

THATCHER HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Academic School Year 2026 - 2027



601 North 3rd Ave., Thatcher, AZ 85552

(928)-348-7272

www.thatcherud.org

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THATCHER HIGH SCHOOL

This is a booklet to explain and inform you of general student guidelines, rules, infractions and school actions. Students should refer to this guide for further information on school rules. Additional information is available in the high school office and in the District Policy Manual that is available in the office.

Thatcher High School Mission Statement

Our mission is to establish a coordinated technical, aesthetic, and academic program based on the needs, interests, talents, uniqueness, and abilities of each student.

Through this program we will assist students in developing ethical, moral, and civic values, while at the same time providing an atmosphere to develop initiative, responsibility, independence, positive self-concept, leadership, and individual potential that will enable them to meet the challenges and opportunities they will have in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex society.

ALMA MATER

Hail, Thatcher High!
We'll sing our praise to thee,
We'll stand by thy colors And
honor bring the "T".
Hark to the sound
Of the Eagle's stately cry, A
symbol of courage
Thy banner on high, The
emblem of freedom, All
Hail, Thatcher High!

THS MOTTO

*"BUILDING ON TRADITION
CREATING EXCELLENCE"*

FIGHT SONG

On dear old Thatcher
Hail to the fray Down
hearted never In strong
array--- "Fight, Fight,
Fight" Raise high the
Eagle We'll guard the
"T"

While bold Mt. Graham Stands
Fight for victory!

Continuous Notice of Non-discrimination

The Thatcher Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age or sexual orientation in admission and access to its programs, services, activities, or in any aspect of their operations and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Thatcher Unified School District also does not discriminate in its hiring or employment practices. The following employees have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Title IX Coordinator

Section 504/ADA Coordinator

Matt Petersen, Superintendent

Thatcher USD No. 4

P.O. Box 610

Thatcher, AZ 85552

(928) 348-7201

Thatcher High School Faculty and Staff

2026 - 2027

Ryan Conrad, Principal

Machelle Jones, Principal Admin. Asst.

Jenni Bryce, Counselor

* Dave Cluff, CTE / Culinary

* Chris Cook, Science

Lelia Demuth, ISS Clerk

Tracy Dodson, CTE / Woods

Elaina Estrada, Science

Michelle Ferrin, Math

Harry Goslin, Social Studies

* Eric Haller, Social Studies

* Denise Hughes, English

Lindsey Griffin, Library Clerk

* Laura Griffith, Music/Choir

Janae Jones, Culinary Assistant

* Aubrey Larson, Math

Pam Leavitt, Math

Maya Martinez, CTE/ Business

Morgan Matthews, Special Ed.

Tye Stewart, Assistant Principal / AD

Natasha Petersen, Attendance / Athletics Admin Asst.

Kim Rhodes, Registrar / Counseling Admin Asst. Tina

Russell, Bookstore

Megan Medina, Math

Rheyanna Mennen, PE

Bryany Morris, English

Mandy Muenchow, English

Luke Ochoa, Science

Sarah Porter, Special Ed.

Callie Ruiz, English

Carlos Salas, Spanish

Sarah Scott, English

*Daniel Smith, Art

Chad Smith, PE / Weights

Brandon Udall, English

Melinda Terry, Math

Stephen Walden, PE / Weights

Dejah Whetten, Social Studies

Ruth Young, Band / Orchestra

*** Department Chair**

ACADEMIC/ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES, SYMBOLS, AND TRADITIONS

Eagle Awards for Academic Achievement

Students who qualify for the HONOR ROLL for the entire first three quarter plus the forth quarter progress period, will receive a gift for their efforts. Awards will be given by grade level and include scientific calculators for Freshmen, drawstring backpacks for Sophomores, hooded sweatshirts for Juniors and THS blankets for Seniors. In addition, the school recognize students of the year by department and class. EAAA recipients will be honored at the Honors Assembly in May.

Transfer student that enroll during the school year must provide quarter (9 weeks) grades that meet the criteria to qualify. Semester grades alone will not qualify a student that transfers into Thatcher High School mid-year. Other award will be given out for Student of the year by department, Student of the year by class, Eagle Effort- selected by the faculty (does not have to meet the 90% grade requirement) one overall student of the year-selected by faculty.

Honor Roll

Thatcher High School posts honor rolls for each quarter. Students qualify for the honor roll by achieving a cumulative average of 90% or better in all of the classes in which they are enrolled. Students qualify for the yearly honor roll by achieving a cumulative average of 90% in quarters 1 through 4. The 4th quarter progress report grades will be used to qualify students in quarter 4 for the yearly honor roll. Students that qualify for the yearly honor roll will receive certificates.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Students having the Highest and 2nd highest cumulative percentile grade point average over 4 years of High School and a rigorous senior year class schedule. The last 3 consecutive semesters have to be at Thatcher High School. The student must be enrolled at Thatcher High School the 1st semester of their junior year.

Registration

(All pupils or prospective pupils of Thatcher High School should read this section carefully. We have tried to organize a registration procedure that will make possible a satisfactory program for all students. We need your help; however, in accomplishing this end.) Pupils are not permitted to drop a course or to make changes in their registration without permission from the principal and/or counselor and a parent. (Note program change section.)

Early Registration

Registration is done before school is out in the spring. The teachers and counselor are willing to assist you with the registration form so you can enroll in the exact courses you desire. The counselor will assign students to classes, who fail to complete registration by the deadline.

Upperclassman Registration

Please check your records carefully during the spring registration, as to the number of credits earned, as well as the required courses and elective courses needed.

Fall Registration

All students - New and Returning - must complete the online registration which opens July 1st before the Fall Semester. There will be scheduled times for both new and returning students to come in person to THS to pick up class schedules, pay all fees, and pick up books prior to the start of the semester.

Participation Fees

Students who choose to participate in any extracurricular activity including, but not limited to: All Athletics, Band, Flags, Spirit Line, Choral Music, and Academic Team, will be required to pay the participation fee once the teams, or squads have been selected. ***This fee must be paid before the 1st scheduled competition, and is non-refundable after the 1st scheduled competition.***

Activity Card

Students may choose to purchase an activity card during registration. Those who do will be admitted free of charge to all home athletic events and to assemblies and dances at free or reduced prices. This card must be shown in order to gain entry, and is non-transferable, and non-refundable once it has been paid for. The amount involved in this fee will be set by the Board of Education on a yearly basis.

Books and Supplies

All students are provided with textbooks and workbooks, free of charge, at the beginning of the year. Students are responsible for damage to textbooks checked out to them. If they happen to lose a book, they will have to pay to replace it. The bookstore accepts cash and purchases may also be completed online. Please visit the bookstore for information on purchasing items or paying fees online. The principal must authorize any charges. All students registered at T.H.S. are required to have a textbook to be used in each class in which they are enrolled.

THATCHER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FEES 2026-2027

SCHOOL YEAR

Please note that fees are assessed on a per semester basis. ***All fees are non-refund- able after the first 10 days of school for Semester 1 classes and after the first 5 days of school for Semester 2 classes.***

Course Fees - Some courses require a participation fee in addition to a course fee.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Woods 1, 2, 3	\$60 per semester
Art - All Courses	\$40 per semester
Culinary Arts 1	\$55 per semester
Culinary Arts 2	\$30 per semester
Marching Band	\$20 course fee plus \$125 participation fee
Concert Band	\$20 course fee plus \$45 participation fee
Orchestra	\$20 course fee plus \$35 participation fee per semester
Mixed Choir	\$35 course fee per semester (includes T-shirt)
Girls Choir	\$35 course fee per semester (includes T-Shirt)
Show Choir	\$20 course fee plus \$100 participation fee
Dance	\$20 course fee plus \$100 participation fee

Other Fees

Activity Card	\$50
Yearbook - without name	\$70 early purchase - price will increase in January
Yearbook - with name	\$75 early purchase - price will increase in January
Parking Permit	\$20
FCCLA Dues.....	\$30
FBLA Dues.....	\$30
Skills USA Dues	\$20
Knowledge Bowl.....	\$35
Book Club	\$25
Athletic Fee	\$125 per sport. Must be paid prior to first game.

Locks, Lockers, and Backpacks

The P.E. office will assign all lockers. All P.E. students are required to have a locker. To enter the locker of any student is criminal, and will be dealt with as such. Under no circumstances should lockers be transferred between students. The only place to make a legal transfer is in the P.E. office. Cooperation in this matter will eliminate trouble. The school in no way implies that it will be responsible for the safety of articles that may be lost from your lockers. ***You are expected to keep your locker locked at all times.*** The lockers are relatively safe if you remember to lock your locker each time you use it and make a point not to reveal your combination to anyone else. **IT IS AGAINST SCHOOL POLICY TO SHARE LOCKERS!** All students are required to clean out their locker at the end of the school year, or semester end, or such time as they check out of school. Any student failing to do this will be assessed a \$5.00 clean out fee. Lockers remain the property of the school and are subject to periodic checks. Backpacks are subject to search at school.

Schedule Changes

The following procedure has been adopted:

Students will be scheduled and are expected to remain in classes they sign up for at early registration. These may include an alternate rather than first preference when scheduling problems develop. Students not handing in early registration sheets on time will be assigned a schedule by the Principal's Office. Under some specific circumstances students may petition for a schedule change up to, and including, the second Friday of the semester. Students will have 10 (ten) school days to make a schedule change in the first semester of the school year and five (5) school days the second semester of the school year.

ACCEPTABLE REASONS FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES:

1. Course completed in summer or past year(s)
2. Course failure in previous semester
3. Placed in courses not requested (computer error)
4. Qualifying program (reading or special education)
5. Job placement through work experience
6. Course needed to meet graduation requirements
7. Restructure of the curriculum (adding or dropping of classes)
8. To balance class size

Drop / Adds

Under certain circumstances students may petition to drop a class without credit after the second Friday of the semester. Any drops or removal from after the fifth week of the semester will result in ***WITHDRAW FAILING being recorded*** on the student records.

Enrollment Deadline

Thatcher High School will enroll students whose parents or legal guardians are bonafide residents of the Thatcher School District, providing student lives in the district with a parent or legal guardian. Students shall meet all requirements as outlined in Chapter Three of Title 15 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. If a student meets the above requirement, he/she may enroll at any time during the school term. In order to receive credit for academic work, a student must enroll by the first

Wednesday after Labor Day, or by January 15 for the second semester. A student may transfer from another school at any time during the school year. However, an official transcript of previous academic work must be provided to Thatcher High School.

Upon evaluation of this transcript, a student will be placed in the most appropriate classes possible and will be placed by grade according to total credits previously earned.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment is available in a limited capacity based on cohort sizes. Returning open enrolled students must reapply annually by turning in forms to the Thatcher Unified School District Office by March 15th. Failure to do so may result in the student being denied open enrollment for the next school year. New students interested in open enrollment may obtain forms at the THS office, the district office or online. Once the forms have been completed, parents will be notified if a student is accepted or if they will be placed on a waiting list for open enrollment.

Accreditation

Thatcher High School has been fully accredited by the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Membership in the North Central Association means that students graduating from this school are admitted to standard accredited colleges and universities without examination, provided, of course, that they have taken the proper courses during their high school work. We must follow their policies and guidelines.

Testing Out Policy

Thatcher High School allows students to test out of a subject or course. They must do this during the first ten days of semester 1 and /or the first five days of semester 2, depending on the course, whether it is a full year course or semester course.

Students electing to test out of a class will be awarded the grade they receive on the examination and it will be figured into their overall GPA.

Students electing to test out of a class must pass the course with at least (60%). Those not achieving this requirement must take the course to receive credit.

Report to Parent / Interim Report

Reports to parents or guardians will be issued every 4.5 weeks for students who are failing or are near failing at that time. A progress report on the student will be sent home at the 4.5 week point of each nine week grading period. This will not constitute a grade report, only a brief reference to the student's recent progress and current status in each class. Also, grades are available on the website for parent review.

Explanation of Grades

90-100%.....	Excellent
80-89%	Above Average
70-79%.....	Average
60-69%.....	Below Average
59-Below	No Credit
WP	Withdraw Passing
WF	Withdraw Failing
CR	Credit
NC.....	No Credit
P.....	Passing
F.....	Failing

Weighted Grading System

Thatcher High School has adopted the Weighted Grading System to encourage students to take the more difficult classes and to reward them for their efforts. Only classes taken at Thatcher High School are weighted. Weight the following classes by multiplying the grade received by 1.1, or 10% for figuring the numeric average used to determine class rank and academic honors only. FINAL grades are NOT weighted on the transcript:

ENG101 Written Communications I
ENG102 Written Communications II
BIO100 Biology Concepts
CHM130 Fundamental Chemistry
HCE 241 Nutrition
BIO107 Intro to Biotechnology
BIO160 Intro to Human Anatomy & Physiology
PSY 101 Intro to Psychology

HIS101 U.S. History to 1877
HIS102 U.S. History Since 1865
MAT140 College Mathematics
MAT160 Introduction to Statistics
MAT154 Precalculus Algebra
MAT181 Precalculus Trig
SPA 201 Intermediate Spanish I
SPA202 Intermediate Spanish II

Incompletes

The grade of "INC" indicates that the work in the subject is not complete and that the proper credit can be earned by doing certain work as indicated by the instructor giving the grade. When the work is properly completed, the teacher will enter the grade. An incomplete must be made up within two weeks unless special conditions are worked out with the teacher and principal. If it is not made up, the grade for the incomplete work will be given "0%" and term grade will be averaged with the previous scores, and the "0%".

Semester Finals/ALL IN Final Exam Exemption Incentive

It is required that all students take their course finals, as it is a part of their curriculum. The following four criteria must be met for students to qualify for exemption from semester finals.

1. Not more than 4 total absences per class period (school excused activities will not be counted in this total. ALL other absences will apply.
2. Four tardies per class period will be calculated as an absences for this incentive.
3. 12 or more cumulative tardies will negate all other criteria and render the student ineligible for the incentive
4. Absences on assigned RE Friday sessions will be taken into account for this incentive.
5. Student grades must be at least 80% for the class by the Thursday before finals week.

PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 38 FOR INFORMATION REGARDING ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

THS Graduation Requirements:

English	4 Units
Arizona & American History	1 Unit
American Government & Economics	1 Unit
Mathematics (1)	4 Units
Science/Lab Science	3 Units
Physical Education.....	1 Unit
World History/Geography	1 Unit
Fine Arts/CTE*	1 Unit
Electives.....	6 Units

Students must also create an ECAP and pass the Civics Test.

The minimum number of credits required for graduation from THS is currently 22.

(1) Math courses shall consist of Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and an additional course with significant math content as determined by district governing boards or charter schools.

***A full year CTE Course is required to be taken during the sophomore year of high school.**

ECAP - Education and Career Action Plan

On February 25, 2008, the Arizona State board of Education approved Education and Career Action Plans for all Arizona students grades 9 - 12. An ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) reflects a student's current plan of coursework, career aspirations, and extended learning opportunities in order to develop the student's individual academic goals, career goals and postsecondary plans. Every student shall complete an ECAP prior to graduation. (R7-2-302.05)

Civics Test

In 2015, the Arizona legislature passed the American Civics Act (House Bill 2064). This bill will require students, beginning with the graduating class of 2017, to pass a civics test based on the United States Immigration and Naturalization civics questions.

Students will be required to score 60% or higher in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high school equivalency certificate. As a courtesy, the Arizona Department of Education, with help from the Maricopa County Education Service Agency and Arizona educators, has developed a mostly multiple-choice version of the required test.

All 9th and 10th grade students must be registered in seven (7) subjects. 11th and 12th grade may register for five (5) subjects. Seniors who have enough credits may choose the option to take four (4) classes and complete a Senior Seminar. All students must be enrolled full time (FTE) at Thatcher High School.

Senior Seminar

Senior students who have enough credits are eligible to take a minimum of 4 classes on campus each semester if they elect to complete a Senior Seminar. The Senior Seminar allows students to complete state mandated hours to meet their full-time seat time requirement. Students can meet these hours through one or more of the following:

- Community service with a community agency
- School Sponsored sports activity and/or zero hour band practice
- Work verified by a pay stub
- Study Hall

Senior seminar does **NOT** grant students credit, it just allows them to meet the necessary seat time to be classified as a full time enrolled student. If a student has not made sufficient progress towards their hours in the first semester, they will be required to add a course to their schedule Spring (2nd) semester to ensure these hours are met.

For general college preparation, a student should have the following:

Social Studies	3 Units Laboratory
Science	3 Units
English	4 Units
Algebra I	1 Unit
Algebra II	1 Unit
Geometry	1 Unit
Advanced Math	1 Unit
Foreign Language	2 Units
Fine Arts.....	1 Unit
Electives.....	6 Units

The requirements for college enrollment differ with the various colleges and universities, and these requirements are constantly being changed. The student is advised to keep in touch with the entrance requirements of the college or university that they plan to enroll. This information may be obtained from the guidance counselor.

NOTE: The ACT or SAT Test is required for all college preparatory students going to a 4-year college or university. All others should investigate their prospective school.

Guideline for Credit Received for Non-Thatcher High School Classes

Credits taken at any school other than Thatcher High School, including during the summer, are subject to review and will only receive elective credit unless otherwise previously approved by the Principal or Counselor. Online only courses will only be awarded elective credits.

For College credit earned, in an appropriate college or university course, Thatcher High School will award credit on the following scale:

College Credit Hour	High School Credit Awarded
1	.17
2	.33
3	.50
4	.67
5	.83
6	1.00

In order to receive a credit, a student shall meet the following requirements:

1. The Principal, or the Counselor must approve all courses in advance of enrollment.
2. The level of the course(s) is equal to or higher than the level of a high school course.
3. The course as approved is not offered at Thatcher High School.
4. The course, as approved, is offered at Thatcher High School, but due to class size limitations, scheduling conflicts, or other situations made known to and approved by the administration, the student is not able to enroll in the high school course.
5. Students are responsible for transcripts of grade(s) to be sent to the Thatcher High School Counseling Office prior to receiving credit.
6. College or university courses will not count as one of the (5) classes required for a full-time student status.
7. All costs incurred by the student for courses taken are the student's sole responsibility.
8. Thatcher High School will not limit the number of credits students may earn at a college or university towards the completion of high school graduation exercises. In special cases, release time will be granted from the high school schedule so that students may attend college courses.
9. Graduating Seniors must have met all graduation requirements by the Friday preceding graduation exercises in order to participate in those exercises. A UNIT is the credit given for the satisfactory completion of a full-time subject having 55 minutes recitation per week for a full school year.

SERVICES AND FACULTIES

Library

The Thatcher High School Library has books, magazines, pamphlets, and other audiovisual materials. Regular books are checked out for a period of two weeks. A fine often (.10) cents a day is levied on overdue books. Reference books and certain books on reserve cannot be taken from the library. Students will find that the books and materials are organized, cataloged, shelved, or filed so that they are easily found. Above all, the school library is a reading room, a book laboratory and a work center for the entire high school. The library is open from 7:15 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. when school is in session. Students assigned to classes must have a hall pass to the library from their teacher in order to admit them to the library. Other students may use the library during their unassigned period. (Note: Section on library manners)

Cafeteria

The commons area is conveniently located for dining during the lunch period. Hot lunches or salad bar can be purchased at reasonable rates. We encourage all students to use the cafeteria. Meal tickets are sold in the bookstore; also, free lunch and reduced lunch applications are available in the high school office and at the district office. Quiet, courteous behavior and cleanliness are required in the dining areas.

Students must clean up after themselves; if not, they will be required to do extra cleaning duty.

Health Care

The school nurse will provide health care as needed. Students must have a pass from their teacher to see the nurse; emergency cases are an exception. In case of an illness or accident sustained while at school, the nurse will contact the parent or guardian before the student is released from school.

Counseling and Guidance

Your counselor will be both a friend and guide to you. You should feel perfectly free to talk with your counselor about any problem that may arise at times other than scheduled interviews. It cannot be emphasized too greatly that the counselor is your friend and here to help you as much as possible. You owe it to yourself to make use of this service.

School Insurance

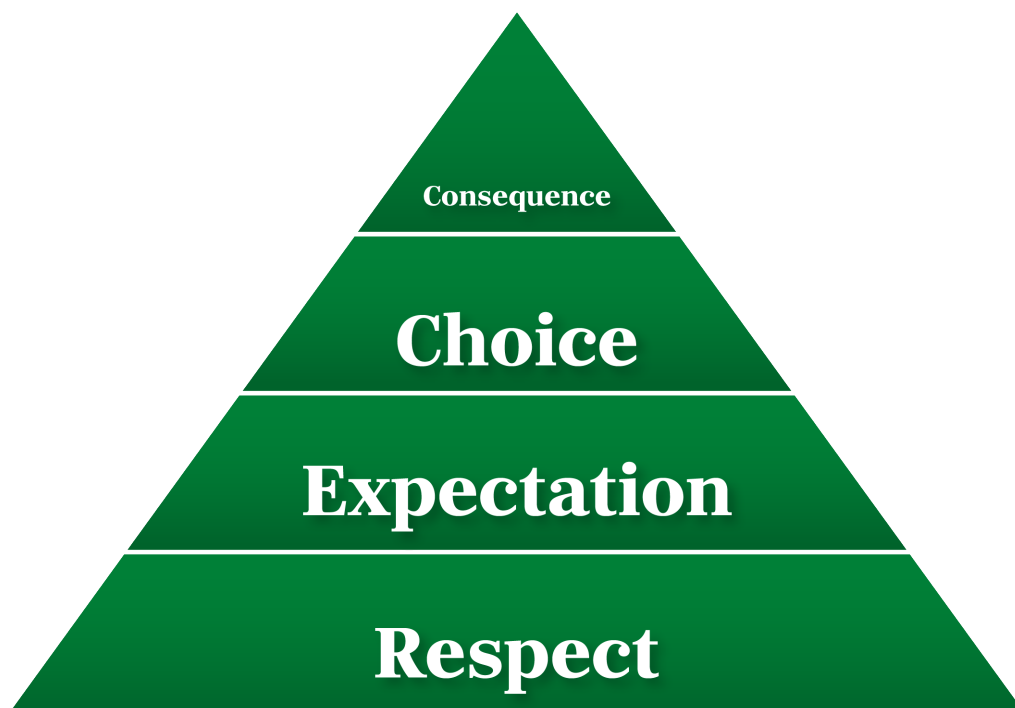
Student and athletic insurance are available to all students enrolled in this school. The insurance coverage and processing all claims are solely between the insurance company and parents.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Student Conduct

Well-mannered students behave in a reserved manner in order to demand and receive courtesy from others. When new students enter our school, they should be treated warmly and in a friendly manner. Excluding them from cliques should be avoided.

FOUNDATION OF RESPECT



It is expected that all students, teachers, staff members, and Thatcher High School associates will embrace, internalize and practice the universal principle of **RESPECT**.

RESPECT will drive all decisions and behaviors.
RESPECT for self, **RESPECT** for others, **RESPECT** for community,
RESPECT for country, and **RESPECT** for school.

Each teacher, staff member, student, and parent will embrace high **EXPECTATIONS** for themselves and those with whom they work and serve. We truly believe all students can achieve and progress leading to a happier and more fulfilling future.

Through research and evidence, we concede that manipulation, coercion, anger, and humiliation does not motivate students to greatness. Belief in oneself, excellent teachers, a foundation of consistently reinforced corrective **CONSEQUENCES**, and the overarching ability to **CHOOSE** will improve motivation, achievement, and innovation.

STUDENTS CHOOSE THEIR CHOICES. THEY DO NOT CHOOSE THE CONSEQUENCES!

To help students increase their capacity for success the following structure will be followed by all students and staff at Thatcher High School:

Each student engaged in one of the following unwanted behaviors will be sent to the office to speak with the principal or designated authority. The principal and student will discuss the violation of the foundational principle **RESPECT**. They will discuss corrective behaviors and possible interventions. The student will then earn Discipline Points based on the chart below as a consequence structured to change future behavior. Each column of points increases with each repeated behavior. **Should a student be engaged in multiple violations throughout an incident, the violation designated with the most points will be used as the defining consequence to deter.**

Once a student accumulates 100 discipline points during one semester, they will have the following options:

- Be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for long-term suspension from school.
- Be referred to the Governing Board for possible expulsion from Thatcher Unified School District.
- Withdraw from Thatcher High School.

Discipline Points System at Thatcher High School 2026 - 2025

CATEGORY 1

Skateboards, Scooters, Rollerblades	5	10	15
Disrespect for School Property, Littering	5	10	15
Violation of Food and Drink Rule	5	10	15

CATEGORY 2

Dress Code Violation	10	15	20
Horseplay/ Injury Prone or Unsafe Behavior	10	15	20

Profanity, Vulgarly & Obscene Gestures	10	15	20
Parking Violation	10	15	20
Minor Public Display of Affection	10	15	20
Cell Phone/Electronic Device Disruptive Object	10	15	20

CATEGORY 3

4 Unexcused Tardies (Cumulative)

Cell Phone/Electronic Device/Disruptive Object Disruptive Behavior 1 day of after school detention

Defacing School Property (With Reparations)	15	20	30
General Bus Disruption	15	20	30
Failure to Comply with a Reasonable Request	15	20	30
Fighting (Defender)	15	20	30
Fighting (Incitement)	15	20	30
Parking/Vehicle Operation Violation	15	20	30
	15	20	30

CATEGORY 4

Defiance, Disrespect, Insubordination

20 25 35

Cheating/ Violation of AI Policy

20 25 35

Violation of Statues or Policy

Possession of a Knife

20 25 35

Inappropriate Use of Computers

20 25 35

Profanity/Vulgarity/Obscenities Directed at Staff

20 25 35

20 25 35

CATEGORY 5

7 Unexcused Tardies (Cumulative)

Theft

3 days of after school detention

Out of Class without Permission

25 30 35

Vandalism/Destruction of School Property

25 30 35

On Campus without Permission

25 30 35

Reckless Operating of a Vehicle on Campus

25 30 35

25 30 35

CATEGORY 6

10 Unexcused Tardies (Cumulative)

1 day of ISS

Use/Sharing of Pornographic Material/Images

35 40 45

Fighting (Mutual)

35 40 45

Fighting (Aggressor)

35 40 45

Harassment, Bullying, Cyberbullying

35 40 45

Threats, Verbal Abuse or Written Abuse

35 40 45

CATEGORY 7

	2 days of ISS/Suspension of Activity for Semester	
12 Unexcused Tardies (Cumulative)		
Truancy/Ditching	50	50
Brandishing a Knife	50	50
Assault of a Student	50	50
Major Public Display of Affection (Sexual Contact/Groping)	50	50
False Fire Alarm/911 call	50	50
Vaping, Tobacco/Nicotine Violation	50	50
Alcohol Violation	50	50
Indecent Exposure	50	50
Operating a Vehicle on Campus in a Reckless and Dangerous Manner	50	50
Burglary	75	
Sexual Harassment	75	
Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance	75	
Intentional battery of a Student	75	

CATEGORY 8

Bomb Threat/Threat of Violence Against School	100
Severe Vandalism/Destruction of school property	100
Possession of a Controlled Substance or Drug Paraphernalia	100
Possession of an Explosive	100
Assault of a District Employee	100
Possession of a Weapon, Dangerous Device or Firearm	100
Arson	100
Aggravated Assault of a Student	100

NOTE:

- All Category 5 infractions may include minimum 1 day out of school suspension in addition to points
- All Category 6 infractions may include minimum 1 day out of school suspension in addition to points
- All Category 7 infractions may include minimum 1 day out of school suspension in addition to points

Parents

Parents will be notified when their student has been referred to the office for a handbook infraction. A parent conference may be scheduled when their student has a total of **50 points**.

Students having a semester total of **70 discipline points** or **12 cumulative tardies** will **NOT** be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities. This includes athletics, CTE events, fine arts programs, school sponsored trips, and attendance at school dances or games. Students that have 12 cumulative tardies will be given one opportunity per school year to restore their extracurricular privileges by completing an accountability project that includes parent participation.

Points of Clarification

All procedures will be in accordance with Thatcher Unified School District Board Policy. Any act that violates the law or is not specifically covered in these policies will be dealt with by the administration. Any extreme violations, in any category, will be dealt with more severely than the policy prescribes. Police will be notified if an infraction is also a legal matter.

Consequences for point accumulation

1-10 points - Warning

11-16 points - 1 day after school detention

17-24 points - 3 days after school detentions

25-34 points - 1 day ISS

35-44 points - 3 days ISS

45-54 points - 1 day OSS

55-66 points - 2 days OSS

67-77 points - 3 days OSS

78-89 points - 5 days OSS

90-99 points - 8 days OSS

100+ points - Referral for long term suspension plus 9 days OSS

Positive Behavior Initiatives

Throughout each year varying positive behavior initiatives for both outstanding and improved behaviors will be developed and utilized by teachers, administrators, and student leaders.

In addition to these positive consequences, students may remove discipline points during each semester by doing the following:

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A student may remove discipline points based by serving community service hours after school or during Friday School.

GOOD CONDUCT/BEHAVIOR

A student may remove discipline points by displaying good behavior for a prescribed period of time without a referral to the office.

BEHAVIOR CONTRACT OR PLAN

Student discipline may be modified by the administration by creating a behavior contract agreed upon by the student and parents. This may include enrollment in diversion course that will be prescribed and assigned to students for various handbook infractions. A student may have a reduction of points one time for completing a prescribed diversion course. If a student commits the infraction again, discipline points will be assessed without an opportunity for reduction.

Appeals to the process outlined in this section are made through the Superintendent.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the high school office, where their owner can claim them.

BUSING

The riding of the school bus is a privilege. The bus driver is in complete charge and all rules must be obeyed. Boisterous conduct will not be permitted. Any conduct that might interfere with the proper operation of the bus will not be allowed. Persons failing to meet the standards may be denied the right to use school transportation.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS DP # J-310, J-325, J-326.1

The use, possession, or distribution/sale of alcohol, tobacco, (electronic cigarettes, pipes) or drugs, in any form is forbidden on school property, or at school-sponsored activities off school property. This policy applies to all students, school employees, visitors who are on school property, who are in attendance at school, or participating in any school-sponsored activity, whose conduct at any time or any place interferes with or obstructs the missions or operations of the school district or the safety or the welfare of students or employees. Prescription Drugs must be left in the office, in the original container for disbursement. *(Refer to discipline guide and/or substance abuse program policy and procedures.)*

HAZING

There shall be no hazing, solicitation to engage in hazing, or aiding and abetting another who is engaged in hazing of any person enrolled, accepted for or promoted to enrollment, or intending to enroll or be promoted to schools within twelve (12) calendar months. For purposes of this policy a person as specified above shall be considered a "student" until graduation, transfer, promotion or withdrawal from the school.

Definitions:

"Hazing" means any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against another student and in which both of the following apply:

- A. The act was committed in connection with an initiation into, an affiliation with or the maintenance of membership in any organization that is affiliated with an educational institution.
- B. The act contributes to a substantial risk of potential physical injury, mental harm or degradation, or causes physical injury, mental harm or personal degradation. "Organization" means an athletic team, association, order, society, corps, cooperative, club, or similar group that is affiliated with an educational institution and whose membership consists primarily of students enrolled at that educational institution.

CHEATING

Cheating is a dishonest act. Plagiarism is considered cheating. Those persons who cheat are guilty of a serious offense. The grade of "0%" will automatically be given for the day's work or for that assignment. Handbook discipline points will also be assessed for cheating. If this continues, a student may be given a short suspension or lose credit for the semester, and forfeit chances for leadership in clubs and in the student body.

AFFECTION

Thoughtless or needless displays of affection, other than holding of hands, cannot be approved of or tolerated in the buildings or on the campus of Thatcher High School. Those who do it are inconsiderate of their friends and fellow students. Students will be warned about this type of behavior on the first occurrence. If it happens again, parents will be notified and disciplinary action under defiance of authority will be followed.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

By keeping the grounds and neighborhood clean, and by putting trash in waste containers, THS can gain the respect shown for the inside of the buildings and the equipment. Any student who is caught littering around the school will be given a 30-minute work detail after school or during the lunch hour under the direction of maintenance personnel. No super glue is allowed on campus.

CLASSROOM MANNERS

The teacher shall govern classroom manners. Again, courtesy and respect for others is a basic goal for a well-mannered class. It is the philosophy of Thatcher Schools that all teachers have the right to present material they have prepared for any particular class and all students have the right to learn and understand the material presented. No student behavior will be tolerated that infringes upon these rights.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Any student guilty of damaging school property will be held responsible for repair or replacement. They will be required to have the necessary repairs made, or be assessed a sum sufficient to pay for the damages and also be subject to disciplinary action.

HALL MANNERS

Between periods, confusion can be kept to a minimum if students help in keeping the halls as clear as possible. Do not stay in groups in the main hallway, in front of the doorways, and/or keep other students from getting to their classes on time. No food or open drinks are allowed in the classrooms or the halls. No drinks or food are to be in the classroom.

LIBRARY MANNERS

Good manners, courtesy, and respect for others is a basic goal that should be kept in mind by all those using the library. Keeping movement at a minimum and returning books on time are traits of a good student. If for some reason, books are kept overdue, a fine of ten cents a day, except Sunday and holidays will be charged. During school hours the library is used for reading favorite magazines, doing research, and just general reading. Students must have a pass from their teacher to enter the library during class time unless they have a free hour during that time. If students have a free period, they are to be in the library, not the Commons Area.

STUDENT DRIVERS

Student drivers should follow all traffic rules. The speed limit in the school zone (**15 miles per hour**) is strictly enforced. It is dangerous and unlawful to overload cars with students or to permit them to ride on fenders or in the bed of a pick-up and other places on vehicles. All vehicles must be parked within the markings in the

student parking lot. Students are **NOT** allowed to park on the dirt lot, 3rd Ave or in staff parking. Students are **NOT** permitted to park in the 10-minute parking zone in front of the high school **at any time**. Any student caught violating any of these rules will not be allowed to park on school property (time will be determined by school administration). **All cars that will be driven to school must have a parking permit attached to the vehicle's front window. The permits are available during registration and cost \$15.00.**

HONESTY

If there is but one quality that all students should develop, it is honesty. True, cheating may gain a little bit higher grade, but at the same time, it will cause you to lose the respect of your teachers and classmates. Cheating in class will be treated as a discipline problem.

RESPECT

If we are to properly represent Thatcher High School, students should show respect to and for the following:

- Respect the authority of parents & associates, Respect the
- authority of school faculty and officials,
- Respect the authority of civic officials and law enforcement officers, Respect
- the rights, dignity, and privileges of others,
- Respect public and private property, Respect
- school rules and regulations.

PROCEDURAL POLICIES

Accidents or Illness

When an accident or illness occurs, the student should report to the principal's office for a pass to the nurse's office.

Attendance/Absenteeism DP #JE-JH

School attendance is a privilege as well as a right, carrying with it the responsibilities of good citizenship and acceptable behavior. Each student who enrolls at Thatcher High School is expected to attend school on a regular basis, and is subject to the rules and regulations governing attendance and related matters as adopted by the Thatcher Unified School District Board.

The school recognizes only the following as valid reasons for missing school:

- Court appearance
- Doctor appointments unable to be scheduled outside of school hours
- Bereavement in the immediate family and other family emergencies

Documentation is required and will be kept by the school for these types of absences. Medical documentation must be on letterhead from the provider or clinic to qualify. The school also recognizes that there may be special situations in which a student must miss school. By making arrangements through the office beforehand, excuses may be obtained for these matters. For all absences the student's parents or guardians are to notify the school office within 24 hours after the absence. After 24 hours the absence will be unexcused.

Absence

Attendance at class will be closely monitored. Students in the building and not attending class, will be considered ditching. Students are expected to be in class or where they are assigned to be during the assigned period. Failure to do so will result in discipline under the Thatcher High School Discipline Points System.

TYPES OF ABSENCES

1. Excused: Requires a report to the office via ParentVUE, email, or a phone call by a parent or guardian the day of the absence. Only doctor's appointments (unable to be scheduled outside of school hours), court, bereavement in the immediate family, a family emergency or those pre-approved by the principal will be excused.

A doctor's note on letterhead or a note from the courts must reflect specific dates and time of absence(s) AND must be received within 48 hours upon the student's return to school OR it will result in an unexcused absence. (A.R.S. 15-802 A.R.S 15-803)

2. Unexcused: Absences not approved by the principal or if a student leaves campus without checking out of the office first for any reason. Even with parent permission the student will be

Students absent on days of scheduled events (***sports games, inter-school competitions, dances, plays, concerts, etc.***) are NOT allowed to participate in school functions or unless a pre-arranged absence has been cleared through the office. Students cannot miss **ANY** school on a scheduled game day. If they miss any class, they will not be allowed to participate in the game/activity.

Due process procedure will be followed in all discipline and attendance cases.

Attendance in class is an integral part of the academic process. Excessive UNEXCUSED absences may result in a student being withdrawn from class without credit.

To be in attendance, a student must be physically present for the entire class or activity session. Students missing more than 10 minutes of class will be considered absent for that period. Students leaving class early without office permission shall be reported as an unexcused absence. When a student misses school because of participation in an athletic event or other approved school related activity, absences shall not be counted against them.

WITHDRAWAL AND LOSS OF CREDIT FOR ABSENCES

A student must attend at least 90% of all class sessions. If a student is absent from a class such that 90% attendance is not possible, the student may be withdrawn from that class, in which case he or she will not receive credit for that class.

The following guidelines are consistent with this policy:

1. After 5 days of unexcused accumulated absences per semester from any class, the student and parent/guardian are notified by an automated email or phone call.
2. After 7 days of unexcused accumulated absences per semester from any class, the student's parent(s) are notified that one more will result in the student being placed on audit status.
3. If the student incurs (1) additional unexcused absence (8 total) after receiving notice above, then he/she will be placed on audit status and have lost credit for the semester. Students placed on audit status will have the opportunity to appeal for the reinstatement of credit at the end of each semester. Reinstatement of credit is not guaranteed. Senior students in their 8th semester are not eligible to appeal for reinstatement of credit.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL

Authorization to leave school can only be granted by the principal or his designee. **Students are required to sign in and out through the front office upon leaving early or arriving late to school. Anytime a student leaves school without the proper permission, they are truant.**

Before school, students who

expect to leave school during the day should bring a request from home, written by their parent or guardian or a phone call, stating the reason for leaving. Upon proper approval the student will be given a note or release to be excused from class. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teachers for assignments due when they return.

TARDINESS DP# JE-JH

A warning bell rings at 7:40 A.M., and students are expected to be in their classes when the bell rings at 7:45 A.M. Even though they may be in the building, they will be considered tardy if they are not in the room when the tardy bell rings. This procedure is repeated each period of the day. A warning bell has been added when there is one minute before the tardy bell rings for each class. Each class has a five-minute break between bells. Each teacher is responsible for handling the tardiness situation in his or her classroom. Cumulative tardies will be addressed within the THS Discipline System. Students will be assessed school discipline for tardiness on the following scale.

4 Cumulative Tardies	1 day of after school detention/lunch detention
7 Cumulative Tardies	3 days of after school detention (Parent Meeting/ Attendance-Behavior Contract)
10 Cumulative Tardies	3 days of after school detention, 1 Day of ISS
12 Cumulative Tardies	2 Days ISS, Suspension of Extracurricular Activities for the Semester

Each student will be allowed a maximum of 12 cumulative tardies per semester.

On the 12th tardy, students will lose the opportunity to attend and participate in extracurricular activities and all other school functions (dances, concerts, games etc.). **ALL TARDIES ARE UNEXCUSED EXCEPT THOSE CAUSED BY THE SCHOOL.**

School Dances

Clubs, organizations, and classes are encouraged to sponsor dances throughout the school year. Dances are a very important part of Thatcher High School activity and several are sponsored throughout the school year. Regular school dances end at 11:30 p.m. Homecoming, Winter Formal, MORP, and Prom may be extended to 11:59 p.m. School dances are for all Thatcher High School students and their guests except the Handshake dance which is limited to T.H.S. students only. All guests must be approved by the high school administration **at least one week prior** to the scheduled dance. A guest list will be available in the office. ***All guests must come to the dance with the T.H.S. student registered to bring that guest. Before spending money on any clothing for the dances make sure your guest has been approved.***

DANCE POLICY

1. Enough lighting must be maintained to allow dance chaperones to be able to identify students on the dance floor.
2. Displays of affection are not to be allowed, including sitting on others laps.
3. Students who leave the dance early will not be allowed to return. Students are to leave the school grounds and are not to loiter when leaving.
4. Obscene and/or unsafe dancing will not be allowed!
5. Although close dancing is allowed during slow dances, both hands must be above the waist level.
6. No food or drinks allowed unless they are from the dance sponsored refreshment table.
7. Students and their guest's behavior must comply with school policies which will be enforced.
8. Violations of policy including substance abuse will be addressed according to the student handbook and district policy. Violators will be asked to leave the dance with parents.

9. No front to back dancing allowed.
10. The school dress code will be enforced at all T.H.S. dances which include the following as not being allowed.
 - Clothing with inappropriate or immodest slogans or pictures (subjects as alcohol, illegal substances, profanity, vulgarity, indecency, gang related or satanic)
 - Any clothing that immodestly exposes any part of the body.
11. Dresses should fit so that bras can be worn, and no cleavage is displayed. Backless gowns are not acceptable. All dresses must have a sleeve or strap of some type on both shoulders. Gowns must also be no shorter than five (5) inches, measuring from the middle of the knee; this includes the ending of any slits. Girls wearing shawls **MUST** keep them on at all times. There will be no removal of shawls after entering the dance.
12. The young men attending the formals must wear a shirt suitable for a tie, and a tie needs to be worn. This means no T-shirts.

GUEST PASSES

All students from other schools must have a form signed by their principal indicating they are in good standing at their school. Forms will be available in the office. ***No guest pass will be issued to the following:***

- Any student younger than a freshman in High School.
- Students who have been expelled or suspended from T.H.S. or any other school. Students who quit school during the school year, or any other year.
- Any person 19 years of age or older not enrolled in high school. **(With the exception of Prom which allows for a graduated guest to be interviewed by the principal as part of the guest pass application.)**
- Any person who has been asked to leave a dance for infraction of rules and regulations.
- Any person who has been banned from school activities, T.H.S. student or not. Any person not approved by the Principal or Assistant Principal.
- If issued, all guest cards shall be picked up in the office at a designated time prior to the dance. Students that do not make the designated deadline for dance pass requests will not receive a guest pass.

Dress Code

It is required that students wear clothes to school that are appropriate for the school setting. The school requires that students do not wear costumes or dress in such a way to detract, or disrupt school.

1. Any gang apparel, jewelry, hat or hair ornaments that suggest gang affiliation are strictly forbidden and will be confiscated. Belts and chains are not to hang more than 6 inches from the waist.
2. Clothing, jewelry or any other items suggesting identification with drug culture, having lewd, vulgar or suggestive statements or pictures, or anything with racist slurs, gender related, sexual orientation, or disability are prohibited. Clothing advertising tobacco or alcoholic beverages is also prohibited.
3. Shorts and skirts are permitted as long as they are no more than 5 inches above the middle of the knee in the front and back and the waistline is worn at the proper place.
4. Also prohibited are spaghetti straps, tank tops, sleeveless, see-through blouses (including lace tops), short tops, bare midriffs, muscle shirts and shirts without proper undergarments or which are designed to be worn as undergarments, and are being worn improperly. Tank tops or bra straps with off the shoulder over-shirts cannot be worn. Shoulders must be covered. Low, revealing necklines are not appropriate attire for school. Pants/Jean with excessive holes, shreds, rips or tears five inches above the knee are NOT to be worn. Yoga pants, stretch pants, and leggings may be worn as long as there are no see-through areas in the garment. Proper footwear such as shoes, sandals, etc. should be worn at all times.
5. Hats, caps, or any headwear may be worn on campus in designated areas. These areas include, outside, the Commons Area and hallways. Teachers will have discretion in classrooms. If a hat is confiscated, the THS discipline points system will be followed. Any exceptions to this rule will be approved in advance by the administration.
6. Clothing is to be worn so as not to distract from the learning atmosphere of the school setting. Sagging, with the crotch of the pants near the knees and the waistline across the middle of the buttocks is not permitted. Pants are to be worn at the waistline (top of the hips). Pants that are excessively baggy and have the back pockets at the back of the thigh are not acceptable. No pajama pants or slippers may be worn except on special days with administrative permission.
7. Sunglasses are not to be worn inside the building, unless they are prescription glasses and are worn on advice from the doctor. Sunglasses will be confiscated if

brought on campus, during the regular school day. Exceptions to this rule will be cleared on special occasions by the administration and the student council.

8. The principal or assistant principal shall have final say if a student dresses inappropriately.*

*** Students who violate the dress code may be subject to confiscation of the item, warned on the first offense and sent home to change with an unexcused absence. Repeated violations may result in loss of privilege, or suspension, depending upon the circumstances involved. (A repeated violation occurs on the second offense). All students who participate in school extra-curricular activities may be expected to follow a stricter dress code. Please contact the coach of that activity. Students who consistently violate rules in the form of discipline referrals and excessive tardies and absences, may lose the opportunity to attend extra- curricular activities and functions.**

Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held regularly during the school year. Your teacher will give instructions for fire drills. DO NOT RUN! Everyone should leave the building under the supervision of the teacher. Stay in a group until the “all clear” bell is sounded.

Pornography DP #IJNDB-EA

Pornographic materials have no place in our school, on school grounds or at any school sponsored activity. Pornographic materials include pictures, literature, tapes, or records, and certain objectionable devices. Any student found guilty by due process of breaking this policy will be dealt with in the following manner:

The objectionable material will be confiscated immediately by the appropriate school supervisor. Students are referred to the Guidelines for Student Behavior for action taken when this rule is broken. This also includes viewing websites that are inappropriate using school owned computers.

Release Time DP # JCHB

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Thatcher High School allows release time for religious instruction; however, students are still under the same strict attendance and behavior rules as set forth in this handbook. The parent or legal guardian of the pupil must annually provide written consent to the school officials for their child to be excused from the public school for religious purposes. This written consent shall be retained by the district in a manner similar to other official records. Any deviation from stated regulations or behavior may result in permanent or temporary loss of release time and privilege.

WORK AND EAC CLASSES

A senior or junior who desires release time to work or attend EAC classes during any part of the regular school day must have consent of parents or legal guardian in writing. This request will be considered by the Principal & Guidance Counselor. Permission may be granted if it is determined that the released time will in no way interfere with their course of study at Thatcher High School.

Bikes

These are not to be ridden on campus during school hours or at official school functions off campus. They must be parked at designated places and not to be ridden on T.H.S. premises.

Skateboards, Roller Skates, Wheeled Shoes and Scooters

These use items are **strictly prohibited** on the premises of Thatcher High School at all times. A rack for skateboards and scooters is located at the front entrance of the school. Students will need to provide locks to secure these items. Wheeled shoes are strictly prohibited at any location on campus.

Electronic Devices

The use of any electronic device in a manner that detracts from the educational process of Thatcher High School is prohibited. Student use of electronic devices (including but not limited to cell phones, iPod, electronic games, etc.) during class time is prohibited, unless assigned by a teacher as part of an educational objective or allowed by the teacher. Teachers have the right to ask for any device that is disruptive to the classroom environment or used inappropriately in any way. Electronic devices may be used in the Commons area only during class transitions and during lunch. Do not use devices between classes in hallways.

Students need to be cautious of use of electronic devices that may impose on the privacy rights of others; this includes but is not limited to, taking of photos to be posted on social media or making comments on social media. Use of social media that takes the form of social bullying will be dealt with under appropriate policies and in conjunction with law enforcement.

Visitors Policy

Visitors are allowed under certain conditions. A Visitor's Pass must be obtained from a school administrator who may require to see identification. **No visitor may attend on scheduled test days.** They must be a student in good standing at their high school and may visit **only one day**. No student from other local high schools will be permitted to visit T.H.S. unless prior agreements have been made with the principal of both schools. **Students may not bring younger children to school during regular school hours under any circumstances without prior approval of the administration.**

Weapon Policy DP # JICI

No student knowingly shall possess, handle or transmit any object that reasonably can be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument in any school building, or any school premises, or any school related activity, event or function. Any student in violation of this rule will have the article in question immediately confiscated and will be suspended from school until a conference with the students, parents, and administration can be held. Knives are not permitted on campus at THS. Discipline points will be assessed for possession of a knife and for brandishing a knife.

Police Involvement

School officials are not required to initiate or complete due process procedure prior to notifying police authorities. ***If police authorities are notified, parents will be contacted by telephone or certified letter. Any action taken by police authorities will be in addition to action taken by the school.***

EXTRACURRICULAR

Clubs and Organizations

Students must have full-time status at Thatcher High school in order to participate in any extra-curricular activity or hold any leadership office of any class, club or organization associated with the school. This also includes Baccalaureate or Graduation exercise for seniors. All rules and regulations are in effect as if the student were on campus. No club field trips will be held during the academic week.

Club requests for dances, sales and other student activities must be approved by the Student Council and cleared on the Principal's calendar at least one week prior to that event.

Clubs and Organizational Meetings

Clubs schedule their meetings at lunchtime or after school. All meetings are scheduled with the approval of the student council sponsor. All clubs must meet the guidelines of the student council's constitution. Requisitions, Purchase Orders, Facility

Requests and Planning Sheet

To make a purchase for your organization, the person authorized should secure a requisition form from the principal and fill it out completely. It must be signed by a sponsor of the organization and an officer, preferably the president or treasurer, with the date of meeting where this item was decided and recorded. The requisition is to be given to the principal at least one week in advance of the activity. Upon his

approval the request will be forwarded to the business office to make a purchase order. The purchase order will be returned to the club sponsor. Take the purchase order to the merchant for the merchandise you intend to purchase. Return the invoice from the merchant, signed by the person receiving the merchandise, to the business office. All purchases must be approved by the organization members, and recorded in the minutes of a meeting of the organization. The same is true with a facility request. It must be filled out at least one week in advance of the activity. A planning sheet that is properly signed and completed must first precede all club activities.

All clubs and organizations at THS are non-discriminatory.

Student Council

The qualifications for holding an office are listed in the Constitution. If you are interested in running for an office, see the Student Council advisor.

Future Business Leaders of America/FBLA

An educational association of student members preparing for careers in business- and business-related fields. FBLA provides innovative leadership development programs to bring business and education together in positive working relationships.

Skills USA, HOSA, FCCLA

Educational associations involving Career and Technical Education (CTE) fields. These clubs provide leadership development and workforce training for participating students.

Athletic Club

To become a member of the Athletic club, a boy or girl must letter in a varsity sport. The purpose for this club is to support all athletics. Included are fund-raising projects and other activities as listed in the Athletic Club Constitution. To be a member of this club, a student must be successfully carrying 4 Units or more of regular class work.

National Honor Society

National Honor Society is a service organization consisting of outstanding juniors and seniors who are chosen on the basis of scholarship, character, service, and leadership. Names of students eligible scholastically are submitted to a faculty committee for final selection. Those eligible must have a grade average of 90% or better for the previous three semesters in all core classes.

Spirit Club

The Spirit Club is for all students who are interested in promoting spirit at school, pep assemblies and games. The members will be involved in many service activities, such as painting signs, raising money for ribbons, participating in pep assemblies and cheering at games.

Academic Team

The Academic Team is an extracurricular group that competes against ten other area high schools in academic competitions. Any student is welcome to be on the Academic Team.

Drama Club

The Drama Club is a fun group of students who help perform skits for assemblies and other special school events. There are no fees required to be in the club and any student is welcome to join.

ATHLETIC HANDBOOK

The Athlete's Responsibility

1. Prospective athletes must meet the following eligibility requirements before they can start practice. In addition, all Arizona Interscholastic Association residence requirements must be satisfied.
2. Have written permission signed by parent or guardian allowing the student to participate.
3. Have a physical examination by a licensed physician on file in the high school office.
4. Have a birth certificate or equivalent on file.
5. Have school insurance or a waiver form on file in the athletic director's office.
6. Have academic requirements completed, which must be in adherence with the following State Board of Education guidelines pertaining to extra-curricular participation.
7. If the student athlete is participating in a sport during the following season and has not turned in uniforms or equipment, they will be placed on NPNP and will not be able to try out or participate in the next sport until these items have been turned in.
8. Student athletes with uniforms and equipment that have been lost will have the cost of the items placed in their file at the bookstore and will have to pay the replacement cost for the items.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular Activities are defined in the State Board of Education Rules as any/all out-of-class activities that are organized, planned or sponsored by the

District consistent with the district policy and shall be governed by the policy. ***Extra- Curricular Activities include, but shall not be limited to the following categories:***

1. Interscholastic activities shall include all activities covered by the Constitution & By-laws of the A.I.A. Ex: athletics, speech, drama, music, spirit line, cheers, etc.
2. School sponsored activities shall include all non-interscholastic activities for which no credit is earned in meeting graduation or promotional requirements or any activity that participation in will count any loss of school time. Ex: Pom-poms, student council, cheerleader, clubs, etc.
3. All participants will follow a stricter dress code because they are representing Thatcher High School.

No Pass/No Play Participation

Extracurricular activities are defined in the State Board of Education Rule R7-2-808 as “all interscholastic activities which are of a competitive nature and involve more than one school where a championship winner or rating is determined; and all those endeavors of a continuous and on-going nature for which no credit is earned in meeting graduation or promotion requirements, and are organized, planned, or sponsored by the district, consistent with district policy.” ***Extracurricular activities shall include, but not be limited to the three (3) following categories:***

1. Interscholastic activities - shall include all activities covered by the constitution and by-laws of the Arizona Interscholastic Association. Ex: athletics, speech, drama, music, etc.
2. All other interscholastic activities sponsored by the school that involve any kind of competition with schools. Ex. Knowledge bowls, academic decathlons.
3. School sponsored activities - shall include all non-interscholastic activities for which credit is not earned in meeting graduation or promotional requirements or any activity that participation in will cause any loss of school time. Ex: Spirit Line, student council, clubs, etc.

Grade Check Intervals/Extracurricular Eligibility (No Pass-No Play)

Students participating in extracurricular activities shall be checked for eligibility at one-week intervals during the school year. Teachers shall turn in lists of failing

students at the end of the school day each Friday to conclude the one-week interval. Students who are declared ineligible will become ineligible on the following Monday. A student is declared ineligible by posting a grade below 70% in any class in which they are enrolled. On weeks where Remediation Friday (RF) is not offered, students that are below 70% will be marked as incomplete (INC) and will have an opportunity to raise grades above that threshold prior to participating in a scheduled contest

or event. Students that qualify for IEP services will be marked as incomplete (INC) and will receive extended time to raise grades above the 70% threshold prior to participating in a scheduled contest or event. Passing grades shall be determined on a cumulative basis, from the beginning of instruction to the recording of a final grade for the course, on a semester basis.

*** Ineligibility at the end of semester 1 will continue until the beginning of semester 2.**

Guidelines for Participating

A student will be required to earn a passing grade (70%) in each course he/she is enrolled in, in order to participate. Students who become ineligible at the end of any grading interval will be permitted to participate in practice sessions and attend group meetings, but they may not participate in any activities that include team or group competition. They also may not be involved in any school organized activity or trip which results in the loss of school time until they have met all eligibility requirements.

Remediation

Students experiencing academic difficulty may receive assistance through a variety of resources which include, but are not limited to the following:

1. MOD 5 FRIDAYS
2. Peer Tutor Programs
3. Individual assistance from teachers
4. Guidance services

Students are to be encouraged by teachers, coaches, clubs, classes, and activity sponsors to pursue specific information regarding these programs.

Pep Buses

The school will provide pep buses to take students to certain athletic events. A minimum of 40 students are required to sign up in advance of the day of the event. Students will be required to pay an amount to be determined by the director of transportation. All school rules that are in effect during the regular school hours are in effect during the activity involving the pep bus.

Sportsmanship and School Spirit

Sportsmanship is that quality which is associated with the students and their actions. Honesty, fair play, courtesy, and respect are the outward signs of good sportsmanship, which should be present not only on the athletic field, but in all phases of school life. Good manners at all athletic contests are essential if we are to set a good example of sportsmanship. When in group play, follow the rules of the game. Booing is always considered discourteous and shows a definite lack of consideration of our school, the visiting school and the officials.

School spirit, on the other hand, is that indefinable, intangible quality which puts the spark of life into our school activities. School spirit is not something that will come about overnight, but must be built up through years of upholding high and worthy traditions that instill the feeling of pride and loyalty.

Thatcher High School Sportsmanship Code

The purpose of the following code is to encourage everyone involved in high school athletics, including spectators to continue to support their school's athletic teams, yet not harass the opponents. Listed below are guidelines that all East Region administrators, athletic directors, coaches, team members, cheerleaders and student body members should support in their respective schools.

1. A coach's action should be regulated at all times so that he/she will be a credit to the professional and to the school in which he represents. Coaches should teach good sportsmanship and proper respect for officials.
2. Team members should demonstrate good sportsmanship and show proper respect for officials when participating in an event.
3. All cheering should be done in a positive manner for your own team. ***Negative conduct should not be allowed, such as:***
 - A. Booing, clapping, stomping to distract an opponent.
 - B. Pointing and yelling at opposing players, parents or fans.
 - C. Any cheers that have derogatory remarks or the word "Kill" in it.
4. There should be no instruments or drums played inside a gym during the time the game is being played. The band may play before, during time-outs, and at half time. No artificial noisemakers, including rock boxes, should be allowed in the gym. Violations of the code should be reported in writing to the administrator of the offending school and the league president.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

All students are required to read and abide by the guidelines as outlined in "Guidelines for Student Behavior"

Student Behavior

Most students are very serious about wanting to take full advantage of the time they spend in school. Students who come to school to learn and participate in social activities seldom have problems with school rules. They have a good attitude toward school. Unfortunately, some students do not have good attitudes. The behavior of these students creates problems for everyone. As the school district becomes larger, these problems seem to become more frequent and serious.

The following information describes the major problem areas the Thatcher School District cannot tolerate. Students who involve themselves in these problem areas will receive corresponding disciplinary action, also listed in this handbook. In cases of serious disciplinary action, students are protected by due process. This process guarantees that no action will be taken against a student until everyone involved has presented all the facts and a judgment has been made. Details on your due process rights are printed on the last page of this section.

Students should be aware that this information describes only the major problem areas. At any time, students may be counseled by teachers or administrators regarding their behavior. If this occurs, students will be informed as to what they must do to make their behavior acceptable. Possible consequences, if needed, will also be explained.

We suggest you keep these guidelines where they are readily accessible. This basic code of conduct is designed to support, not stifle, students. We hope it will help provide you with a school you are proud to attend in an atmosphere where you have freedom to learn.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE/DITCHING DP # JH

Any absence which has not been both excused by a parent or legal guardian and approved by the appropriate school official. (Refer to current guidelines.)

POLICY REGARDING SEARCH AND SEIZURE DP # JIH

Students possess the right of privacy of person as well as freedom from unreasonable search and seizure of property guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution. This individual right, however, is balanced by the school's responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of any student who may be in danger or that a student is hiding evidence that may indicate violation of school rules or regulations. School officials involved in search and seizure will use the following guidelines:

1. General searches of school property (including personal belongings or on school property) may be conducted at any time when there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation of a law or school rule is or has taken place. This search of school property may be made without the student being present.
2. Illegal items, such as but not limited to, firearms, explosive devices, weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety and security of others or that might interfere with school purposes may be seized by school employees.
3. Items held or confiscated by the school will be evaluated for return to the proper owner upon completion of an investigation or disciplinary action. Items held or confiscated that the possession of or use of violates school district policy, state laws, and/or Federal laws, shall not be returned to the student or any representative of the student. Such items shall be turned over to the appropriate officials or authorities.
4. Items that are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be temporarily removed from a student's person and the student or a representative of the student may have the item returned by that school day through the principal's office.
5. A student's person may be searched by school officials when there is reasonable cause to believe that the student has on his or her person illegal items or other items that may interfere with school purposes. This includes backpacks.
6. The school maintains ownership of student lockers. The school may search and will search student lockers on a periodic basis to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students.
7. While parked or being used on school property, school officials have the right to search vehicles when there is reasonable cause to believe state or federal laws have been or are being violated.

Bus Rules

Students being transported are under the authority of the bus driver and shall observe the following standards:

BUS SAFETY PROGRAM

This checklist may be used by District officials as a guide for transportation documents or transportation handbooks.

Arriving at pickup point

- A. Be on time. Leave home in good time so that you will arrive at the pickup point before the school bus.
- B. If you have to walk along the road to reach the bus stop, walk on the left side facing oncoming traffic.
- C. Walk on the shoulder of the road where possible, and not on the traveled portion.
- D. If other students are waiting at the bus stop, get in line without pushing or crowding and stay off the roadway.

Board the bus:

- A. Line up in single file parallel to the roadway, with younger students in front, so they can board first.
- B. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to get on board.
- C. Board the bus quickly but without crowding or pushing.
- D. Never run on the bus, as the steps or floor may be slippery, especially in wintertime. Place your foot squarely on the step, not on the edge, and use the handrail.
- E. Be particularly careful if you are carrying books or parcels, as it is difficult to see the steps and to hold the handrail.
- F. Go directly to your seat and sit straight, well to the back of the seat, and face the front of the bus.

Conduct on the bus

- A. The bus will not move until all passengers are seated.
- B. Remain seated throughout the trip, and leave your seat only when the bus has reached its destination and comes to a complete stop.
- C. Keep your books and parcels on your lap or put them under the seat or on the luggage rack.
- D. Keep the aisle clear.
- E. Do not talk to the driver except in case of emergency.
- F. Avoid doing anything that might disturb or interfere with the driver. Refrain from loud or boisterous talking or yelling.
- G. Never stick your hands, arms, head, or feet out of the windows of the bus.

- H. Do not open windows without the driver's permission.
- I. Do not throw anything within the bus or out of a window; you might injure a pedestrian or force a motorist to make a dangerous maneuver.
- J. Do not touch the emergency door or exit controls or any of the bus safety equipment.
- K. Do not discard refuse in the bus.
- L. Eat at home or school, but not on the bus.
- M. Promptly obey the directions and instructions of the school bus driver.

Prohibited items

- A. Tobacco is not allowed in a school bus.
- B. Alcoholic beverages shall not be carried in a school bus.
- C. Insects, reptiles, or other animals shall not be transported in a school bus. [A.A.C. R17-9-104]
- D. No weapon, explosive device, harmful drug, or chemical shall be transported in a school bus.

Exit from the bus

- A. Remain seated until the bus has reached its destination and comes to a complete stop.
- B. Do not push or crowd when leaving the bus.

Crossing the highway

- A. If you must cross the road, walk to a point about ten (10) feet in front of the bus but do not cross until you can see that the driver has indicated that it is safe to do so.
- B. As you cross the road, look continuously to the right and left. At an intersection, look in all directions.
- C. Cross at right angles. Never cross the highway diagonally.
- D. Walk briskly across the road, but do not run.
- E. Never cross the road behind the bus.

Accident or Other emergency

- A. In case of an accident or emergency, older students should help the driver to maintain order and assist younger students.
- B. Stay in the bus unless otherwise directed by the driver.
- C. If you have to leave the bus, stay in a group and obey the driver's instructions.
- D. Do not expose yourself or others to needless hazards.

STUDENT LIABILITY

Students may be suspended or expelled from the bus for violations of the above rules of conduct. Students who cut, deface or otherwise damage any school property may be suspended or expelled from school.

PARENT LIABILITY

Under Arizona law, parents are liable for damage done to school property by their children. Parents will be charged for the cost of such damage.

SUSPENSION OF SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

Bus riding is a privilege-not a right. When school bus rules are consistently violated and cause danger to the students or drivers, the district will take action to remedy the situation. The action will be as follows:

1. Under normal conditions, a notice will be mailed to the parents stating the problem and indicating that if behavior does not improve within a specific amount of time, the service will be suspended.
2. Under emergency situations where there are extremely serious violations, a student may be suspended without prior notice.
3. Bus riding privileges may be re-established to a suspended student when it is determined by the parent conference that it is reasonable to do so.

Alcohol DP # JICH

The use, possession or distribution of alcoholic substances is prohibited. This includes off-campus consumption and then being on district property or at a district function.

Automobile DP# JLIE

The inappropriate use of an automobile on school property is prohibited.

Dangerous Instruments DP # JICI

Anything that under the circumstances in which it is used, attempted to be used or threatened to be used, is readily capable of causing death or serious injury is prohibited. The term includes an explosive device. Anything designed to represent or imitate an item or substance perceived by a reasonable person to be capable of causing injury or death, given the manner in which it is possessed, controlled or used.

Any student who knowingly assists another in using, displaying or knowingly carrying or possessing a dangerous instrument on district property or a district function shall be subject to the same disciplinary action as the student using, displaying or knowingly carrying or possessing the dangerous instrument.

Deadly Weapons DP #JICI

Anything designed for lethal use is prohibited. The term includes a firearm. "Firearm" means any loaded or unloaded pistol, revolver, rifle or shotgun whether the projectile is expelled by gunpowder, pressurized air or other source.

Any student who knowingly assists another in using, displaying or knowingly carrying or possessing a deadly weapon on district property or a district function shall be subject to the same disciplinary action as is the student using, displaying or knowingly carrying or possessing a deadly weapon.

Defiance of School Personnel's Authority

Refusal to comply with reasonable requests of school personnel is not allowed. Physical resistance to school personnel may result in the maximum disciplinary action listed regardless if such resistance is a first occurrence or not.

Destruction or Defacement of Property DP # ECAC

Destroying or defacing objects or materials belonging to the school, school personnel or other persons is prohibited.

Disorderly Conduct, Including Profanity and Obscene Behavior DP# JIC-JKR

Conduct and/or behavior which is disruptive to the orderly educational procedure and process of the school.

Dress Standards

Failure to comply with the dress standards adopted by the district is not allowed.

Pornographic Material

The possession, use or distribution of any materials or devices that are of pornographic nature on school grounds or any school activity is not allowed.

Extortion DP # JICK

The solicitation of money, or something of value, from another person, in return for protection, or in connection with a threat to inflict harm is not allowed.

Fighting DP # JKR

Engaging in physical conflict with another person is prohibited.

Forgery DP #JKR

Writing and using the signature or initials of another person is prohibited.

Gambling DP # JKR

Participating in games of chance for the purpose of gaining money is not allowed.

Gang Activity or Association DP# JICF

A gang is a group of two or more persons who form an allegiance to each other or to a common purpose and engage, either individually or collectively, in antisocial and/or criminal behavior. Gang activity is not allowed.

Lying

Giving false information or information calculated to mislead is prohibited.

Non-Prescribed Drug DP # JICH

The use (including inhalation), possession or distribution of non-prescribed drugs, narcotics or other noxious substances is not allowed. This includes off-campus use and then being on district property or at a district function. It also includes use, possession or distribution of drug paraphernalia or any substance that would imitate the effect of an illicit drug.

Physical Assault DP # JKR

Physical attack of one person, or a group of persons, upon another person, who does not wish to engage in the conflict and who has not provoked the attack is prohibited.

Sexual Abuse/Harassment

Mistreatment of a sexual nature or based upon one's gender is not prohibited.

Tardiness

Arriving late to a scheduled class or appointment.

Theft DP # JKR

Taking or concealing property that belongs to others is not allowed.

Threats and Verbal Abuse DP #JKR

Statements or action to intimidate or injure another person are prohibited. This includes threats or verbal abuse that are made via text messages or on social media.

Tobacco DP# JICG

The use, distribution or possession (if under the legal age) of tobacco, of any kind is prohibited.

Trespassing

The unauthorized presence of Thatcher Public Schools' students on a campus other than their own. If a student refuses to leave upon request, a violation of state law is committed.

TYPES OF DISCIPLINE

Informal Talk DP# JK-ED

A school official (teacher, counselor or administrator) will talk to the student and try to reach an agreement regarding how the student should behave. Recorded in student record file.

Conference DP# JK-ED

A formal conference held between the student and the principal. During this conference, the student must agree to correct his/her behavior. Consequences are explained. ***Recorded in student record file.***

Parent Involvement DP# KB

Parents or guardians are notified by telephone, personal contact, letter or certified letter. A conference may be conducted with the parents, students and the appropriate school officials. Recorded in student record file.

Closure DP# JK-ED

Students may be closed from one or more classes or they may be suspended temporarily or permanently from any club, organization, athletic team, musical group or pep squad. Students may be closed from any school sponsored activity or ceremony. If closed from a class, the student will lose credit for the current semester. At the discretion of the administration, a short-term suspension may be held on campus with the suspended student removed from the rest of the student population during school hours.

Short Term Suspension DP# JKD

The student is informed that he/she is subject to a short suspension (nine days or less). The student is also informed regarding the due process procedure. The student's parents or guardians are notified by telephone, personal contact, letter, or certified letter that the student is subject to a short suspension. Parents or guardians also must be informed of due process procedures. The due process procedure is immediately initiated. ***The suspension does not start until the due process procedure has been completed, and recorded in the student record file.***

In-School Suspension

Students shall be assigned to make up time missed from school due disruptive behaviors. This will be done under the supervision of certified school personnel. This make-up opportunity will be in lieu of an out of school suspension.

Long Term Suspension DP # JKD

The student is informed that he/she is subject to a long suspension (ten days or more). The student is also informed regarding the due process procedure.

Expulsion DP #JKE

The student is informed that he/she is subject to expulsion from school. The student is also informed regarding the due process procedure.

Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity School

Thatcher High School is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in relation to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, and disability. This policy will prevail in all matters concerning staff members, students, the public, educational programs and services, and individuals with whom Thatcher High School does business.

THATCHER HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

2026-2027

Parents/guardians must acknowledge receipt of the Student Handbook/Student Code of Conduct, Attendance/Tardy Policy, and the consequences for students who violate School and District disciplinary policy.

I understand and consent to the responsibilities outlined in the **Student Handbook/ Student Code of Conduct and Attendance/Tardy Policy**.

I also understand and agree that my child _____ shall be held accountable for the behavior and consequences outlined in this **Student Handbook/Code of Conduct and Attendance/Tardy Policy**, at school sponsored and school related activities, including school sponsored travel and for any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location. I understand that any student who violates this shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including referral for criminal prosecution for violations of law.

I also understand that Thatcher High School is an open campus at lunch time. If parent/guardian consent is given for a student to leave campus during lunch, THS or TUSD do not assume responsibility for students once they leave campus. Any incidents or accidents that occur off campus during lunch may be referred to the local law enforcement agencies.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand this student handbook and I will abide by the rules and regulations contained within whether signed on paper or acknowledged electronically.

Student (*Print Name*) _____ Date: _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: _____

Student and Parent/Guardian must sign this page identifying that they have read this handbook and return it to their English teacher.