedures before leaving school during the instructional day.

If residing at home, adult students are encouraged to include their parents in their educational program.

In order to keep parents informed of their child's progress in school, parents will be provided information on a regular basis and whenever concerns arise. Many times it will be the responsibility of the student to deliver the information. The school, however, may use the mail or hand delivery when appropriate. Parents have the option of receiving communication from the school via e-mail and/or facsimile by filling out the appropriate form available in the school's administrative office. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

STUDENT WELL BEING

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills in the event of a terrorist or other violent attack, and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify a staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the School office.

Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation, to the School office.

INJURY AND ILLNESS

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures and attempt to make contact with the student's parents.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION

ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides.

Unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy.
Unless enrolling and paying tuition.

New students under the age of 18 must be enrolled by their parents or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:

- A. a birth certificate or similar document
- B. court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate)
- C. proof of residency
- D. proof of immunizations

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The Guidance Department will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the District Liaison Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures. (BOE policy revision)

New students 18 years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

A student suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a

hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has been recently discharged or released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, the student will not be admitted until the following records, which are required to be released by DHS to the Superintendent, have been received:

- A. an updated copy of the student's transcript;
- B. a report of the student's behavior while in DHS custody;
- C. the student's current IEP, if one has been developed for the child; and
- D. a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the Guidance Department. Students may be denied course enrollment due to lack of available space or the need for the student to pass prerequisite courses. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation must be approved by the Guidance Office and the administration. Schedule changes made after the second week of the school year will be recorded as a Withdraw Fail on the student's report card.

Students enrolled in Advanced Placement or Honors Courses may not drop the course after August 1st.

Rule of 6 Guideline:

Students enrolled in the **College Credit Plus (CCP) program** must follow the **Rule of 6** when scheduling their courses. This means students must be enrolled in a minimum of six courses between Swanton High School (SHS) and their college. Additionally, students taking online CCP courses will be scheduled for **one CCP lab period per online course** unless they are full-time CCP students. (See table below)

Below are the specific guidelines for **part-time** and **full-time** CCP students. These guidelines help ensure that students remain on track for graduation while maximizing their educational opportunities through College Credit Plus. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the **Swanton High School counseling office**.

CCP Scheduling Category	Part-Time CCP	Full-Time CCP
Credit Hour Requirement	12 or fewer college credit hours per semester	13 or more college credit hours per semester
Course Enrollment Requirement (Rule of 6)	Must be enrolled in at least 6 total courses between SHS and the college.	No minimum number of courses, as long as the student is enrolled in at least 13 credit hours.
Course Combinations	Any mix of SHS and CCP courses, such as: - 1 CCP Course & 5 SHS Courses - 2 CCP Courses & 4 SHS Courses - 3 CCP Courses & 3 SHS Courses - 4 CCP Courses & 2 SHS Courses	Students are not required to take any SHS courses and will take all classes at the college level.
CCP Lab Period	Required for each online CCP course taken.	Exempt from the CCP lab requirement.
Access to SHS Resources	Retains access to SHS extracurricular activities, academic resources, and support services.	May still participate in extracurriculars but functions primarily as a college student.

These guidelines help ensure that students remain on track for graduation while maximizing their educational opportunities through College Credit Plus. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the **Swanton High School counseling office**.

Compliance with the Rule of 6 and Credit Hour Requirements

Students are expected to comply with the Rule of 6 and applicable credit-hour requirements throughout the semester and school year.

Failure to comply — including but not limited to:

- Dropping or withdrawing from a CCP course(s)
- Failing a CCP course(s) at the midterm
- Falling below the 13-credit-hour minimum for full-time CCP status

Failure to comply may result in the student being **rescheduled back into Swanton High School courses** in accordance with the Swanton High School Rule of 6 Guideline. Schedule adjustments will be made based on course availability and graduation requirements.

It is the student's responsibility to communicate any schedule changes, withdrawals, or academic concerns to the SHS Counseling Office immediately. Failure to communicate changes in a timely manner may limit scheduling options and could impact progress toward graduation.

ADD DROP POLICY

To maintain the integrity of student schedules and ensure a productive learning environment, Swanton High School has established the following **Add/Drop Policy** for high school students:

Add/Drop Window:

Students may request to add or drop a course only during the **first five (5) school days of each semester**.

Request Process:

To initiate an add/drop request, students must:

- Meet with their school counselor to discuss the potential schedule change.
- Obtain and submit a completed Add/Drop Request Form by the **fifth school day** of the semester.
- Secure necessary approvals from the counselor, a parent/guardian, and any teachers impacted by the change.

Important Considerations:

While requests may be submitted within the designated window, **course changes are not guaranteed** and will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- **Course availability** and current class sizes.
- **Prerequisite and course progression requirements.**
- **Impact on graduation requirements** and academic progress.

- **Schedule compatibility** (whether the new course fits within the student's schedule without conflict).

Permanent Records:

Courses dropped within the 5-day window will not appear on the student's transcript. After this period, students will be required to remain in the course unless otherwise determined by administration due to extenuating circumstances.

No Drops After Deadline:

After the five-day period, **no schedule changes will be permitted**, except in rare cases approved by administration (e.g., a schedule error, academic misplacement, or a documented health-related need).

Athletic Eligibility:

Any change in schedule may impact athletic eligibility. Students must consult with the athletic director if they are participating in sports.

EARLY DISMISSAL

No student may leave school prior to dismissal time without a parent or guardian either submitting a signed written request or coming to the School Office personally to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written permission note signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

Students who are 18 years of age or older must still obtain parent/guardian permission and follow all established school sign-out procedures before leaving school during the instructional day.

WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM SCHOOL

No student under the age of 18 is allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents and in compliance with State law. A student who otherwise withdraws from school shall be reported to the juvenile judge of the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if s/he is under the age of 18.

Parents must notify the Principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. School records, including disciplinary records of suspension and expulsion, will be transferred to the new school within 14 days of the parents' notice or request.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Students who start kindergarten during or after the 1999 school year must be immunized against Hepatitis B. Students who start kindergarten during or after the 2006 school year must be immunized against chicken pox. All in-coming 12th grade students are required to be vaccinated against meningococcal (serogroups A, C, W and Y) two dose series. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the School Nurse.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the School in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities. The Emergency Medical Authorization form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each school year.

USE OF MEDICATIONS

Students, who must take prescribed medication during the school day, must comply with the following guidelines:

- A. Parents should determine with the counsel of their child's prescriber, whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.
- B. The appropriate form must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medication.
- C. All medications must be registered with the Principal's Office and must be delivered to school in the original containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.
- D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the Principal's Office by the student's parent or guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request. Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours provided the student has written permission from a parent or physician and has submitted the proper forms. In the case of epinephrine auto injectors ("epi pens"), in addition to written permission and submission of proper forms, the parent or student must provide a back-up dose to the school nurse. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication, epi pens, or inhalers to any other student for their use or possession.

Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance.

If, for supportable reasons, the Principal wishes to discontinue the privilege of a student self-administering a medication, except for the possession and use of asthma inhalers, the parent(s) shall be notified of the decision in sufficient time for an alternative means of administration to be established.

- E. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year
- F. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.
- G. The principal or designee will maintain a log noting the personnel designated to administer medication, as well as the date and the time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the prescriber's written request and the parent's written release.

NON PRESCRIBED (OVER-THE-COUNTER) MEDICATIONS

No staff member will dispense non prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student without prior parent authorization. Parents may authorize administration of a non-prescribed

medication on forms that are available from the Principal's Office. Physician authorization is not required in such cases.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, the student will be brought to the School office while the student's parents are contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of unauthorized medication is in violation of the School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

A student may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is completed and on file in the Principal's Office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The School's professional staff may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific communicable diseases include diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will be limited to the contagious period as specified in the School's administrative guidelines.

CONTROL OF NON CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The School District has an obligation to protect staff and students from non casual-contact communicable diseases. When a non casual-contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The School will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non-casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS, ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV, Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The School District seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

Students may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in situations, including, but not limited to the following:

Engaging in activities with other students in the school environment (e.g., physical education class) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding or exposure to saliva and other body fluids may occur.

Working with equipment in the school environment that can cause cuts or similar injuries that produce bleeding.

Participating in extracurricular activities (i.e., athletic activities) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding may occur.

Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, s/he must immediately notify his/her teacher, who will contact the school nurse and assist the student in completing the requisite documents.

The parents of a student who is exposed will be contacted immediately regarding the exposure and encouraged to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV either by his/her physician or a licensed healthcare provider. The student's parents are encouraged to consult with the student's physician concerning any necessary post-exposure treatment.

The student's parent will also be asked to provide a copy of the test results and any post-exposure treatment for maintenance in the student's educational record in accordance with the Federal and State laws concerning confidentiality.

The parents of the student who caused the exposure will also be contacted immediately and advised to have the student's blood tested for Hepatitis B and HIV virus either in cooperation with his/her physician or licensed healthcare provider.

The student's parents will be asked to provide a copy of the test results for maintenance in the student's educational record in accordance with Federal and State laws concerning confidentiality.

The student's parents will be encouraged to allow the District to release their child's name to the exposed student's parents, in the event serious health issues are presented as a result of the exposure.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- A. Has a medical or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- B. Has a record of such an impairment; or
- C. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEIA), A.D.A. Section 504) and State law. Contact the Guidance Office at 419.826.3045 to inquire about evaluation procedures, programs, and services.

HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency.

Children who meet the Federal definition of "homeless" will be provided a free appropriate public education in the same manner as all other students of the District. To that end, homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and will be assigned to the school serving those non-homeless students residing in the area in which the homeless child is actually living. The District shall establish safeguards that protect homeless students from discrimination on the basis of their homelessness.

Homeless children and youth are defined as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and include those who meet any of the following criteria:

- A. share the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
- B. live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- C. live in emergency or transitional shelters
- D. are abandoned in hospitals
- E. are awaiting for foster care placement
- F. have a primary
- G. night time residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinary used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, or
- H. live in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting

Additionally, pursuant to Federal and State law, migratory children who are living in circumstances described in A-G above are also considered homeless. Homeless preschool-aged children and their

families shall be provided equal access to the educational services for which they are eligible, including preschool programs administered by the School District.

The District shall remove barriers to the enrollment and retention of homeless students in schools in the District. Homeless students shall be enrolled immediately, even if they do not have the necessary enrollment documentation such as immunization and health records, proof of residency or guardianship, birth certificate, school records, and other documentation.

Homeless students will be provided services comparable to other students in the District including:

- A. Transportation services;
- B. Educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I or Elementary of Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency;
- C. Programs in vocational and technical education;
- D. Programs for gifted and talented students; and
- E. School nutrition programs;
- F. Before- and after-school programs

Homeless students have the right to remain in their school of origin of the local attendance area school, according to the child's best interest. The school of origin is the school that the student attended when permanently housed or last enrolled. The local attendance area school is any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the student is actually living are eligible to attend.

Homeless students have the right to dispute their school assignment, if their assignment is other than their school of origin. In determining the best interest of the student, the District shall, to the extent feasible, keep the student in the school of origin, except when doing so is contrary to the wishes of the homeless student's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth. If the student is sent to a school other than the school of origin or a school requested by the parent or guardian, a written explanation, including a statement regarding the right to appeal, will be provided to the homeless student's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth. The Board of Education requires that these rights and the dispute process be communicated to the parent or guardian of the homeless student or unaccompanied youth.

In addition to notifying the parent or guardian of the homeless student or unaccompanied youth of the rights described above, the District shall post public notice of educational rights of children and youth experiencing homelessness in each school. At the request of the parent or guardian, or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the local homeless liaison, transportation shall be provided for a homeless student to and from the school of origin as follows:

- A. If the homeless student continues to live in the School District in which the school of origin is located, transportation will be provided in accordance with District policy/administrative guidelines.
- B. If the homeless student moves to an area served by another district, though continuing his/her education at the school of origin, the district of origin and the district in which the student resides must agree upon a method to apportion responsibility and costs for transportation to the school of origin. If the districts cannot agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs must be shared equally.

The Superintendent will appoint a Liaison for Homeless Children who will perform the duties as assigned by the Superintendent. Additionally, the Liaison will coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth as well as with community and school personnel responsible for the provision of education and related services to homeless children and youths.

The homeless liaison will assist, to the extent feasible, the homeless students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) or unaccompanied homeless students in their efforts to provide documentation to meet State and local requirements for entry into school. All records for homeless students shall be maintained so that they are available in a timely fashion and can be transferred promptly as necessary. No Board policy, administrative procedure, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless children.

For additional information contact the liaison for Homeless Students at 419.826.3045. (BOE policy revision)

PROTECTION AND PRIVACY OF STUDENT RECORDS

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Directory information includes: a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received; honor rolls; or scholarships.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may consult the Board's annual Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) notice which can be found on the district web site.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by FERPA and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age. The Board will provide access or release directory information to armed forces recruiters unless the parent or student requests that prior written consent be obtained. See Form 8330 F13.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the Guidance Office. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student's privacy. A parent

or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of his/her right to a hearing on the matter.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family
- C. behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation. Please contact the Guidance Office to inspect such materials.

Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the principal.

The Superintendent will notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- B. the administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605
Washington, D.C.
www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:

FERPA@ED.Gov; and
PPRA@ED.Gov; STUDENT FEES AND FINES

Students will be provided necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State law, Swanton Local Schools charges specific fees for activities and materials used in the course of instruction.

Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment.

Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship.

Students can avoid late fines by promptly returning borrowed materials.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades and credits.

STUDENT FUNDRAISING

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fundraisers:

- Students involved in the fundraiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
- Students may not participate in a fundraising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the administration.
- Students may not participate in fundraising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
- Students should not engage in house-to-house canvassing for any fund-raising activity.
- Students may not participate in a fundraising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the Principal.

Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the Principal. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

STUDENT VALUABLES

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School is not liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables.

MEAL SERVICE

The School participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee. Ala carte items are available. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to

be eaten in the School's cafeteria. No student may leave school premises during the lunch period without specific written permission from the Principal.

Applications for the School's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program are distributed to all students. If a student does not receive an application form and believes s/he is eligible, contact the Director of Food Services.

A lunch may be charged if a student forgets or loses lunch money. This charge is to be paid as soon as possible and should not accumulate. Charging may be denied the last two weeks of school.

Students may not accumulate more than ten days of charges. On the eleventh day, an emergency meal will be given.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- A. All visitors must report to the office when they arrive at school. Proper ID will be required.
- B. All visitors are given and required to wear a building pass while they are in the building.
- C. Staff are expected to question people in the building whom they do not recognize and who are not wearing a building pass, and to question people who are "hanging around" the building after hours.
- D. Students and staff are expected to immediately report to a teacher or administrator any suspicious behavior or situation that makes them uncomfortable.
- E. All outside doors are locked during the school day.
- F. Portions of the building that will not be needed after the regular school days are closed off.

FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS

The School complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. The School conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety drills will be conducted at least three times per school year. Teachers will provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property, or other acts of violence

EMERGENCY CLOSING AND DELAYS

If the School must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the School will notify local radio and television stations:

Parents will be notified of school closings or delays via a pre-recorded telephone message delivered to the phone number on file.

Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction.

VISITORS

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. Visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without signing in a pass shall be reported to the Principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the school in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.

Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

USE OF THE LIBRARY

The library is available to students throughout the school day. Passes may be obtained from a student's teacher or from the librarian. Books may be checked out for a period of three weeks. To check out any other materials, contact the librarian.

In order to avoid late fees, all materials checked out of the library must be returned. Students may check out up to three items.

USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom. Students must seek permission from the Principal prior to using any other school equipment or facility. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

LOST AND FOUND

The lost and found area is in the High School Office. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of the school year.

USE OF OFFICE TELEPHONES

Office telephones may not be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call.

Telephones are available in the school for students to use when they are not in class. Students are not to use telephones to call parents to receive permission to leave school. Office personnel will initiate all calls on behalf of a student seeking permission to leave school.

ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the Principal. The Principal will attempt to respond to a request for approval within 1 school day of its receipt

The School has a central bulletin board located in the main hallway that may be used for posting notices after receiving permission from the Principal.

SECTION II – ACADEMICS

SWANTON VIRTUAL ACADEMY

The following rules apply to students planning to enroll in Swanton Virtual Academy.

Online course prerequisites

- Participants will be limited to 11th and 12th grade students
- If there are additional seats, 9th and 10th may enroll with principal permission

Traditional coursework may not be substituted for online replacements (e.g., Algebra I is taught at Swanton High School, students will not be permitted to take that course online). This requirement may be waived by the principal due to unique circumstances

Before taking an online course, students must complete or be enrolled in these core classes with an SHS teacher:

- 5 English
- 4 Math
- 3 Science
- 4 Social Studies
- .5 PE
- .5 Health
- 1 Foreign Language (students may take additional foreign languages, but they will count as elective credit)

Any additional courses outside this core may be taken online.

All courses must be completed by the end of the semester in which students are enrolled— again exceptions may be made by the principal due to unique circumstances.

STUDY HALL

Study halls are scheduled for the purpose of quietly completing homework, quietly studying school-related material, quietly preparing for tests, or other academic purposes. The following rules apply to all study halls in addition to other classroom rules defined by the study hall monitor:

- Students should report to study hall prepared and on-time when the bell rings.
- Hall/restroom passes are permitted at the discretion of the study hall monitor.
- Students who obtain permission to leave study hall must first sign-out before they depart and sign back in when they return. Smart passes must be created in order for a student to sign out of study hall.
- No talking is allowed without permission of the study hall monitor
- No eating/drinking without the permission of the study hall monitor.

- Technology use should be for an educational purpose.
- Students may be permitted to listen to music using their own headphones as long as the volume isn't able to be heard from elsewhere in the classroom, and the student is making productive use of their time during study hall.
- Headphones, music, restroom use, travel, or any other privilege may be revoked or limited by the study hall monitor at any time if the student is not making productive use of their time, or if they're disrupting others.

CREDIT RECOVERY

The Credit Recovery Lab is a computer aided instructional program within Swanton High School that has been developed to permit students to retake core minimum graduation courses in a timely and flexible manner to meet their specific needs. The purpose of credit recovery is to provide an opportunity for each student who failed a course to accelerate and complete courses equivalent to the high school curriculum. Lab students are required to follow the School District Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the Student Handbook.

- The Credit Recovery Lab is a computer aided instructional program that offers curriculum aligned to Swanton School's Academic Content Standards for high school. Lab students are expected to complete each course they are assigned within the semester it is assigned. Lab students are required to follow the School District Student Code of Conduct as well as rules specific to the Credit Recovery Lab.
- Computer work is done in class and offline/bookwork is to be done at home. Each student will work at his/her own pace and is expected to finish the assigned course before the end of the semester. When the course is completed, the student will meet with the counselor to complete a schedule change.
- There is limited space in the Credit Recovery Lab. Assignment to the lab is a privilege. Any student, who does not work during class time, has poor attendance or disruptive behavior will be removed from the program. Any student dropped from the program will NOT receive credit for the course in which he/she was enrolled.
- Taking this course is not a guarantee that credit will be awarded. All elements of the course must be passed with proficiency as determined by the administrator/teacher of the course. If this course is taken the second semester of the senior year, participation in commencement exercise is not guaranteed. Specific issues must be addressed with administration.
- SHS will only be offering on-site access to our credit recovery system to the following students:
 1. Seniors & Juniors (Priority)
 2. Penta Career Center applicants
 3. Special Needs Students
 4. Move-in students with credit issues
- Students who need credit recovery who do not fit any of the descriptions listed above may still make up credits in the system; however, this will only be permitted in the summer if offered for a fee or off campus during the school year. See the school counselor for a list of providers.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the School's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the

office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips.

Attendance rules apply to all field trips. Also, students in poor academic standing may be excluded from attending field trips.

While the District encourages students to participate in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission for the student to attend.

Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips.

GRADES

Swanton High School has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that indicate work in progress or incomplete work. Grades indicate the extent to which the student has acquired and demonstrated the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas when determining a grade and will inform the students at the beginning of the course. If a student is not sure how his/her grade will be determined, s/he should ask the teacher.

Grading

Grading Scale

93-100	A	76-73	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	<60	F

QUARTER GRADING

Quarter grades will be calculated with percentages. Quarter grades each make up 40% of the overall semester grade.

All quarter grades $\geq .5\%$ points below a grade break will be rounded up to the next highest grade. All grades $\leq .5\%$ points at a grade break will be rounded down.

Example: 89.5% = 90% A- 89.49% = 89% B+

SEMESTER GRADING

Semester grades will determine cumulative grade point averages and credit. A student will receive .5 credits for the successful completion of one semester of work.

$$\frac{1st\ 9\ Weeks}{40\%} + \frac{2nd\ 9\ Weeks}{40\%} + \frac{Semester\ Exam}{20\%} = \frac{Semester\ Grade}{= 100\%}$$

Semester grades will be calculated by converting quarter and exam percentage grades using the 4.0 scale below:

Regular Conversion

(93-100) → 4.0 → A
(90-92) → 3.7 → A-
(87-89) → 3.3 → B+
(83-86) → 3.0 → B

Honors/AP Grading Conversion

(93-100) → 5.0 → A
(90-92) → 4.7 → A-
(87-89) → 4.3 → B+
(83-86) → 4.0 → B

(80-82) → 2.7 → B-
 (77-79) → 2.3 → C+
 (73-76) → 2.0 → C
 (70-72) → 1.7 → C-
 (67-69) → 1.3 → D+
 (63-66) → 1.0 → D
 (60-62) → 0.7 → D-
 (<60) → F

(80-82) → 3.7 → B-
 (77-79) → 3.3 → C+
 (73-76) → 3.0 → C
 (70-72) → 2.7 → C-
 (67-69) → 2.3 → D+
 (63-66) → 2.0 → D
 (60-62) → 1.7 → D-
 (<60) → F

Semester grades are calculated in the following manner:

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \underline{1st\ 9\ Weeks} & + & \underline{2nd\ 9\ Weeks} & + & \underline{Semester\ Exam} & = & \underline{Semester\ Grade} \\ 60\% \ (x40\%) & & 75\% \ (x40\%) & & 90\%x(20\%) & = & 72\% \rightarrow 2.0\ C- \end{array}$$

Exam Exemption Policy

Swanton High School values academic growth and recognizes student achievement on Ohio State Tests as part of our commitment to college and career readiness. To encourage high performance and recognize individual progress, the following **Exam Exemption Policy** will be in effect:

First Semester Exams:

All students are required to take **end-of-course exams** during **Semester One**. No exemptions will be granted.

Second Semester Exam Exemption Eligibility:

Students may be eligible to be **exempt from second semester final exams** if they meet the following criteria:

- The student **meets or exceeds their individualized performance expectation** on the **Ohio State Tests (OST)** as determined by the Swanton High School administrative team and district data guidelines.
- The exemption will apply **only to the course(s)** directly associated with the state test(s) in which expectations were met.
- Exemptions apply **only during the second semester** of the current school year.

Key Guidelines:

- **This is the only pathway to exam exemption at Swanton High School.** Exemptions based on grades, attendance, or other factors will not be considered.
- Students will be **notified by administration, their counselor, or their teacher** if they qualify for an exemption after state test results are verified.
- Exemptions are course-specific and do not apply universally to all classes.
- Exempt students **may still choose to take the exam** to improve their final course grade.

Important Notes:

- Students who do not meet their individualized state testing benchmark will be **required to take all second semester exams.**
- This policy is subject to **revision based on Ohio Department of Education changes** to state assessments or accountability measures.

Grading Periods

Freshmen will receive a report card at the end of the first 9 week period indicating their grades for each course of study for that portion of the academic term. After the first 9 week period of the freshmen year, no other report cards will be mailed unless you call to request a paper copy.

When a student appears to be at risk of failure, reasonable efforts will be made to notify the parents so they can talk with the teacher about what actions can be taken to improve poor grades.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Regular Diploma

Normally, students will complete graduation requirements in four (4) years. In order to receive a diploma and graduate, a student must pass all assessment tests required by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for graduation, meet the school requirements for basic course-work, and earn the total number of minimum credits. For students enrolled in special education, the criteria for graduation and the extent of participation in the State-mandated assessment tests will be determined by their IEP team.

Specific course requirements required for graduation:

English	5 units	Social Studies	4 units
Mathematics	4 units	Science	3 units
Health & P.E.	1 unit	Fine Arts/Foreign Lang.	1 units
Electives	5 units	Financial Literacy	0.5 units

Students who attend Penta Career Center must complete the specific requirements in their vocational areas. The Swanton Local Board of Education has agreed to waive one unit of Social Studies, and the Fine Arts/Foreign Language for those students who attend Penta Career Center. Students must meet all other requirements as set forth by the Board of Education, the Ohio Department of Education, and Penta. Twenty-three (23) units of credit will be required of Penta students to graduate from Swanton High School.

***Physical Education (P.E.) Waiver**

The physical education waiver policy allows high school students to be excused from taking physical education as a graduation requirement per Ohio Revised Code [3313.603](#).

The board of education of each school district and the governing authority of each chartered nonpublic school may adopt a policy to excuse from the high school physical education requirement each student who, during high school, has participated in interscholastic athletics, marching band, show choir or cheerleading for at least two full seasons or an approved Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program for two years. If the board or authority adopts such a policy, the board or authority shall not require the student to complete any Physical Education course as a condition to graduate. However, the student shall be required to complete one-half unit, consisting of at least 60 hours of instruction, in another course of stu

Swanton High School Education (PE) Waiver Submission Process

Students wishing to earn a Physical Education (PE) Waiver must follow the process outlined below:

1. Declaration of Intent

- Students must declare their intent to pursue a PE Waiver by the start of their freshman year of high school. The student must declare their intent for the PE waiver on their course scheduling sheet, and complete the required paperwork.
- This intent is due before the first school day of the freshman year.

2. Eligibility Requirements

- The PE Waiver is invalid if the student has already earned PE credit through previous coursework.
- Students must complete two (2) qualifying activities to be eligible for the waiver.

3. Participation & Verification

- Each activity must be completed under the supervision of a qualified instructor or coach.
- The supervising instructor/coach must verify participation by signing the PE Waiver form.

4. Obtaining Forms

- PE Waiver forms are available in the Attendance Office.

5. Submission Timeline

- A completed PE Waiver form must be submitted to the School Counseling Office at the end of each semester in which an activity is completed.

6. Final Approval

- Both completed and verified activities must be on file with the School Counseling Office in order for the PE Waiver to be granted.

- Incomplete, unsigned, or late submissions may delay or prevent approval.

HONORS DIPLOMA

High school students can gain state recognition for exceeding Ohio’s graduation requirements through an Academic Honors Diploma. High-level coursework, college and career readiness tests and real-world experiences challenge students.

Students must meet all but one of the following criteria. Each of these criteria go beyond the standard requirements for a diploma for the classes of 2023 and beyond. Students must meet general graduation requirements and complete the requirements outlined below to qualify for honors diplomas. Students may replace one requirement of either 4, 5 or 6 with a “Student Strength Demonstration.” The previous requirements to earn an honors diploma are also available for students in the classes of 2023-2025. The Honors Diploma form must be turned in before the start of second semester. The Honors Diploma form can be found in the Guidance Office.

ACADEMIC HONORS DIPLOMA

Requirements	State Minimum
1 Math	Fourth math must be > Algebra 2
2 Science	One additional unit Advanced Science
3 Social Studies	One additional unit Social Studies
4 World Languages	Three sequential units of one world language, or no less than 2 sequential units of two world languages studied
5 GPA	3.5 on a 4.0 scale
6 ACT/SAT	ACT: Score of 27 or higher, SAT: Score of 1280 or higher
7 Seal Requirement	Earn two additional diploma seals, not including Honors Diploma Seal
8 Experiential Learning	Field Experience & Portfolio, OhioMeansJobs Readiness Seal*, or Work-Based Learning

*Students can use OMJ Readiness Seal in 2 additional seal requirements if it is not used in Experiential Learning.

Student Strength Demonstration Replacement

Students can use the Student Strength Demonstration to replace one of either the **ACT/SAT, GPA or World Language** requirements for any Honors Diploma. The Student Strength Demonstration options are listed below. The same options exist for each of the six honors diplomas* but, where relevant, should reflect coursework or experiences relevant to the theme of the Diploma. For example, a student earning the Academic Honors Diploma and using the College Credit Plus option to replace another requirement for the diploma should have College Credit Plus courses relevant to the Academic Honors diploma.

Options:

College Credit Plus: 12 total College Credit Plus credit hours

Advanced Placement: three courses with score of 3 or higher on AP tests

Career-Technical Assurance Guide (CTAG): Eligible to earn 12 total articulated credits

Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship: Completion or Evidence of Acceptance if required to be older than 18

WorkKeys: Score of 6 or higher on all tests (*void for Career-Tech Honors Diploma)

Armed Services Vocational Battery: Score of 50 or above on the ASVAB

Work-Based Learning: 250 total hours of work-based learning

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The purpose of this award is to recognize academic success in the classroom. To be eligible for the President's Award of Excellence a student must meet the following criteria:

1. Students are to earn a grade point average of 90 on a 100 point scale (an A- on a letter scale or a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale) through the fall semester of the existing grade.
2. High achievement in reading or mathematics on state tests or nationally-normed tests. The school may consider college admissions examinations for seniors, for example an ACT score of 28 or higher.

EARLY GRADUATION POLICY

Swanton High School recognizes that in rare and exceptional circumstances, a student may meet all graduation requirements ahead of schedule. However, to maintain consistency with district expectations and ensure students have a full and enriching high school experience, the following **Early Graduation Policy** is in place:

1. Eligibility Window:

- Students will **not be permitted to graduate prior to the second semester of their senior year.**
- **Early graduation requests may not be submitted until October of the student's junior year.**

2. Requirements for Consideration:

To be considered for early graduation (end of first semester, senior year), students must:

- **Complete all graduation requirements** as set forth by the **State of Ohio and Swanton Local School District**.
- Have earned all required credits toward graduation, including specific course requirements outlined by the State of Ohio and Swanton Local Schools.
- Be on track for successful completion of all required state testing or alternative graduation pathways.
- Submit a formal Early Graduation Request Form with parent/guardian signature to the high school counseling office.

3. Approval Process:

- The request must be reviewed and approved by the **high school principal, counselor, and superintendent**.
- Approval is **not guaranteed** and is based on academic progress, readiness, and post-graduation planning.
- Final approval is granted by the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

4. Important Notes:

- Students approved for early graduation are **no longer eligible to participate in extracurricular activities** after their official graduation date.
- Early graduates are still welcome to participate in the formal graduation ceremony held at the end of the academic year.

This policy supersedes any previous verbal or informal policies related to early graduation.

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Swanton High School provides alternative means by which a student can achieve the goals of the District, as well as his/her personal educational goals.

A list of the approved Educational Options is available in the Guidance Office.

In order to participate in an Educational Option, the student must first submit an application for approval by the principal. Students under the age of 18 may only participate with the written consent of their parent or guardian. Applications are available in the Guidance Office. Credit will be granted upon the successful completion of an approved program and will be placed on the student's transcript.

Student performance shall be evaluated as either pass or fail, or by awarding letter grades.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS POLICY

College Credit Plus (CCP) provides full-time enrolled students in grades 7-12 the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit before graduation. It is essential that students and parents/guardians educate themselves on the pros and cons of the program and understand the steps that must be taken to qualify and participate. This page outlines many of the policies and procedures related to CCP, but does not cover everything. Visit the Ohio Department of Education website to learn more.

Program Eligibility: Students must meet ALL criteria in order to participate in CCP. Failure to meet any of the below criteria will disqualify a student from participation in CCP for the following academic school year. The deadlines and expectations outlined are non-negotiable and exceptions will not be made for students who fail to comply. Students who are disqualified from participation may re-qualify the following year.

1. Must be a full-time enrolled student in grades 7-12 of Swanton Local School District. Full-time enrollment is met through participation in a minimum of 13 credit hours of coursework.
2. Must attend a MANDATORY meeting with a parent/guardian each year prior to the year of participation. This will constitute the counseling session Swanton High School is required by law to provide.
3. Must apply to and be accepted by a participating institution of higher education (IHE).
4. Must submit a signed "CCP Intent to Participate" by April 1 of each year prior to the year of participation.
5. Must complete all enrollment requirements of the IHE and have a completed college schedule submitted to the high school by the following deadlines: **May 1 for Summer Term / August 1st for Fall term / December 1 for Spring Term)**

Participation in Courses: Qualified students are eligible to take any courses for which they meet the eligibility criteria for. Students may take courses from one or multiple IHE's. Students may earn a maximum of 30 college credits per academic year and will be limited in the amount of college approved based upon the amount of high school courses they are also enrolled in. Students may take courses through a variety of means including taking courses on the college campus, online or at the high school by an approved high school instructor.

Refer to Rule of 6

Partnering Institutions of Higher Education (IHE): Swanton Local School District maintains active partnerships with Owens Community College, The University of Toledo, Bowling Green State University, Lourdes University and Northwest State Community College.

Awarding of Credit and Grades: Students may be awarded credit based on one of two options. Students will be awarded high school credit upon successful completion of the college coursework and will be awarded the letter grade assigned by the IHE. Grades and credit will be listed on the high school transcript and factored into the high school GPA and class rank.

- Option A: Student elects to receive college and/or high school credit and is financially responsible for the cost of college coursework.
- Option B: Student elects to receive both high school and college credit and the school district will cover the cost of college coursework.

Costs: Students participating in Option B at a public IHE will have no personal costs associated with participation in college coursework. Students choosing to participate with a private IHE may be assessed a portion of the cost of college coursework. Students participating under Option A will be held responsible for all financial costs associated with their participation.

Failures and Dropping Courses: Students who fail or drop a CCP course beyond the allowed drop date will be held financially responsible for the full cost of the course. Failure or dropping late will negatively impact a student's high school academic standing and can potentially negatively impact their future college academic standing. Students will be prohibited from walking through graduation ceremonies and receiving their diploma until all costs due to the school have been paid in full. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch cannot be held financially responsible for the cost of a failed or dropped course.

Probation and Dismissal: Students who demonstrate low achievement by earning a college GPA of less than 2.0 or by failing/late withdrawing from two or more courses in a given term will be placed on probation and will participate in CCP with restrictions. Continued low achievement will result in dismissal from the CCP program. Any student on probation or dismissal will have an opportunity to reinstate their participation.

Transportation: Students are responsible for transporting themselves to and from any college courses taken off of school grounds. Students are responsible for any costs associated with parking passes or fees.

Support Services: As a participant in CCP, students are considered to be a student of the IHE and thus have access to all support services available to the student. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these services including academic tutoring, campus libraries, computer labs, career services, transfer coordinators, etc. Students taking college courses not offered by an SHS teacher are PROHIBITED from asking SHS staff for assistance with their college coursework and are required to utilize their professors and support services for assistance.

Scheduling: When scheduling CCP courses, students should refer to the SHS Rule of 6 policy. Students are responsible for working with their advisor assigned by the IHE to schedule their college courses. School counselors are able to provide limited assistance to students in choosing courses, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to ensure the courses they choose meet high school graduation requirements, college degree requirements and are transferable. Students can refer to the IHE's pathways listed in our course planning guide to assist with this process. Upon completion of the college schedule, SHS staff will work with students to align their high school schedule accordingly. There is no guarantee that schedules between the college and high school will coordinate. Schedules must be completed and submitted to the school counselors for Summer Term by May 1st, Fall Term by August 1st, and Spring Term by December 1st.

CCP Advantages: Participation in CCP can benefit students in several ways:

1. A student can take courses at Swanton High School and receive both high school and college credits.
2. A student can receive college credits free of charge.

CCP Potential Risks: These are some possible risks/disadvantages to participating in CCP:

- College level courses may be more difficult than high school level courses.
- A student's grades in college courses could affect the student's high school grade point average and class ranking, which could also affect eligibility for Federal Student Aid and scholarship opportunities.
- If a student fails or withdraws from a college course, it may affect the credits a student needs to graduate from high school.
- If a student fails, withdraws from, or does not attend a course, the student and/or parent(s) may become responsible for the costs of the course.
- Low or failing grades can affect athletic eligibility.

Any students enrolled in CCP courses must provide the school with their current grades at the end of each quarter in order to be eligible for the honor roll. Students who do not provide current grades will not be included in the current quarter honor roll.

Point of Contact: Questions regarding the CCP program should be directed to the school counselors, Shannon Cargill (last names A-M) or Bethany Lopez (last names N-Z).

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Students who display significant achievements during the course of the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include, but are not limited to, academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship, and volunteerism. Recognition for such activities is initiated by the staff and coordinated by the School Counselor.

Honor Roll(s)

Academic honor rolls are compiled at the end of each nine-week grading period.

To be eligible for the merit roll, a student must have a 3.25 GPA and have grades no lower than a "C" in any course. To qualify for the honor roll students must receive a 3.5 or higher and have no grades lower than a "C" in any course.

Swanton students who make the honor roll consistently will be awarded the following:

- Honor Roll for 7 quarters..... Academic letter (~~Sophomores & Juniors only~~)
- Honor Roll for 10 quarters.... Pin to go with above
- Honor Roll for 13 quarters.... Silver Certificate
- Honor Roll for 15 quarters.... Silver Medal

Any students enrolled in CCP courses must provide the school with their current grades at the end of each quarter in order to be eligible for the honor roll. Students who do not provide current grades will not be included in the current quarter honor roll.

Athletic Awards

Requirements for athletic awards are developed by each head coach with the approval of the Athletic Director. Student athletes interested in such awards should consult with the appropriate coach

ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

SWANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board of Education is committed to the effective use of technology to both enhance the quality of student learning and the efficiency of operations within the school system.

However, the use of the District's network and technology resources by students is a privilege, not a right. As a prerequisite, students and their parents must sign and submit a *Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety* form annually. (See also, Policy 7540.03)

Further safeguards shall be established so that the Board's investment in both hardware and software achieves the benefits of technology and inhibits negative side effects. Accordingly, students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior including, but not limited to, using social media to interact with others online; interacting with other individuals in chat rooms or on blogs; and, recognizing what constitutes cyberbullying, understanding cyberbullying is a violation of District policy, and learning appropriate responses if they are victims of cyberbullying.

Social media shall be defined as internet-based applications (such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, et cetera) that turn communication into interactive dialogue between users. The Board authorizes the instructional staff to access social media from the District's network, provided such access has an educational purpose for which the instructional staff member has the prior approval of the Principal.

However, personal access and use of social media, blogs, or chat rooms from the District's network is expressly prohibited and shall subject students to discipline in accordance with Board policy.

The Board authorizes the access and use of social media from the District's network to increase awareness of District programs and activities, as well as to promote achievements of staff and students, provided such access and use is approved in advance by the Superintendent.

The Swanton School District is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the world-wide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

In order for the School District to be able to continue to make its computer network and Internet access available, all students must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access. Students must understand that one student's misuse of the network and Internet access may jeopardize the ability of all students to enjoy such access. While the School's teachers and other Staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise student use of network and Internet access, they must have student cooperation in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

Below is the Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy ("Policy") of the School District and the Data Acquisition Site that provides Internet access to the School District. Upon reviewing, signing, and returning this Policy as the students have been directed, each student will be given the opportunity to enjoy Internet access at School and is agreeing to follow the Policy. If a student is under 18 years of age, he or she must have his or her parents or guardians read and sign the Policy. The School District cannot provide access to any student who, if 18 or older, fails to sign and submit the Policy to the School as directed or, if under 18, does not return the Policy as directed with the signatures of the student and his/her parents or guardians.

Listed below are the provisions of your agreement regarding computer network and Internet use. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact the person that your School has designated as the one to whom you can direct your questions. If any user violates this Policy, the student's access will be denied, if not already provided, or withdrawn and he or she may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

By signing this Policy, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this Policy, but are agreeing to report any misuse of the network to the person designated by the School for such reporting. Misuse means any violations of this Policy or any other use that is not included in the Policy, but has the effect of harming another or his or her property.

II. TERM OF THE PERMITTED USE

A student who submits to the School, as directed, a properly signed Policy and follows the Policy to which she or he has agreed will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the school year only. Students will be asked to sign a new Policy each year during which they are students in the School District before they are given an access account.

III. ACCEPTABLE USES

- A. Educational Purposes Only. The School District is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for only educational purposes. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, you may consult with the person(s) designated by the School to help you decide if a use is appropriate.
- B. Unacceptable Uses of Network. Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of this Policy are the following.
 - 1. uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Don't transmit offensive or harassing messages; offer for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by the School District's Student Discipline Policy; view, transmit or download pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; intrude into the networks or computers of others; and download or transmit confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on the networks are not marked with the copyright symbol, you should assume that all

materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them.

2. uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. For example, don't engage in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies); employ another's password or some other user identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone other than you is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet; upload a worm, virus, "trojan horse," "time bomb" or other harmful form of programming or vandalism; participate in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access to other computers, networks, or information systems.
3. uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet. For example, don't disclose or share your password with others; don't impersonate another user; don't connect wireless devices to the computer network or attempt to intercept wireless communications.
4. uses that are commercial transactions. Students and other users may not sell or buy anything over the Internet. You should not give others private information about you or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers.

C. Netiquette. All users must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include the following:

1. Be polite. Use appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or threatening language.
2. Avoid language and uses which may be offensive to other users. Don't use access to make, distribute, or redistribute jokes, stories, or other material which is based upon slurs or stereotypes relating to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation.
3. Don't assume that a sender of email is giving his or her permission for you to forward or redistribute the message to third parties or to give his/her email address to third parties. This should only be done with permission or when you know that the individual would have no objection.
4. Be considerate when sending attachments with email (where this is permitted). Be sure that the file is not too large to be accommodated by the recipient's system and is in a format which the recipient can open.

IV. INTERNET SAFETY

- A. General Warning; Individual Responsibility of Parents and Users. All users and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every user must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites. Parents of minors are the best guide to materials to shun. If a student finds that other users are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the person designated by the School.

- B. **Personal Safety.** Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address or telephone number. Do not use your real last name or any other information which might allow a person to locate you without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Do not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone you “meet” on the computer network or Internet without your parent’s permission (if you are under 18). Regardless of your age, you should never agree to meet a person you have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.
- C. **“Hacking” and Other Illegal Activities.** It is a violation of this Policy to use the School’s computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access. Any use which violates state or federal law relating to copyright, trade secrets, the distribution of obscene or pornographic materials, or which violates any other applicable law or municipal ordinance, is strictly prohibited.
- D. **Confidentiality of Student Information.** Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a parent or guardian or, if the student is 18 or over, the permission of the student himself/herself. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet, particularly credit card numbers and Social Security numbers. A supervising teacher or administrator may authorize the release of directory information, as defined by Ohio law, for internal administrative purposes or approved educational projects and activities.
- E. **Active Restriction Measures.** The School, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. The School will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material which is inappropriate for minors.

Internet filtering software or other technology-based protection systems may be disabled by a supervising teacher or school administrator, as necessary, for purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects being conducted by students age 17 and older.

The term “harmful to minors” is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h][7]), as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that

- taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals;
- taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

V. PRIVACY

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for your education. The School District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the School District and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

VI. FAILURE TO FOLLOW POLICY

The user's use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates this Policy, shall at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, which the School District may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the student's enrollment in the School District. A user violates this Policy by his or her own action or by failing to report any violations by other users that come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates this Policy if he or she permits another to use his or her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The School District may also take other disciplinary action in such circumstances.

VII. WARRANTIES/INDEMNIFICATION

The School District makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this Policy. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered, directly or indirectly, by any user or his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of its computer networks or the Internet under this Policy. By signing this Policy, users are taking full responsibility for his or her use, and the user who is 18 or older or, in the case of a user under 18, the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to indemnify and hold the School, the School District, the Data Acquisition Site that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the School District and all of their administrators, teachers, and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user. The user or, if the user is a minor, the user's parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to cooperate with the School in the event of the School's initiating an investigation of a user's use of his or her access to its computer network and the Internet, whether that use is on a School computer or on another computer outside the School District's network.

VIII. UPDATES

Users, and if appropriate, the user's parents/guardians, may be asked from time to time to provide new or additional registration and account information or to sign a new Policy, for example, to reflect developments in the law or technology. Such information must be provided by the user (or his/her parents or guardian) or such new Policy must be signed if the user wishes to continue to receive service. If after you have provided your account information, some or all of the information changes, you must notify the person designated by the School to receive such information.

CHROMEBOOK POLICY

The parents of students in grade 9-12 must agree to the \$25.00 Insurance Protection Fund payment and the information concerning the arrangements for the use, by their child, of a

Chromebook for the duration of the loan agreement. Parents must accept the terms and conditions of the addendum to the district's Acceptable Use Policy (7540.03): <http://www.swantonschools.org/ipf>

TRANSMISSION OF RECORDS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Parents/Guardians have to complete and return to the District Form 8330 F4a in order to authorize the staff to communicate with the parent/guardian via facsimile and/or electronic mail ("e-mail"). Parents who elect to communicate with a staff member via e-mail are required to keep the District informed of any changes to their email address.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Unless exempted, each student must pass all portions of the State-mandated assessment test as a requirement for graduation. The test will be administered twice a year until the student passes all parts of the test. Students are only required to retake those parts of the test they have not yet passed. While the School District does schedule make-up dates for testing, students should avoid unnecessary absences.

Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests are given to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess student achievement on specific objectives.

Vocational and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interests or talent. These are often given by the guidance staff. College entrance testing information can be obtained from the Guidance Office.

SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Swanton High School provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be taken for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter.

Extra-curricular activities do not reflect the school curriculum, but are made available to students to allow them to pursue additional worthwhile activities such as recreational sports, drama, and the like.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05.

NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Non school-sponsored student groups may meet in the school building during non- instructional hours. The application for permission to use school facilities can be obtained from the Principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities, and that non-school persons do not play a regular role in the meeting. All school rules relating to student conduct and equal opportunity to participate apply to such activities.

Membership in any fraternity, sorority, or other secret society as prescribed by law is not permitted. All groups must comply with School rules and must provide equal opportunity to participate.

No non district-sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot on any materials or information.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

It is recommended that students not take jobs outside of school that could interfere with their success in school. If a student elects to maintain a job in addition to going to school, s/he must pick-up a work permit in the guidance office and upon completion return it to the board of education.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Students are encouraged to attend as many after school events as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students participating in the event.

It is strongly advised that students attending evening events as nonparticipants be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone. The Board is not responsible for supervising unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT

School Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is an essential component of student success at all grade levels. Research consistently demonstrates a strong connection between regular attendance and academic achievement. Students who attend school consistently experience fewer interruptions to their learning, spend less time completing make-up work, and benefit from valuable classroom instruction, discussion, collaboration, and participation that cannot be replicated through independent study.

Developing strong attendance habits also prepares students for future success in the workplace. Dependability, punctuality, and regular attendance are qualities highly valued by

employers and are critical components of a strong work ethic. Swanton High School is committed to helping students develop these habits and understand their importance both in school and beyond graduation.

All students are expected to maintain regular attendance and arrive at school on time each day.

Students are expected to maintain a full academic schedule throughout their high school career.

Students in grades 9-11 must be enrolled in and attend seven (7) classes each school day.

Seniors who are on track for graduation may be eligible to flex out after 6th period. Eligibility for senior flex scheduling is determined by the administration and may be based on academic standing, attendance, behavior, credit completion, and graduation status. Seniors who do not qualify for or maintain eligibility for flex scheduling will be required to attend seven (7) classes.

Any variation from a student's assigned schedule, including but not limited to College Credit Plus (CCP), internships, job shadowing, community service, work-based learning, or other educational opportunities, must receive prior administrative approval.

Participation in senior flex scheduling is a privilege and may be revoked if a student fails to maintain academic, attendance, behavioral, or graduation requirements.

School Tardiness Policy

Excessive tardiness disrupts the educational environment and negatively impacts student learning. Students are expected to arrive at school and each class on time.

Unless approved by the Principal or designee due to extraordinary circumstances, all tardiness will be considered unexcused.

First Period Tardiness

Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. must report directly to the attendance office to sign in before proceeding to class.

The following consequences will apply each semester:

- First Unexcused Tardy: Warning
- Second through Fifth Unexcused Tardy: Lunch detention served during study hall
- Sixth Unexcused Tardy: One-hour after-school detention
- Seventh and Subsequent Unexcused Tardies: Progressive discipline as determined by administration

Students who fail to serve an assigned lunch detention will be assigned a one-hour after-school detention.

Tardiness to Classes During the School Day

Students arriving late to any class after first period will be admitted to class and marked tardy by the teacher.

After two (2) tardies in the same class, a teacher may refer the student to the office for disciplinary action. Consequences may include detention, after-school detention, and other disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate by the administration.

Early Dismissal and Sign-Out Procedures

Students who need to leave school during the instructional day must sign out through the attendance office and follow all established school procedures.

Students who are 18 years of age or older must still obtain permission from a parent/guardian and follow all established school sign-out procedures before leaving school during the instructional day.

This requirement is intended to promote student safety, maintain accountability, ensure accurate attendance reporting, and keep parents/guardians informed of their child's whereabouts during scheduled school hours. While students who have reached the age of majority possess many adult rights, all students enrolled at Swanton High School remain subject to District attendance, supervision, and safety procedures during the school day.

Failure to follow established sign-out procedures may result in disciplinary consequences and may be considered an unexcused absence or truancy violation.

Attendance at School Events and Activities

Participation in extracurricular activities, dances, athletic contests, assemblies, and other school-sponsored events is a privilege.

Students are expected to demonstrate a commitment to their education through regular attendance, positive behavior, and satisfactory academic performance.

Students who are truant, have excessive attendance concerns, demonstrate significant disciplinary issues, or are failing multiple classes may be denied admission to or participation in school-sponsored activities and events at the discretion of the administration.

The administration reserves the right to determine eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities, special events, and school functions based on attendance, behavior, and academic standing.

FULTON COUNTY UNIFORM TRUANCY PROCEDURES

Serving Fulton County Schools and Wauseon Exempted Village School

The Statutes governing School Attendance are very specific and leave little option for School Authorities to excuse children from school. Parent notes/phone calls will be accepted to excuse up to 30 hours of absence per semester. A medical statement from a doctor will be required by the Attendance Officer for absences totaling more than 30 hours during any one semester (60 hours during the school year). Medical statements must be received by the attendance office within 48 hours of the doctor visit. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case by case basis for exceptions to this rule. Appeals should be made to the student's school principal.

A. DEFINITIONS

1. EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Medical excuse written by a doctor or school nurse;
- Legal excuse by a court;
- Limited absence by parental note, accepted by the school in accordance with local board policy. (County policy, 38 hours in a semester/65 hours in a year.)

The Ohio Revised Code identifies the following conditions as constituting reasons for excused absence from school: Personal illness; Illness in the family; Quarantine of the home; Death of a relative; Work at home due to the absence of parents/guardian; Observance of religious holiday; Medical or dental appointment. RC 3321.04. Parental notes for these reasons (except when medical notes are provided) and for fair, vacation, hunting, personal, etc. are limited to 38 hours per semester/65 hours in a year. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case by case basis.

Swanton High School will follow the Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3301-69-02 Excuses from school attendance.

2. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Truant: any absence from school without permission;
- Any absence by parental note not accepted by the school in accordance with local board policy;
- Any absence by parental note not approved by the Attendance Officer, including, but not limited to, more than 30 hours in a semester or 60 hours in a year. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case by case basis.

3. HABITUAL TRUANCY - RC2151.011 (B) (18) in Sub H.B. Bill 410 now defines habitual truancy as a school age child who is absent without a legitimate excuse for:

- 30 or more consecutive hours

- 42 or more hours in one month
- 72 or more hours in a school year

4. SCHOOL MONTH - consists of four school weeks.

5. SCHOOL YEAR - begins the first day of July of the calendar year and ends the 30th day of June of the following calendar year.

6. UNRULY CHILD (RC 2151.022)

- Any child who does not subject himself to the reasonable control of his parents, teacher, guardian, or custodian, by reason of being wayward, or habitually disobedient;
- Any child who is habitually truant from school.

7. DELINQUENT CHILD (RC 2151.02 (E))

- Any child except a juvenile traffic offender, who violates any law of this state or the United States, or any ordinance or regulation of a political subdivision of the state that would be an offense if committed by an adult.
- Any child who violates any lawful order of the court made under this chapter, including a child who violates a court order regarding the child's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant.
- Any child who violates any lawful order of the court.

8. TARDINESS

As a result of the new definition for habitual truant in RC 2151.011 (B) (18) in Sub H.B. Bill 410, any issue of tardiness shall be covered by the student's hours of attendance.

9. ABSENCE INTERVENTION TEAM (RC 3321.191 (C) (2))

Each school district is responsible for establishing an Absence Intervention Team. Membership in the Absence Intervention Team is specified by statute RC 3321.191 (C) (2) (c) & (d). Schools with less than 5% chronic absenteeism percentage are exempt from the requirement of establishing an Absence Intervention Team. RC 3221.19 (E)

10. SCHOOL

A "school" is defined as a brick and mortar building, virtual online, or any other assigned educational program

B. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

The School is expected to assign a student to an Absence Intervention Team when a student is habitually truant and make a referral to the Attendance Officer. Students, who have a substantiated history of truancy and/or have been referred to the Attendance Officer during the prior school year, should have attendance monitored closely. Referrals on students with prior attendance issues should be made to the Attendance Officer in a timely manner. (A listing of these students is provided to the home school at the end of the previous or start of the new school year.)

After receiving a referral, the Attendance Officer will notify the student and his parents of the compulsory school attendance laws. A written notice to parent and child and warning letter will

be given at a home visit, or mailed to them by the Attendance Officer. Parents are advised that all further absences will require an acceptable written excuse (medical if warranted).

Copies of correspondence initiated by the Attendance Officer to the parent/guardian concerning a student will be sent to the school attended, as well as the home district school, if different, and should be filed with student's records.

School Resource Officers (SRO) working within districts are to make timely written reports to the Attendance Officer documenting any contact with a student, his guardian or parent concerning alleged truancy, so that due process can be completed by the Attendance Officer.

The Attendance Officer initiates all truancy actions with the appropriate court, ONLY after unsuccessful completion of the Absence Intervention Plan. RC3321.16 (B)

C. PROHIBITION RC 3313.68

A student shall not be suspended out of school as a disciplinary action for truancy. Students who are found to be truant or unexcused from school should be assigned to the Absence Intervention Team, prior to any involvement with the juvenile court. The Attendance Officer will determine when to refer families for Mediation, or, with prior Juvenile Court approval to Juvenile Court Diversion.

D. GRADE PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY RC 3313.609 (Senate Bill 55)

(A) As used in this section:

- (1) "Truant" means absent without cause.
- (2) "Academically prepared" means whatever educational standard the board of education of each city, exempted village, local, and joint vocational school district establishes as necessary for the promotion of a student to the next grade level pursuant to the policy adopted under division (B) of this section.

(B) The board of education of each city, exempted village, local and joint vocational school district shall adopt a grade promotion and retention policy for students. The policy shall prohibit the promotion of a student to the next grade level if the student has been truant for more than 10% (100 hours) of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade unless the student's principal and the teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

E. MEDIATION

Shalom Ministries will be providing Mediation Services to schools on a selective basis. The program will be reserved for students with problem attendance, not previously involved with the court system.

Students under age 10, and their parents, may be referred for Mediation services when absences become excessive. Principals should contact the Attendance Officer to request that Mediation be scheduled. The Mediation will be held at the student's school, facilitated by a trained mediator. (Mediations may be limited in number per district due to staffing and funding constraints.)

F. DIVERSION: UNRULY/DELINQUENCY TRUANCY COMPLAINT

The Juvenile Court is offering a Diversion program for habitually truant students. The goal of the Diversion Program is to avoid a permanent juvenile record for students.

In addition to a formal complaint filed by the Attendance Officer, students habitually truant may be directly referred, with prior Juvenile Court approval, to the Juvenile Court Diversion Program, by the appropriate school district or school pursuant to RC 3121.191 (C) (2) (b). This informal referral from the school district or school may be considered part of any Absence Intervention Plan.

Those students failing the Truancy Diversion offered by the Juvenile Court may be brought officially before the Juvenile Court on the original complaint of unruly or delinquency, or a formal complaint filed by the Attendance Officer for those unsuccessful informal referrals.

1. Diversion I: First time Habitual Truants and parents/guardians will meet with the Attendance Officer at the probation department. Principal is not required to attend Diversion I hearing. School is notified of this hearing, but is not mandated to attend. The Probation Officer will explain the complaint, and what is expected of the student/parent in order to complete Diversion 1. (i.e. attend school daily, be on time, and obey all school regulations, and a tour of the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center.) **If Diversion I is successful, the student does not have a juvenile record.**

Should Diversion I fail (student continues to be truant/unexcused), school will notify the Attendance Officer, who in turn will notify chief probation officer to schedule Diversion II, if appropriate.

2. Diversion II: Second time Habitual Truants and parents/guardians will meet with the Attendance Officer at the probation department. Principal is not required to attend Diversion II hearings. The student is placed on unofficial probation for 60 days, is required to tour the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center within 30 days of not previously completed, and must attend two office visits with a probation officer. **If Diversion II is successful, the student avoids a permanent Juvenile record.**

Should Diversion II fail (student violates any terms of the unofficial probation) the student is referred to the Juvenile Court for formal action before the Judge.

3. MEDICAL EXCUSES: Once a student enters any Diversion, OR has appeared before the Juvenile Court and is under Court Order to attend school, all absences must be documented by a Medical Excuse. If no medical note is provided, absence may be entered as Unexcused, and reported to the Attendance Officer and/or Probation Officer. **NOTE: Only written medical excuses (signed by a doctor) and legal proceedings (requiring student's attendance in court) are legitimate, excused absences recognized by the Juvenile Court.**

4. GOALS: The goals of the Diversion Program are: To quickly and efficiently deal with juveniles and swiftly administer justice; To allow youth to acknowledge responsibility for

his/her actions with appropriate consequences; To provide the youth and family with needed resources; and to prevent further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

G. DISPOSITION OF UNRULY CHILD (HABITUALLY TRUANT)

A student adjudicated a school truant and/or unruly child may be:

1. Placed on community control including probation. RC 2151.354 (A) (2)
2. Have license or learner's permit suspended. RC 2151.354 (A) (3)
3. Place the child in counseling or other appropriate programming. RC 2151.354 (C) (1)
4. Require parents of habitually truant students to perform community service, participate in a truancy prevention mediation program; and receive a warning that subsequent adjudication of the child as an unruly or delinquent child may result in a criminal charge against the parent, guardian, or custodian. RC 2151.354 (C) (2)

H. VIOLATION OF PROBATION/PENALTIES FOR STUDENTS

A student adjudicated a school truant and violating Official Probation, or Court Ordered school attendance by failing to attend school, may be:

1. Incarcerated up to 90 days at Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Training and Rehabilitation Center. RC 2152.19 (A) (3)
2. Placed in an out of home placement, such as a foster or group home. RC2152.19 (A) (1)
3. Placed on official probation or have current probation terms modified. RC2152.19 (A) (4)
4. Have license or learner's permit suspended. RC 2152.19 (A) (4) (1)

Schools must immediately report any unexcused absence of a student on probation to the Attendance Officer or Probation Officer assigned.

I. PENALTIES AGAINST PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF HABITUALLY TRUANT STUDENTS

The Juvenile Court or court of competent jurisdiction may take action against parent, guardian, or person having care of the child as set forth in the Ohio Revised Code which may include, but not limited to:

1. Require the parent, guardian or other person having care of the child to participate in community service program or Truancy Mediation; RC 2151.354 (C) (2) (a) & (b)
2. Require the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to post a bond in a sum not exceeding \$500 with sureties to the approval of the court; RC 3321.38 (A)
3. If the parent is found in contempt of Court for the first offense, fine the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child up to \$250 and order the parent, guardian or other person having care of the child to serve not more than 30 days at the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio. RC 2705.05 (A) (1)
4. If the parent is found guilty of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child, fine the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child up to \$1000 and ordering the parent, guardian, or other person having care of the child to serve up to 180 days at the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio. RC2919.21 or 2919.24
5. In appropriate cases, charges of educational neglect may be brought by the Fulton County Department of Jobs and Family Services. RC 2151.03

J. COURT APPEARANCES

The School is responsible for delivering an up-to-date attendance record to the Attendance Officer on all days of a court proceedings. This record should indicate dates of excused

absences and unexcused absences incurred by the student to date and show days of assignment of in-school suspensions. ***The Juvenile Court also requires a current copy of the student's grades and any disciplinary referral to include detentions/Saturday schools served or owed.*** The school principal or administrator is ***required*** to attend official court hearings unless excused by the Juvenile Court. The Attendance Officer will notify the principal of the date and time of hearing.

K. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: PREGNANT AND/OR PARENTING STUDENTS

Pregnant and/or parenting students present special circumstances, and will be addressed individually in accordance with the Procedural Guidelines established for enforcement of compulsory education laws. Compulsory school attendance for pregnant and/or parenting students will be actively enforced, with the assistance of the Juvenile Court. (For additional information, please see Fulton County Uniform Truancy Procedures – **Addendum Procedural Guidelines**)

A pregnant/parenting student who fails to provide completed forms and is habitually absent from school without legitimate excuse will be considered truant.

A married student who is not pregnant, and not parenting, and is habitually absent from school without legitimate excuse will be considered truant.

NON-COMPLIANCE

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and student (who has not been excused from regular attendance by a doctor, and is failing to comply with the above requirements) will be warned in writing by the Attendance Officer that the student is in violation of the Ohio Attendance laws. The student will be referred by the school to an Absence Intervention Team or scheduled for Mediation by the Attendance Officer. A school nurse, public health nurse and children's services caseworker may also be asked to attend a Mediation if deemed appropriate. (*NOTE: A referral to the Absence Intervention Team is required prior to a truancy charge being filed with the court.*)

TRUANCY ACTION

A Pregnant/parenting students who are not medically excused from attending school, is habitually truant having 30 hours of consecutive unexcused absence, or 42 hours of unexcused absence in one school month, or 72 hours of unexcused absence during the school year, AND has failed to comply with the Absence Intervention Plan, may be charged with Truancy. **See Section B**

A. Pregnant student whose physician excuses regular school attendance

1. Tutoring will be arranged by the home school or a recommendation made for online instruction; the school will request the physician to advise of any measures that would allow the student to return to school before delivery. The student/parent may be asked to sign a Release of Information form.
2. The student will begin/continue regular prenatal care (appt. card reviewed by GRADS Coordinator, or tutor to verify appointments.)
3. The student will cooperate with the tutor, and/or actively participate in online instruction.
4. The student will schedule/attend family planning counseling following delivery. (Have an appointment card signed by a counselor).

5. The student will participate in offered parenting classes, and make LEAP inquiry at Dept. of Job & Family Services for qualifying benefits and classes offered. (Have an appointment card signed.)

NOTE: The GRADS program is in place to assist pregnant and parenting teens and promote healthy newborns. It is not a mandated program, but is highly encouraged for all pregnant and parenting teens.

Swanton High School will follow any court adopted Fulton County Uniform Truancy Procedures.

Swanton High School will enforce the board's adopted attendance policy 5200.

CODE OF CONDUCT

A major component of the educational program at SHS is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards. Students are expected to behave in accordance with Federal, State and local laws and rules and Board policies and Administrative Guidelines, and in a way that respects the rights and safety of others. Staff will take corrective action to discipline a student and/or to modify the student's behavior when a student's behavior does not fall within these parameters.

The Penta Career Center is an extension of our school program; therefore, students who elect to attend the career center are subject to disciplinary action based upon Student Code of Conduct of either Swanton High School and/or involvement in any activity that may or does result in disciplinary action by one school may be grounds for similar disciplinary action by the other school.

School staff may report suspected criminal misconduct by a student to law enforcement. Law enforcement officers will be permitted to carry out necessary law enforcement functions in the schools, including the removal of a student from school grounds in appropriate circumstances.

Expected Student Behaviors

At Swanton High School, students are expected to demonstrate the values of being **Responsible, Respectful, and Ready** each day. Students are expected to:

- Treat all students, staff, and visitors with courtesy, respect, and kindness.
- Arrive to school and class on time, prepared to learn, and actively engaged in the educational process.
- Respect the rights, differences, and perspectives of others, regardless of background, identity, ability, or beliefs.
- Complete assignments, assessments, and other responsibilities on time and to the best of their ability.
- Follow school rules, procedures, and staff directions.
- Contribute to a safe, positive, and productive learning environment.
- Demonstrate honesty, integrity, and accountability for their actions.

- Take pride in themselves, their school, and the Swanton community through their words, actions, and conduct.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on Swanton High School both during the school day and at school-sponsored activities.

Classroom Environment

It is the responsibility of students, teachers, and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that supports learning, respect, and engagement. A positive classroom environment ensures that:

- Teachers are able to communicate effectively with all students in the class.
- All students have the opportunity to learn without unnecessary disruption.
- Students and staff treat one another with respect and contribute to a safe, productive learning space.
- Classroom expectations, routines, and procedures are followed consistently to maximize instructional time.
- Every student feels supported, included, and able to participate in the learning process.

Dressing and Grooming

It is the policy of the Swanton Board of Education to recognize the rights and privileges of each student in the matters of dress and appearance to the extent that the exercise of that right does not interfere with the orderly process of education. Student dress should not cause a safety hazard. Final determination for acceptable dress rests with the school administration.

Students should consider the following questions when dressing for school:

- Does my clothing expose too much? (No)
- Does my clothing advertise something that is prohibited to minors? (No)
- Are there obscene, profane, drug-related, gang-related, or inflammatory messages on my clothing? (No)
- Am I dressed appropriately for the weather? (Yes)
- Do I feel comfortable with my appearance? (Yes)

To maintain a respectful and effective educational environment, students are expected to adhere to the following dress code guidelines:

- **Appropriate Attire:** Clothing must be suitable for a school setting, not disruptive or distracting to the educational process.
- **Prohibited Items:** The following are not permitted:
 - Clothing with offensive, violent, or inappropriate language or imagery.
 - Excessively revealing attire, including but not limited to midriff-baring tops, short skirts, and shorts.
 - Hats, hoods, and sunglasses inside the building, unless for religious or medical reasons.
- **Footwear:** Shoes must be worn at all times.

- **Accessories:** Items that could be used as weapons or cause a distraction are not allowed.

Students in violation of the dress code will be asked to modify their attire or may face disciplinary action. This policy ensures a conducive learning environment for all.

Students who are representing Swanton Local School at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other groups such as the National Honor Society.

Gangs

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment will not be tolerated.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the principal.

Care of Property

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The School is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or losses school property, the student and/or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND INTIMIDATION

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes aggressive behavior, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and violence within a dating relationship. The Board of Education will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. This policy applies to all activities in the District, including activities on school property, on a school bus or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means:

- A. any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental or physical harm to the other student(s) and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s); or
- B. violence within a dating relationship.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyberbullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying also means cyberbullying through electronically transmitted acts (i.e., internet, e-mail, cellular telephone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that a student(s) or a group of students exhibits toward another particular student(s) more than once and the behavior both causes mental and physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student(s).

Any student or student's parent/guardian who believes s/he has been or is the victim of aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal, or the Superintendent. The student may also report concerns to teachers and other school staff who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

All complaints about aggressive behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated. The building principal or appropriate administrator shall prepare a written report of the investigation upon completion. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.

If the investigation finds an instance of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying cyberbullying by an electronic act or otherwise has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action. This may include up to suspension or expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers, and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

Retaliation against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as aggressive behavior. Making intentionally false reports about aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such a student, a description of such discipline shall be included in the notification.

Complaints

Students and/or their parents/guardians may file reports regarding suspected harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Such reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review, investigation, and action.

Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or

disclosure obligations. All records generated under this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law.

Reporting Requirement

At least semi-annually, the Superintendent shall provide to the President of the Board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the District website (if one exists). The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.

Allegations of criminal misconduct and suspected child abuse will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency and/or to Child Protective Services in accordance with statute. District personnel shall cooperate with investigations by such agencies.

Immunity

A School District employee, student, or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages arising from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and R.C. 3313.666 if that person reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying promptly, in good faith, and in compliance with the procedures specified in this policy. Such immunity from liability shall not apply to an employee, student, or volunteer determined to have made an intentionally false report about harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

Notification

Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the District and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student, and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted at each building. All new hires will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying and violence within a dating relationship. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all members of the School District community related to the implementation of this policy and its accompanying administrative guidelines. All training regarding the Board's policy and administrative guidelines and aggressive behavior and bullying in general, will be age and content appropriate.

Students in grades seven (7) through twelve (12) shall receive age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, including instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships. Parents, who submit a written request to the building principal to examine the dating violence prevention instruction materials used in the school, will be afforded an opportunity to review the materials within a reasonable period of time.

To the extent that State or Federal funds are appropriated for these purposes, the District shall provide training, workshops, and/or courses on this policy for school employees and volunteers

who have direct contact with students. Time spent by school staff in these training programs shall apply toward mandated continuing education requirements.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy. Guidelines shall include reporting and investigative procedures, as needed. The complaint procedure established by the Superintendent shall be followed.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

Each of the behaviors and/or types of misconduct described below are prohibited and may subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, student conference, parent/guardian notification, parent/guardian conference, detention, in-school discipline, suspension and/or expulsion from school. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the School will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined at school. Certain criminal acts may result in permanent exclusion from school.

1. Cell Phone Policy

Swanton High School will follow all **State of Ohio guidelines regarding cell phone use in schools** as they evolve throughout the academic year.

- **Disciplinary action may be taken** if a student uses a cell phone in violation of school policy or state guidelines.

Students are expected to use technology responsibly and in a way that supports a focused, respectful learning environment.

2. Possession/use of drugs and/or alcohol

Possessing, using, transmitting or concealing, or exhibiting evidence of consumption of an alcoholic beverage, controlled substance including, but not limited to, narcotics, mood altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids, or drug-related paraphernalia.

If a building principal has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug or alcohol use, s/he may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis. In such circumstances, the student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol or drug use unrefined thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

3. Possession/use of tobacco

Possession, consumption, distribution, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes or similar devices in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or other school-sponsored event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. Smoking clove cigarettes is also prohibited.

4. Vaping Policy

E-cigarettes, vaping, juuling, or the use of other similar devices that are used to inhale or ingest foreign substances, will be treated as a drug offense. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the violation, the student may complete an approved drug screen with an SLSD approved testing facility. Test results must be sent directly to the school administrator from the testing facility. Upon receipt/review of the results, if

administration is able to clearly establish that no illegal substance has been discovered, the administrator may reduce the violation to a smoking or use of tobacco offense. If the student refuses to complete an approved drug screen or does not complete the screen within 24 hours, this will be considered a positive result for an illegal substance and will be treated as a drug offense. A student may be required to complete an in-person vape education course.

5. Use and/or possession of a firearm

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto school property or to any school-sponsored activity, competition, program, or event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law. This expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent using the guideline(s) set forth in Board Policy 5610.

Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) that will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any unloaded firearm and any firearm that is inoperable but that can be readily operated.

Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.

6. Use and/or possession of a weapon

A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purposes, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

7. Use of an object as a weapon

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, and jewelry.

8. Knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence

Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the Principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

9. Arson

Intentional or purposeful destruction or damage to school or district buildings or property by means of fire. Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony.

10. Physically assaulting a staff member/student/person associated with the District.

Acting with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death, or intentionally bullying, inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person. Physical assault of a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Any intentional, harmful or potentially harmful physical contact or bullying initiated by a student against a staff member will be considered to be assault. Assault may result in criminal charges and may subject the student to expulsion.

11. Verbally threatening (either orally, in writing or otherwise expressed) a staff member/student/person associated with the District.

Any oral or written statement or otherwise expressed action that a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District reasonably feels to be a threat will be considered a verbal assault. Profanity directed toward a staff member in a threatening tone may also be considered a verbal assault. Confrontation with a student or staff member that bullies, intimidates, or causes fear of bodily harm or death is also prohibited.

12. Misconduct against a school official or employee, or the property of such a person, regardless of where it occurs.

The Board prohibits misconduct committed by a student against a school official or employee, including, but not limited to, harassment (of any type), vandalization, assault (verbal and/or physical), and destruction of property.

13. Misconduct off school grounds

Students may be subject to discipline for their misconduct even when it occurs off school property when the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that occurred on property owned or controlled by the District.

Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

14. Extortion

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law.

15. Gambling

Gambling (i.e., playing a game of chance for stakes) includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on any school activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that school activity.

16. Falsification of school work, identification, forgery

Falsifying signatures or data, or refusing to give proper identification or giving false information to a staff member. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses, as well as use of false I.D.'s.

Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and will subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action.

17. Bomb Threats, and other false alarms and reports

Making a bomb threat (i.e., intentionally giving a false alarm of a bomb) against a school building or any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year. Additionally, intentionally giving a false alarm of a fire, or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm is prohibited. It should be remembered that false emergency alarms or reports endanger the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community, and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and will subject the student to disciplinary action.

18. Terroristic Threat

Threatening, directly or indirectly, to commit a crime of violence with the purpose to terrorize another or with reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror in another.

19. Possession and/or use of explosives and/or fireworks

Possessing or using any compound or mixture, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion, with substantially instantaneous release of gas and heat (including, but not limited to

explosives and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs and poppers). Additionally, possessing or offering for sale any substance, combination of substances or article prepared to produce a visible and/or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation.

20. Trespassing

Although schools are public facilities, the law allows the Board to restrict access to school property. Being present in any Board-owned facility or portion of a Board-owned facility when it is closed to the public or when the student does not have the authorization to be there, or unauthorized presence in a Board-owned vehicle; or unauthorized access or activity in a Board-owned computer, into district, school or staff computer files, into a school or district file server, or into the Network. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, the student is prohibited from being present on school property without authorization of the principal.

21. Theft, or knowingly receiving or possessing stolen property

Unauthorized taking of property of another person or receiving or possessing such property. Students caught stealing will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students should not bring anything of value to school without prior authorization from the principal. The School is not responsible for personal property.

22. Insubordination

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable directions of staff. Willful refusal or failure to follow or comply with an appropriate direction given by a staff member, or acting in defiance of staff members.

23. Damaging property (Vandalism)

Defacing, cutting, or otherwise damaging property that belongs to the school, district, other students, employees or others) and disregard for school property.

24. Persistent absence or tardiness

Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or to have a legitimate excuse for their absence. Penalties for unexcused absences can range from detention to a referral to court and/or revocation of the student's driver's license. 18 year-old students who sign out of class may be considered truant.

25. Unauthorized use of school or private property

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property, or private property located on school premises, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

26. Refusing to accept discipline

Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

27. Aiding or abetting violation of school rules

Assisting other students in the violation of any school rule. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

28. Displays of affection/sexual activities

Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Sexual activity of any nature is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

29. Possession of electronic equipment

The School will supply any electronic equipment or devices necessary for participation in the educational program. Students shall not use or possess any electronic equipment on school property or at any school sponsored activity without *the permission of the principal*. Examples of prohibited devices include but

are not limited to radios, headphones, CD/MP3 players, electronic games/toys, cellular telephones and other electronic communication devices, and the like.

30. Violation of individual school/classroom rules

Each learning environment has different rules for students. These rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules within each learning environment, all of which will be consistent with this Code.

31. Violation of bus rules (see Section V – Transportation)

32. Interference, disruption or obstruction of the educational process (Misconduct)

Any actions or manner of dress that materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with school activities or the educational process, or which threaten to do so are unacceptable. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to, delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic and performing arts events.

33. Harassment and/or Aggressive Behavior (including Bullying/Cyberbullying)

The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community. Harassment and/or aggressive behavior (including bullying/cyber bullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment. The Board will not tolerate any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation. Individuals engaging in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

Conduct constituting harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability may take different forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. **Verbal:** The making of offensive written or oral innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
- B. **Nonverbal:** Placing offensive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures based upon a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
- C. **Physical:** Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, pushing, shoving, hissing, or spitting, on or by a fellow staff member, students, or other person associated with the District, or third parties, based upon the person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.

Aggressive behavior is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. This type of behavior is a form of intimidation and harassment, although it need not be based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, marital status, or disability. It would include, but not be limited to, such behaviors as stalking, bullying/cyber bullying, intimidating, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hazing.

Any student who believes that s/he is the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the District, or by third parties should contact the District's Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinator.

The Complaint Coordinators are available during regular school hours to discuss a student's concerns related to harassment and/or bullying/cyber bullying, to assist a student who seeks support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

The student may report his/her concerns to the Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators either by a written report, telephone, or personal visit. In reporting his/her concerns, the student should provide the name of the person(s) whom s/he believes to be responsible for the harassment and or bullying/cyberbullying and the nature of the harassing and/or bullying/cyber bullying incident(s). The Anti-Harassment Complaint Coordinators will promptly compile a written summary of each such report that will be forwarded to the Principal.

Each report will be investigated in a timely manner and as confidentially as possible. The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform to any discovery or disclosure obligations. While a charge is under investigation, no information will be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. All records generated under the terms of this policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. All individuals involved in an investigation as a witness, victim or alleged harasser and/or bully/cyberbully will be instructed not to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.

If an investigation reveals that a harassment and/or bullying/cyber bullying complaint is valid, appropriate remedial and or disciplinary action will be taken promptly to prevent the continuance of the harassment and/or bullying/cyber bullying or its recurrence.

Given the nature of harassing and/or bullying/cyber bullying behavior, the School recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present harassment and/or bullying/cyber bullying allegations or charges.

Some forms of sexual harassment of a student may reasonably be considered child abuse that must be reported to the proper authorities.

These guidelines shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

Retaliation against any person, who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of harassment and/or aggressive behavior is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation and independent of whether a complaint is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment and aggressive behavior. Retaliation may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

Deliberately making false reports about harassment, intimidation, bullying and/or other aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Deliberately making false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above

If a student or other individual believes there has been aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

The District shall implement intervention strategies (AG 5517.01) to protect a victim or other person from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying and from retaliation following such a report.

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions, or debate, that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by State or Federal law).

The complainant shall be notified of the findings of the investigation, and as appropriate, that remedial action has been taken. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification care shall be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or appropriate administrator shall notify the custodial parent/guardian of the victim of such finding. If after investigation, acts of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a specific student are verified, the building Principal or appropriate administrator shall notify in writing the custodial parent/guardian of the perpetrator of that finding.

Anyone having further questions concerning prohibited behaviors and/or the complaint process should request a copy of Board policies and administrative guidelines 5517 and 5517.01.

34. Hazing

Performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption or risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this rule.

Hazing by any individual, school group, club, or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property.

All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals: the building principal or other administrator; teacher; coach; student club advisor/supervisor, and/or Superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

35. Violent Conduct

Students may be expelled for up to one school year for committing an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program, or directing an act at a Board official or employee, regardless of where or when that act may occur, or their property that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult and results in serious physical harm to person(s) or property.

36. Improper Dress

Clothing may not include words or visuals that are lewd, obscene, disruptive, abusive, or discriminatory, or that advertise drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Dress or grooming that is disruptive of the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons.

37. Careless or Reckless Driving

Driving on school property in such a manner as to endanger persons or property.

38. Burglary

Entering a building or a specific area of a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entering a building without consent and committing a crime.

39. Fighting

Engaging in adversarial physical contact (differentiated from poking, pushing, shoving or scuffling) in which one or the other party(ies) or both contributed to the situation by verbally instigating a fight and/or physical action. Promoting or instigating a fight (i.e., contributing to a fight verbally or through behavior).

40. Lighting Incendiary Devices

Unauthorized igniting of matches, lighters and other devices that produce flames.

41. Possession of Pornography

Possessing sexually explicit material.

42. Unauthorized use of vehicles

Occupying or using vehicles during school hours without parental permission and/or school authorization.

DISCIPLINE

It is important to remember that the School's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation, and on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board. Furthermore, students may be disciplined for conduct that, regardless of where or when it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

The School is committed to providing prompt, reasonable discipline consistent with the severity of the incident. The consequences for misbehavior are designed to be fair, firm and consistent for all students in the School.

Because it is not possible to list every misbehavior that occurs, misbehaviors not listed above will be responded to as necessary by staff.

Two (2) types of discipline are possible, informal and formal.

Informal Discipline

Informal discipline takes place within the School. It includes:

- change of seating or location;
- pre-school, lunch-time, after-school detention;
- in-school discipline;

Detentions

A student may be detained after for either 1 hour or 2 hour time slots, depending on the nature of the infractions. Students and parents will be given ~~at least~~ 24 hour notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation.

Reassignment (ISR)

A student missing any portion of his/her assigned time in Detention, In-School Discipline may be given additional consequences. Failure to timely serve Detention, In-School Discipline assignment(s) may lead to suspension from school for a period not to exceed 3 days. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with District guidelines on suspension and expulsion.

The following rules apply to Detention, In-School Reassignment:

- Students are required to have class assignments with them.
- Students are not to communicate with each other unless given permission to do so.

- Students are to remain in their designated seats at all times unless permission is granted to do otherwise.
- Students shall not be allowed to put their heads down or sleep.
- No electronic communication devices, radios, CD/MP3 players, cards, or other entertainment/recreational devices shall be allowed in the room.
- No food or beverages shall be consumed.
- Any student who has not passed all of the State-mandated assessment tests may be required to work on a study packet for one or more of the unpassed tests.

Formal Discipline

Formal discipline involves removal of the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to one (1) school day, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days or the number of days remaining in a semester, whichever is greater, and permanent exclusion. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year.

Students being considered for suspension are entitled to an informal meeting with the building administrator prior to removal. Also, students being considered for expulsion are entitled to an informal meeting with the Superintendent or designee prior to removal. During the informal meeting, the student will be notified of the charges and given the opportunity to respond.

Students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics can lose their eligibility for violation of the school rules.

If a student commits a crime while under the school's jurisdiction, s/he may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as action through local law enforcement.

DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting, or be subject to appeal.

Suspension from School

When a student is being considered for a suspension, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the basis for the proposed suspension. The student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her view of the underlying facts. After that informal hearing, the Principal [or assistant principal or other administrator] will determine whether or not to suspend the student. If the decision is made to suspend the student, s/he and his/her parents will be given written notification of the suspension within one (1) day setting forth the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension, and the process for appeal. The suspension may be appealed, within 3 days after receipt of the suspension notice, to the Superintendent or designee. The request for an appeal must be in writing.

During the appeal process, the student shall not be allowed to remain in school. If the appeal is heard by the Board's designee, the appeal shall be conducted in a private hearing. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the appeal shall be conducted in executive session unless the student or his/her representative requests otherwise. A verbatim transcript will be made and witnesses will be sworn in prior to giving testimony. If the appeal decision is to uphold the suspension, the next step in the appeal process is to the Court of Common Pleas.

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence. A suspended student will be responsible for making up school work missed due to suspension. Assignments may be obtained from the attendance office beginning with the first day of suspension. Make up of missed tests may be scheduled when the student returns to school. The student must complete missing assignments during the suspension and turn them in to the teacher by the time the student returns to school.

Emergency Removal

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the Superintendent, principal or assistant principal may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity under the teacher's supervision, but not from the premises.

If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building administrator of the circumstances surrounding the removal in writing within one (1) school day. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this procedure. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from curricular or extracurricular activity for less than one school day, and is not subject to further suspension for expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply.

If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a hearing will be held within three (3) school days after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reasons for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be provided to the student, as soon as practical prior to the hearing. If the student is subject to an out of school suspension, the student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, Superintendent or a designee, and may challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain his/her actions.

Within one (1) school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the student. This notice will include the reasons for the suspension, the right of the student or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal to the Board or its designee, and the student's right to be represented in all appeal proceedings. If it is likely that the student may be subject to expulsion, the hearing will take place within three (3) school days and will be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Expulsion Policy. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. In an emergency removal, a student may be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is resolved either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

Expulsion from School

When a student is being considered for expulsion, the student and parent will be provided with a formal notice of the proposed expulsion. This written notice will include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity to appear in person before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the expulsion and/or explain the student's action, and notification of the time and place to appear. Students being considered for expulsion may be removed immediately. A hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three (3), nor no later than five (5) school days after the notice is given.

In accordance with Board Policy 5610, the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion will be imposed for the same duration that it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

If a student is expelled, the student and the student's parents will be provided with written notice within one (1) school day of the imposed expulsion. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the expulsion to the

Board or its designee, the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings, the right to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee, and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

Within 14 days after the Superintendent notifies the parents of the expulsion, the expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the Board of Education or its designee. A hearing on the requested appeal will be formal with an opportunity for sworn testimony. If the expulsion is upheld on appeal, a student's parents may pursue further appeal to the Court of Common Pleas.

Students serving expulsions will not be awarded grades or credit during the period of expulsion. Expulsion for certain violations including use or possession of alcohol or drugs, may result in revocation of student's driver's license. When a student is expelled, the Superintendent will notify any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under the Postsecondary Enrollment Option at the time the expulsion is imposed.

Permanent Exclusion

State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student, 16 years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity. Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school:

- A. conveying deadly weapons onto school property or to a school function;
- B. possessing deadly weapons onto school property or at a school function;
- C. carrying a concealed weapon onto school property or at a school function;
- D. trafficking in drugs onto school property or at a school function;
- E. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function;
- F. voluntary or involuntary manslaughter on school grounds or at a school function;
- G. assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function;
- H. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration on school grounds, or at a school function, or if the victim is a school employee;
- I. complicity in any of the above offenses, regardless of the location

This process is formal and may follow an expulsion with the proper notification to the parents,

Discipline of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A.), and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges

When a student is being considered for suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the reason. The student will be given an opportunity to address the basis for the proposed suspension at an informal hearing. After that informal hearing, the Principal [or assistant principal or other administrator] will decide whether or not to suspend his/her bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year.

If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing within one day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Administrators may search a student or his/her property (including vehicles, purses, knapsacks, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever they reasonably suspect that a search will

lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice. Student lockers are the property of the District and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other District property including desks or other containers. School authorities may conduct random searches of the lockers and their contents at any time without announcement. Unannounced and random canine searches may also be conducted.

Additionally, students have NO reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas including but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms and gymnasiums. The District may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles transporting students to and from regular and extracurricular activities.

Anything that is found in the course of a search may be used as evidence of a violation of school rules or the law, and may be taken, held or turned over to the police. The School reserves the right not to return items that have been confiscated.

INTERROGATION OF STUDENTS

The School is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If a student is questioned as the subject of alleged child abuse or neglect, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to questioning, and s/he (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning. If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated school counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or a children's services agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent.

STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do so appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, no sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet school guidelines.

A. Material cannot be displayed if it:

1. is obscene to minors, libelous, or pervasively indecent or vulgar;
2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law;
3. intends to be insulting or harassing;
4. intends to incite fighting; or
5. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it will cause or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

B. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods, and/or before or after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION

BUS TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

The School provides transportation for all students who live farther than 2 miles from school. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the Transportation Director at 419.826.8891.

Students may only ride assigned buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the Principal.

The principal may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need. Parents should send a note to the principal stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

BUS CONDUCT

Students who are riding to and from school on District-provided transportation must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation.

The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

Students must comply with the following basic safety rules:

Prior to loading (on the road and at school)

Each student shall:

- be on time at the designated loading zone 10 minutes prior to scheduled stop);
- stay off the road at all times while walking to and waiting for school transportation;
- line up single file off the roadway to enter;
- wait until the school transportation is completely stopped before moving forward to enter;
- refrain from crossing a highway until the driver signals it is safe to cross;
- properly board and depart the vehicle;
- go immediately to a seat and be seated.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform the bus driver when their child will not be aboard school transportation. Drivers will not wait for students who are not at their designated stops on time.

During the trip

Each student shall:

- remain seated while the school transportation is in motion;

- keep head, hands, arms, and legs inside the school transportation at all times;
- not push, shove or engage in scuffling
- not litter in the school vehicle or throw anything in, into, or from the vehicle;
- keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisle;
- be courteous to the driver and to other riders;
- not eat or play games, cards, etc.;
- not use nuisance devices (e.g., laser pointers) on the bus in a way that disrupts the safe transportation of students and/or endangers students or employees;
- not tamper with the school vehicle or any of its equipment (including, but not limited to emergency and/or safety equipment).

Exiting the school vehicle

Each student shall:

- remain seated until the vehicle has stopped;
- cross the road, when necessary, at least 10 feet in front of the vehicle, but only after the driver signals that it is safe;
- be alert to a possible danger signal from the driver.

The driver will not discharge students at places other than their regular stop at home or at school unless s/he has proper authorization from school officials.

VIDEOTAPES ON THE SCHOOL BUS

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior.

If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the Principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS

A student who misbehaves on the bus shall be disciplined in accordance with the Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

When transportation by District vehicle is either not available or feasible, there may be a need to provide transportation to students by private vehicle. However, no students will be permitted to ride in a private vehicle unless written consent is provided by each student’s parent using the Parental Consent for Transportation by Private Vehicle. Upon request, parents of participating students will be given the name of the driver, the owner of the vehicle, and the description of the vehicle.

SELF-TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL

Driving to school is a privilege that can be revoked at any time. Students who are provided the opportunity to ride school transportation are encouraged to do so. Students and their parents assume full responsibility and liability for any transportation to and from school not officially provided by the School.

The following rules shall apply:

- Students under age 18 must have written parent permission prior to driving to school.
- Students and their parents shall complete the Student Vehicle Form: Application to Drive Vehicles On School Property and provide evidence of:
 - driver’s license;
 - insurance certificate;

- Vehicle registration.
- Students are required to obey the parking lot speed limit of 15 mph.
- The student must obtain a permit from the High School Office and pay a one-time fee of \$10.00. Replacement permits will be \$5.00.
- If a student's parking permit is suspended, no fees will be refunded.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in loss of privileges and/or disciplinary actions for a student.

When the School provides transportation, students shall not drive to school-sponsored activities unless the student's parents provide written authorization for the student to drive and release the Board from liability using Parental Authorization and Release from Liability Form – which is approved by the principal.

An approved student driver may not transport other students to a school-sponsored activity unless the parents of the approved student driver and the parents of the student(s) to be transported in the approved student driver's vehicle provide written authorization for the student to drive or to be transported and release the Board from liability using the Parental Authorization and Release From Liability Form - which is approved by the principal.

All vehicles entering school property are subject to search and inspection.

SECTION VI – ATHLETICS

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT

The Swanton Local School Athletic Handbook/Code of Conduct shall be the guidelines administered within the athletic program applicable to students in grades 7-12.

PHILOSOPHY OF ATHLETICS

Competitive sports are an integral part of the total education program for students. When properly organized and conducted, inter-school athletics provide numerous opportunities for students to participate in activities that promote growth and development, teach social and recreational skills and develop leadership qualities.

The major emphasis on interscholastic athletics should be upon skilled play and good sportsmanship. Every attempt should be made to provide favorable playing conditions so that the competitive experiences of the students may be wholesome and result in the attainment of desirable attitudes and conduct. Interscholastic athletic programs are planned and carried out for the values offered to the participant rather than for the spectator and/or the professional growth of the coaches.

The junior high program should provide students with the opportunity to participate in various athletic programs. These opportunities should be planned separately but in coordination with the senior high programs. The major emphasis of junior high interscholastic competition should be on the development of skilled play and good sportsmanship. It should not be viewed as a training program for senior high athletic programs.

Interscholastic activities shall be an integral part of the total senior high educational program that has as its purpose to provide educational experiences not otherwise provided in the curriculum. The interscholastic program shall exist mainly for the value that it has for the students and not for the benefit of the school.

A student who elects to participate in interscholastic athletics is voluntarily making a choice of self-discipline and self-denial. This concept of self-discipline and self-denial is tempered by our responsibility to recognize the rights of the individual within the objectives of the team. We do not want uniformity of blind conformity as a means of achieving team responsibility and discipline.

Success is important in the development of our self-image. More important than success itself is the development of an attitude and eagerness, readiness and confidence to face and overcome adversity.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Remember, that as an athlete, you are not eligible to participate in any sport until the following items have been completed:

1. Parent Permission Form - properly signed and on file with the athletic director.
2. Physical Examination Card - properly completed, signed by both the athlete and parent or guardian and on file with the athletic director.
3. Proof of Insurance or a Waiver - properly completed, indicating type of coverage and on file with the athletic director. PLEASE INCLUDE POLICY NUMBER OF YOUR PERSONAL INSURANCE ON THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL FORM
4. Emergency Medical Authorization Form – properly completed and on file with the athletic director.
5. All academic and other eligibility requirements are met and satisfied.
6. Drug Testing Form – Properly completed and on file with the athletic director.

PHYSICAL EXAMS AND INSURANCE

Students who will be participating in athletics are required by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) to have an approved physical examination before being allowed to practice or participate. The physical examinations will be arranged through the Athletic Department and shall enable all student athletes to be given this examination at a very minimal cost. Any athlete that misses the scheduled physical examinations must schedule their own exam and pay the prevailing fee charged by the doctor. The student must complete an OHSAA STUDENT PARTICIPATION-PARENTAL APPROVAL AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM. The forms must have the signatures of the doctor, parent or guardian, and the student athlete in order to participate or practice in a sport.

Students are required to be adequately covered or protected under some form of accident or health insurance program. It is not required that a student be a part of the insurance program as adopted by the Swanton Board of Education. If the family carries an insurance program of their own and feels that their son or daughter will be adequately covered under their plan, we are satisfied. We ask that the parent or guardian please indicate on the PARENT PERMISSION FORM the type of coverage they will choose. The PARENT-PERMISSION FORM must be returned to the athletic director before the student will be allowed to practice or participate.

The Board of Education, Swanton High School, the Athletic Department or its employees will not be held responsible for an athlete who is inadequately covered by an insurance policy.

ELIGIBILITY

For quarterly eligibility in grades 9-12, a student must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. During the preceding grading period, the student must have received passing grades in a minimum of five (5) units of credit that count toward graduation for that quarter.

Homeschooled students who live within the district are eligible to participate in school athletics, provided they meet all district and athletic association eligibility requirements. Homeschooled athletes are subject to the same rules, expectations, and participation standards as enrolled students.

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student continues until the start of the fifth (5th) school day of the next grading period. Then the grades from the immediate preceding grading period become effective. EXCEPTION: Eligibility or ineligibility for the first grading period commences with the start of the fall sports season.

Incoming 9th graders must earn passing grades in a minimum of four courses in their final grading period of grade 8 in order to be eligible, with regard to scholarship, during their first grading period of 9th grade.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. From then on, to be eligible a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. Passing grades must have been received in 75% of those subjects carried the preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled.

Quarterly eligibility for the student/athlete shall be determined on the following basis:

1. A student must possess a 1.5 GPA passing five units of credit; and-
 2. A student may not have more than one (1) "F"
- * A two (2) week window will be given to any student transferring into The Swanton Local School System. The student must have met state eligibility guidelines from the previous district.
- ** It is strongly recommended that ineligible student/athletes meet with the teacher on a regular basis to correct academic problems. The head coach should be instrumental in facilitating this process as well as possibly implementing a study table for these athletes.

DROPPING OR TRANSFERRING SPORTS

An athlete may find it necessary on occasion to drop a sport for a good reason as determined by the athlete and parents. If so, the following procedure must be followed:

- A. Talk with your coach about the reasons for dropping the sport
- B. Report your situation to the athletic director
- C. Check in all equipment issued to you. This means that you turn it in. Your friend should not turn it in.
- D. Once a student-athlete has participated in a sport for two weeks after the official start of practice, they are considered committed to that sport for the remainder of that season. If the student chooses to quit, withdraw from, or leave the team after the second week of practice has begun, they will not be permitted to participate in practices, workouts, conditioning sessions, open gyms, training activities, team meetings, or any other organized activities with another school athletic team until the team they left has completed its season, including its final scheduled contest or tournament competition.

Exceptions to this policy may be considered only in extenuating circumstances and must be approved by the Athletic Director and building administration.

Failure to follow these guidelines in dropping a sport may result in losing your privilege to participate in athletics

EQUIPMENT

School equipment issued to the student athlete is his/her responsibility. He/She is expected to keep it in good condition. Loss of any equipment is the athlete's financial responsibility. THERE WILL BE NO EXCUSES ACCEPTED FOR LOST EQUIPMENT. No one will be permitted to wear school equipment

except while competing for the school or on game day as a spirit booster. All equipment must be returned before the issuance of equipment for the next sport season.

SELECTING SQUAD MEMBERS

At times it may be necessary for a coach to limit his/her squad to maintain a reasonable number of squad members allowable by the O.H.S.A.A. and to maintain reasonable numbers to do the best job of coaching. This can be accomplished by following the guidelines listed below:

- A. The procedure and guidelines used by the coach must be posted where the potential athlete has an opportunity to read and review the policy.
- B. The coach will explain to all present the criteria that will be used before practice officially begins.
- C. The coach will supply the athletic director with a copy of the criteria in the selection's policy.
- D. A list naming those who were selected for the team shall be posted after the try-outs and/or practice sessions are concluded. A list shall be furnished to the athletic director.

(Refer to the selection policies and participation statements developed by each varsity coach-implemented grades 7 thru 12).

COLLEGE RECRUITMENT POLICY

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the athletic department. Inform your coach of such a contact immediately. Swanton High School will abide by the rules of NCAA recruiting guidelines and policies (NCAA guidelines are available in the athletic office)

CONFLICTS IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Any student who attempts to participate in too many extracurricular activities will undoubtedly be in a position of conflict of obligations.

When conflicts do arise, the sponsors of those groups will meet to discuss a solution so that the student does not feel overwhelmed or caught in between too many extracurricular activities. If a solution cannot be found the principal shall make the decision based on the following criteria including, but not limited to:

- A. The relative importance of each event:
- B. The importance of each event to the student:
- C. The relative contribution the student will make:
- D. How long each event has been scheduled; and
- E. Talk with the parents.

If a student does participate in more than one sport then they have to declare which sport is their primary sport and which is their secondary sport. This is only to help the principal and athletic director to make a determination on where a student attends if a conflict takes place along with the above criteria.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURE

The following regulations on attendance for extra-curricular activities shall be strictly enforced:

- A. All students are expected to be in attendance on the day of an athletic contest or when practice is scheduled unless the student/athlete has arranged with the principal or coach to be excused. Unless approved by the principal, a student must be in attendance prior to the start of 4th period and remain in attendance until school is dismissed for the day to be eligible to participate in the day's activity or practice.
- B. Failure of students to comply with the above regulations will result in the denial of participation for the next scheduled event or events in the case of multiple absences.

- C. Subsequent violations of the Attendance Policy will result in the denial of participation for the remainder of the season.

TRAVEL

In compliance with School Board Policy EEAE, adopted, March 19, 1990, the following procedures will be strictly followed concerning travel to and from all athletic contests and/or scrimmages:

- A. Students that are involved in athletics at Swanton High School are expected to travel to and from all athletic contests and scrimmages by transportation that has been provided by the Athletic Department. This includes all players, coaches, managers, trainers, statisticians, cheerleaders, etc.
- B. Parents wishing to provide transportation to or from an athletic event must personally contact the coach, athletic director or principal. The student will be the responsibility of the parent if permission is granted. Phone calls and/or written notes will not be accepted.
- C. Students who hold a valid temporary or permanent driver's license, and who are participating in athletics at Swanton High School are not permitted to drive to any athletic contest and/or scrimmage. They must use the same means of transportation as provided by the Athletic Department.
- D. Students that violate these procedures will be subject to disciplinary action as prescribed by the penalties as adopted by the Swanton Board of Education. In addition, students will be denied participation for the next athletic contest.
- E. It is the student's responsibility to arrive in time to meet the departure time of all scheduled events. All coaches will inform players, managers, statisticians, etc. of departure times. The athletic director will arrange all travel and inform coaches of departure times in writing.
- F. Subsequent violations of the travel policy will result in denial of participation.
- G. Bus Code of Conduct:
 - 1. The School Bus Code of Conduct will be enforced according to Board Policy.
 - 2. Teachers, coaches, and chaperones are responsible for their students' behavior on all field trips.
 - 3. The bus driver is considered to be the final authority on procedures and any safety-related matters while students are riding the bus.

ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Participation in athletics with the Swanton Local School District is not a right but a privilege which may be regulated by the Board of Education. It is required that students participating in athletics become familiar with and understand the rules and regulations required of students participating in athletics within the Swanton Local School District. This Athletic Code of Conduct, as well as the Student Code of Conduct, shall apply to all student-athletes on a year-round basis.

The Student Code of Conduct would, however, become applicable on the first day of the school year. Furthermore, this Athletic Code of Conduct and the Student Code of Conduct will continue to apply to students after their participation in athletics for the remainder of the school year. In addition to these rules, individual advisors/coaches' rules shall govern a student's conduct during the season.

- 1. The Student Code of Conduct and the Athletic Code of Conduct shall be posted in a central location in each school building and on the Board of Education's website.
- 2. It must be understood by all students and their parents/guardians that a condition to participating in interscholastic athletic activities in the Swanton Local School District requires a commitment to follow the rules, regulations, policies and procedures established by the District and its coaches/directors for the implementation of its programs. It should also be understood that a student who violates these rules, regulations, policies and procedures shall face disciplinary action. Such disciplinary action may include removal from participation in interscholastic athletic activities as well as possible suspension or expulsion from school pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct and Ohio Revised Code 3313.66.

3. Any student who has been removed from participation for a season or longer shall forfeit any awards earned for the activity for that season from the Swanton Local School District or from any other association as a result of participation in the activity
4. Offenses and violations of this Code which may forfeit a student's Privilege to participate in athletic activities may include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Using, possessing, attempting to possess, or selling any alcoholic beverages, illegal narcotics, illegal drugs or controlled substances, look alike drugs, or mind altering substances. Students who host a party that are aware or should have been aware that alcohol or other illegal controlled substances were being used, sold, possessed or consumed, shall also be considered in violation.
 - B. Using or possessing tobacco in any form (includes smokeless tobacco and vaping).
 - C. Being involved in malicious or disruptive behavior at school, in Athletics or in a student's everyday activities away from school grounds or school-related events. Malicious or disruptive behavior may be defined as, but not limited to:
 1. Vandalism
 2. Disruption or misconduct during school activities, practices, games, or during the course of activity-related transportation.
 3. Disrespect to officials or other school personnel before, during or after an athletic practice, contest or event.
 4. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct as adopted by the Board of Education.
 - D. Violating any additional training rules that the head coach may deem necessary (curfew, length of hair, travel/home contest attire, etc.).
 - E. Hazing - as defined by the Swanton School Student Code of Conduct and the Ohio Revised Code.
 - F. A criminal charge has been filed against a student or the student has plead guilty or been convicted of a violation of any state, federal or community law. The Board of Education shall not be prohibited from denying participation in athletic activities if a student has been charged with a violation of any state, federal or community law and the Board and/or its designee reasonably determines that probable cause existed for the criminal charge.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ATHLETIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

The timeframe for the above rules and regulations shall be year-round from the first day of practice of an athlete's freshman year through the last day of competition of an athlete's senior year.

Any calculation of denied contests will be rounded UP no matter what the decimal.

All consequences for violations of Athletic Rules and Regulations will only affect OHSAA sanctioned athletics. (Does not affect non-sanctioned athletics such as AAU Basketball, ACME Baseball, etc.)

Athletes who violate the above rules and regulations shall be subject to the following penalties:

- A. Any athlete who violates rule A and/or B shall be denied participation in the following manner:

1st offense - Any athlete that is found in violation of the tobacco, alcohol, or drug policy for the first time will experience the denial of participation for 20% of a previously participated sports season and the athlete must also successfully complete a recognized drug, alcohol, or tobacco intervention program at the students cost. Incoming freshmen and individuals who have not previously participated in athletics will experience the denial of participation in their first sports season. Written notification from the recognized program director must be presented to the athletic director before reinstatement occurs (All costs of assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents).

If the violation occurs at the end of a sports season, the denial time frame will be carried out during the next sports season in which the athlete participates.

** 1st offense intervention: Successful completion within a substance abuse program from a list provided by the school.

(When denied participation under this provision, athletes are expected to travel to all scheduled contests and/or scrimmages but shall not participate in the event and must be dressed in street clothes).

2nd offense - Any athlete that is found in violation of the tobacco, alcohol, or drug policy for the second time will experience the denial of participation for one (1) calendar year from the date of the offense. Should the athlete successfully complete a recognized drug, alcohol, or tobacco intervention program at the student's cost, six (6) months of the denial will be rescinded. Written notification from the recognized program director must be presented to the athletic director before the reinstatement occurs. (All costs of assessment, treatment, rehabilitation, or counseling shall be the responsibility of the athlete and his/her parents.)

(When denied participation under this provision, athletes are expected to travel to all scheduled contests and/or scrimmages but shall not participate in the event and must be dressed in street clothes).

** 2nd offense intervention: enrollment and successful completion within a substance abuse program from a list provided by the school.

3rd offense – Any athlete that is found in violation of the tobacco, alcohol or drug policy for the third time will be denied participation for the remainder of the athlete's school career.

B. Any athlete who violates rule C and/or D shall be denied participation in the next scheduled athletic contest. Subsequent violations shall result in denial of participation for the remainder of the season

C. Any athlete who violates rule E shall be subject to denial of participation for the remainder of the school year with possible exclusion for the remainder of said athlete's high school career.

D. Any athlete who violates rule F will be subject to disciplinary action which could result in the denial of participation in athletics for an entire student's career, depending on the nature of the offense or alleged offense.

The coach of the specific sport, athletic director, and principal shall determine what specific disciplinary measures to impose and whether a partial or full denial of participation is warranted and/or necessary.

If an athlete is denied participation, the penalty shall be imposed at the beginning of the first season in which the athlete has previously participated. For incoming freshmen, the penalty shall be imposed for the first season of participation.

These penalties are cumulative while a student is in grades 7 - 8 and shall begin re-accumulating anew while a student is in grades 9 – 12.

All cases involving violations of these rules shall be reported in writing to the athletic director. Parents will be notified of all suspected violations.

DENIAL OF PARTICIPATION

The rules and regulations set by the athletic department and approved by the board of education shall be followed by all students that are involved in interscholastic athletics at Swanton Local Schools.

The head coach shall provide each participant with a list of the rules and regulations under which his/her activity will operate. The head coach will go over these rules and regulations verbally with their squads.

When it appears that a student has violated a rule and the penalty for such a violation is denial of participation, the following due process procedures shall be followed:

- A. Should an athlete violate one of the rules and/or regulations that govern that particular sport, the head coach will be involved.
- B. If the athletic director agrees that the rules and regulations have been violated, it is the responsibility of the Athletic Director/Assistant athletic director to deny participation to the athlete. The athlete will be presented with a written NOTICE OF INTENT TO DENY PARTICIPATION.
- C. After receiving such written notice, the athlete will be provided with the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing to state his/her side of the story. The head coach will be consulted and the Athletic Director will be present at such hearings.
- D. Based on the hearing, the decision to deny participation or not to deny participation is made. If the decision is to deny participation, the athletic director shall notify the parents, in writing, and state the reason(s) for such denial.

DRUG TESTING POLICY SWANTON SCHOOLS

The SWANTON Board of Education Drug Testing Policy was developed because of a concern that alcohol and illicit drugs may be used by SWANTON athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extra- curricular activities in grades 7-12. This policy acknowledges that student privileges (athletics, extracurricular activities, and student driving) are an integral part of the entire educational program. The SWANTON Board of Education desires to implement a policy which will attempt to provide this district with safe student privileges (athletics, extracurricular programming, and student driving). This policy reflects the SWANTON Board of Education and the community's strong commitment to establish a truly drug and alcohol free environment. This policy applies to all athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extracurricular activities from grade 7-12.

PURPOSES OF THIS POLICY SHALL BE:

1. To provide a positive environment to student athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extracurricular activities.
2. To discourage student athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extracurricular activities from using drugs and alcohol.
3. To encourage Students to take responsibility for regulating their personal lives in ways that will result in their becoming healthful members of a team and worthy representatives of the school and community.
4. To provide student athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extracurricular activities with the opportunity to become leaders in the student body for a drug free school.
5. To provide solutions for student athletes, drivers and students who participate in extracurricular activities who do drugs and alcohol.
6. To provide the athletic department and club and other activity advisors with positive guidelines and disciplinary policies for violations of the drug free policy.

7. To encourage those students who participate in student privileges (athletics, extra/co-curricular programming, and student driving) to remain drug free and alcohol free.

DEFINITIONS

1. **STUDENT ATHLETE OR PARTICIPANT**

Any person participating in the SWANTON student privileges (athletics, extracurricular programming, and student driving) in grades 7-12 and/or contests under the control and jurisdiction of the SWANTON Schools and/or the Ohio High School Athletic Association OHSA). This policy also includes cheerleaders and members of the Wrestling Matmaids.

2. **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY**

Activities performed by students that fall outside the realm of the normal curriculum of school

3. **STUDENT DRIVERS**

Students who elect to secure a parking permit from Swanton High School.

4. **ATHLETIC SEASON**

In-season start dates will begin as published by the Ohio High School Athletic Association or sanctioning organization and continue until the completion of awards programs for that sport for the SWANTON Schools. There are three athletic seasons: Fall, Winter, and Spring.

5. **RANDOM SELECTION**

A system of selecting athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extracurricular activities for drug and alcohol testing in which each athlete shall have a fair and equitable chance of being selected each time selections are required.

6. **ILLEGAL/ILLICIT DRUGS**

Any substance included in 21 U.S.C. 802 (6), which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes all prescribed and over-the-counter ("OTC") drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes in accordance with the directions for use provided for in the student's own prescription or by the manufacturer (for OTC drugs).

7. **ALCOHOL**

Any intoxicating liquor, beer, wine, mixed beverage, or malt liquor beverage as defined in the Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.01. The term "alcoholic beverage" includes any liquid or substance, such as "near beer" which contains alcohol in any proportion or percentage. The term "alcoholic beverage" does not include a substance used for medical purposes in accordance with directions for use provided in a prescription or by the manufacturer and in accordance with school district policy and rules related to the use of prescription and non-prescription drugs, provided the substance is a) authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed physician and b) kept in the original container, which shall state the student's name and directions for use or b) an over-the-counter medicine.

TYPES OF TESTING

1. **RANDOM TESTING**

In-session random testing will be done throughout the season. A participant may be tested more than once per season. In the event of a positive result, the specimen will be sent to a laboratory for confirmation of results.

- A. The building administrator will use a system to ensure that athletes and participants are selected in a random fashion. This system may include computer generated random numbers or names or by pulling numbers from a pool of numbers equal to the number of eligible student athletes, drivers, and students who participate in extracurricular activities.
- B. Random testing will be unannounced. The day and date will be selected by the building administrator. Random testing may be done weekly.

2. **SUBSTANCES TESTED**

Athletes and Participants may be tested for the following:

LSD, Alcohol, Marijuana, Amphetamines, Methadone, Anabolic Steroids, Methaqualone, Barbiturates, Nicotine (Tobacco), Benzodiazepines, Opiates, Cocaine, Propoxyphene (Darvon), or any substance included in U.S.C. 802 (6), which an individual may not sell, offer to sell, possess, give, exchange, use, distribute, or purchase under State or Federal Law. This definition also includes all prescribed and over-the-counter drugs being used in any way other than for medical purposes in accordance with the directions for use provided for in the prescription or by the manufacturer.

3. COLLECTION PROCESS

The student will be notified to report to the collection site. All students must have a picture ID or be identified by the Athletic Director or Building administrator. No exceptions will be allowed. The Athletic Director and building administrator are responsible for ensuring that all of the forms are completed and signed by both parent/guardian/custodian and student. No student is to enter the collection site until forms and proper ID are completed.

A specimen from the student will be collected as follows and all students must follow this process:

- Drug testing areas must be secured during the testing.
- Only lab technicians and students will be witness to the test.
- Privacy will be maintained for all students.
- No bags, backpacks, purses, cups, containers or drinks will be allowed in the collection area. All coats, vests, jackets, sweaters, hats, scarves or baggy clothing must be removed before entering the collection site. Only pants and shirts or dresses may be worn in the collection area. Any infringement of the rules will result in the student taking the test over.
- Students will be asked to hold out their hands and a sanitizer will be put on their hands. The bathroom personnel will add a dye to the toilet.
- Students will be asked to urinate directly into the collection cup given to them by the lab personnel. The lab technician will stand outside the stall and listen for normal sounds of urination.
- The sample must be taken in one attempt and be at least 30 ml. The student must hand the cup to the lab technician.
- Students must not flush the toilets or urinals. If a student flushes the toilet, he or she will be required to give a new sample immediately or the sample will be invalid.
- With students watching, the lab technician will recap the sample and hand it to the student who must then return it to the intake technician. If the student does not hand the cup directly to the intake technician, the sample is invalid and a new sample must be taken. If the student leaves the collection area or walks out to talk with anyone, the sample will be invalid and the student must give another sample.
- Students processed by the lab technician who cannot produce a sample will be kept in a secured area to wait until they can test. If they leave this area they will not be allowed to test. They are not to have contact with anyone until after the sample is given.
- Any student who cannot give a sample, will be provided with water, pop or juice to drink. After 36 oz. the human body will need to urinate.
- Any suspicion of tampering with the sample will be brought to the tester's attention. The sample will be sent to the lab for immediate analysis of potential tampering.
- All samples will be monitored and tested for adulteration. Adulterations and diluted samples will be treated as first time offenses. Any samples that have been tampered with will also be treated as a first time offense. They are not called positives but have the same consequences. A retest will be required within 24 hours.
- This collection procedure is subject to change because of procedural requirements by the testing agency. The School Board reserves the right to change the collection procedure to coincide with the testing guidelines set forth by the testing agency.
- Testing will be done by Great Lakes Biomedical only so long as this is the company the school selects.
- Refusal to take the test will be considered an offense.

4. RESULTS OF A POSITIVE TEST

Any positive urine drug test results will be made known to the building administrator, who in turn will notify the parents/guardians/custodians and students. The testing agency, after verification by its certified laboratory, will determine if the urine testing positive for drugs is the result of illicit use or from prescribed medications showing up in the urine. If the student is taking a prescribed medication, the proper form must be on file in the Building administrator's office.

Whenever a student athlete's test result indicates the presence of illegal drugs or banned substances, the following will occur:

- a) A parent/guardian/custodian will be notified and the sample will be sealed and sent to a lab for confirmation.

5. IF A POSITIVE TEST OCCURS:

ATHLETIC

The first violation upon the first positive result:

- A) The student will have to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the Athletic Department with documentation that the athlete completed all recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian and student will meet with the Athletic Director, and/or coach, and/or a building administrator to review completion of the program. The student may be required, at parent/guardian/custodian expense, to submit to weekly testing for the remainder of the current athletic season.
- B) The student must successfully complete the above mentioned program or else she/he will be ineligible to participate until the program has been completed. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing.

The 2nd violation upon the second positive result:

The student athlete will be denied participation for 50% of a previously participated sports season. These events shall be consecutive starting with the first scheduled event after the confirmation of the violation. Incoming 7th graders and individuals who have not previously participated in athletics will experience the denial of participation in their first sports season. The student must successfully complete the above-mentioned program with a drug counselor or else she/he will be ineligible to participate until the program has been completed. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing. The 50% denial of participation begins after the completion of the above mentioned program. Student athletes are expected to practice with their respective teams during both the above mentioned program and denial of participation.

The 3rd violation upon the third positive result:

The student athlete is permanently denied participation in athletics in the SWANTON Schools for grades 7-12.

EXTRACURRICULAR (Club or Activity)

The 1st violation upon the first positive result:

- A) Students will have to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the building administrator with documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian and student will meet with the advisor and building administrator to review completion of the program. The

student may be required, at parent/guardian/custodian expense, to submit to weekly testing for the remainder of the club or activity.

- B) The student must successfully complete the above mentioned program or else she/he will be ineligible to participate until the program has been completed. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing.

The 2nd violation upon the second positive result:

The student will be denied participation in the club or activity for twelve (12) weeks. These events shall be consecutive starting the day after the confirmation of the violation. Incoming 7th graders and individuals who have not previously participated in clubs will experience the denial of participation of their first club activity. Suspension from the club or activity with reinstatement conditioned on satisfying the counseling requirements.

Denial of participation of a co-curricular activity under this section does not render the participant ineligible for tryouts and auditions for future co-curricular activities. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing. The student must successfully complete the above-mentioned program with a drug counselor or else she/he will be ineligible to participate until the program has been completed. The 12 week denial of participation begins after the completion of the above mentioned program.

The 3rd violation upon the third positive result:

A third violation of this Code of Conduct will automatically result in permanent exclusion from all co-curricular activities offered by Swanton Schools for grades 7-12.

STUDENT DRIVERS

The 1st violation upon the first positive result:

- A) Students will have to make an appointment with a certified chemical dependency counselor (or at an agency certified by the Ohio Department of Health or the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services) for chemical dependency assessment and then follow the recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian is responsible for all expenses and for providing the building administrator documentation that the student completed all recommendations of the counselor. The parent/guardian/custodian and student will meet with the building administrator to review completion of the program. The student may be required, at parent/guardian/custodian expense, to submit to weekly testing for the remainder of the school year.
- B) The student must successfully complete the above mentioned program or else she/he will be ineligible to participate until the program has been completed. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing.

The 2nd violation upon the second positive result:

The student will be denied driving privileges and student parking for one (1) calendar year. Any student that tests positive may be required to be tested weekly for the term of the above mentioned program with drug counseling at the expense of the student and or parent. These events shall be consecutive starting the day after the confirmation of the violation. Denial of participation from the parking/driving with reinstatement conditioned on satisfying the counseling requirements. The student will automatically be included in the next random testing. The student must successfully complete the above-mentioned program with a drug counselor or else she/he will be ineligible to participate until the program has been completed.

The 3rd violation upon the second positive result:

A third offense will result in the student being banned from parking at the high school for the remainder of his/her high school career.

Violations are cumulative throughout the student's secondary school career. (Grades 7-12)

6. SELF REFERRALS

An athlete may self refer which may be done only once in 6 years (Grades 7-12).

Self referrals can only happen before a student is selected for testing. Counseling and additional testing are required and no other punitive action is taken.

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