# Pittsburg School

2024-2025

## **Elementary Handbook**



**Mission** 

All students will achieve success.

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<sup>\*\*\*</sup> This handbook may not be complete and may be modified or added to at any time.

School Administrative Unit #7 School Calendar 2024-2025 School Year																				
Pittsburg/Stewartstown/SAU #7 Administrative Day / No School Early Release																				
Holiday / No School / Offices Closed													First & Last Day of School							
No School / Offices Open									_	Parent Conference										
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	August 22/23: Admin Days September 2: Labor Day																			
July 4:	July 4: Independence Day  August 27: First Day of School August 30: Labor Day Holiday  September 20: Early Release																			
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April 18: Early Release April 28 to May 26: Memorial Day  May 26: Memorial Day  June 12 Last Day of School & Early Release 6/13 to 6/20 inclement weather days																				
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SAU #7 School Board: Approved April 11, 2024 Revised Version Approved 8/8/24 Last day of school subject to change if school cancellations occur.																				

#### **SAU #7 Mission Statement**

To prepare every SAU #7 student for success in whatever path they choose

#### Introduction

The faculty and staff at Pittsburg School would like to extend our welcome to the families in all SAU #7 communities. The staff members at Pittsburg School look forward to working with you to make this a successful year for students. We hope that you find this handbook useful. It is filled with important information about expectations for student behavior. The policies and procedures contained in this handbook are the results of a concerted effort between faculty, administration, and school board.

The ultimate purpose of education is to help each student become an effective member of society. Accepting the responsibilities and obligations of a good citizen supports this purpose. We hope that students will participate in our varied activities that will help guide them toward being successful as a society member and in the workforce. Student success at the Pittsburg School and within the local community is directly related to student effort while attending.

## Philosophy

Pittsburg School educates children from pre-kindergarten through grade twelve. Our unique size facilitates a student-centered learning environment. Staff members value each student's strengths, needs, and interests. Small class sizes promote a familial feeling between students, faculty, and staff members. This ensures that each student feels important and supported at our school.

While we are a small school, we have a large school spirit! This school spirit is fostered by student participation in school wide activities, sports, drama, academic challenges, and community service. Our teachers demonstrate service-minded leadership and our students follow their example. Our students, faculty, and staff recognize that our school is bigger than any one person, and much of what makes our school unique is its respect for tradition while preparing our students for the future. The community, administration, staff, and school board support a positive environment which:

- Stimulates educational curiosity.
- Encourages enthusiasm for learning as a lifelong process.
- Enables individuals to become capable of making informed decisions.
- Enables individuals to develop a sense of personal worth and accomplishments.
- Recognizes different rates and styles of learning.
- Ensures respect for varied points of view and acceptance of all individuals as unique valued members of the community.
- Enables individuals to adjust to a rapidly changing world.
- Encourages individuals to evaluate social and environmental issues and to react to those issues responsibly.
- Encourages communication between the school and the community.
- Encourages students to recognize that Parents, community, and school are all

- important factors in a child's education.
- Treats all students will fairly, no matter what the situation
- Recognizes that students must be an active part of the learning process for them to learn effectively.

## Registration and Emergency Card Information

Student registration packets are handed out on the first day of school. These will also be available online. This paperwork must be returned by Friday, September 6th. If you have more than one child enrolled, please, fill out an emergency card for each child. Keep in mind that your child will not be released to anyone who is not listed on their emergency card unless written permission is provided by you, the parent, or guardian.

During the school year, parents/guardians have the responsibility to notify the school of any change in their student's address, phone number, name or custody situation. Any legal name or custody change must be accompanied by a copy of a lawyer's letter or legal court document. It is critical that we have up-to-date emergency contact information in the event the school needs to contact you quickly. This also keeps our telephone notification system (One Call Now) up-to-date. In addition to phone numbers of parents, guardians, and emergency contacts, we would like email addresses of parents and guardians on file so that we may also send notifications and letters home in an email via the One Call Now system. This system allows us to send out written notifications to parents and guardians efficiently.

## Free and Reduced Lunch Program

If your child is eligible for free or reduced lunch, you will need to complete the paperwork that will be included in the first-day packet. Free and Reduced Meals must be reapplied for each year for all households that are eligible. If your application is not submitted before the end of September, your family runs the risk of not being eligible for the program. If at any time during the school year, your financial situation changes, you may re-apply for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Please contact the Administrative Assistant Lisa Kurtz for additional information.

#### **Student Press Release**

Also included in the packet of papers is a form to be completed granting the school permission to release certain student information. We ask permission to release student information to the local newspapers, the school website and the school's Facebook page. The student information we release is limited to "directory information, "which includes the student's name, classes he or she may be taking, graduation date, school activities, clubs in which the student is active and other information that is not considered to be private as outlined in Policy JRA – Student Records-FERPA

#### Communication

#### Office Hours

The Pittsburg School office is available from 7:15 AM to 3:45 PM daily



## **Grade Reporting**

Communication between the school, teachers, and parents is vital to student learning and participation in co-curricular activities. One form of communication is the report card. Each child will receive a grade for each class he or she takes during the school year. These grades will be reported to parents four times per year. Parents of students in grades 3-6 may also access their child's grades any time they choose via our ALMA Parent Portal. Please be sure to sign up for the Parent Portal at the beginning of the year. This is a secure electronic system that allows parents to access their child's academic information. Students will only receive Progress Reports if teachers are concerned with grades halfway through the quarter.

## **SAU7 Grading and Reporting Expectations**

& FAQ

Your child's teacher may contact you if your child's grades are a cause for concern. If you notice upon checking your child's grades that he or she is not doing well, and you have not heard from their classroom teacher, please, contact your child's teacher as soon as possible so that the necessary steps can be taken to get your child back on course.

## **Report Cards**

Progress Reports	Grades Close	Report Cards sent home				
Oct 4	Nov 1	Nov 7(parent conferences)				
Dec. 6	Jan. 17	Jan 24				
Feb. 14	April 4	April 11				
May 9	June 11	Last day of school				

#### **Letters Home**

Teachers and the school send home classroom letters and school notices either through One Call, ALMA, or with the student. We expect that students will bring home this communication and share it with their parents. Additionally, our website has upto-date information about upcoming events and activities. Please visit our website. <a href="https://www.pittsburgschool.sau7.org/">https://www.pittsburgschool.sau7.org/</a>

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences are offered on November 7<sup>th.</sup> Please plan to attend this conference to discuss your child's progress and receive your child's report card. If you have concerns, Parent/Teacher conferences are encouraged at any time and may be scheduled through the office or with the teacher directly.

#### One Call Now

Pittsburg School subscribes to a computerized phone and email system called One Call Now. This notification system allows us to keep in contact and to update parents via recorded phone messages, email, and text. It allows us to send up-to-date information regarding school events and school delays and/or cancellations. Parents can decide which phone numbers or emails the One Call Now system uses. In the event of an emergency or early school closing, automated phone calls are placed to all phone numbers in our computer system. The One Call Now information is based on the contact information provided by parents. Parents may change their One Call Now phone numbers or email information at any time by contacting the office at 603-538-6536. The changes will go into effect within 48 hours.

### Parent Communication with the School

The faculty, staff, and administration at Pittsburg School look forward to working with you, and we want to hear from you. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact the school office. It is most helpful to bring your suggestions or concerns to the proper person. To help you with the process, we would like to offer the following guidelines:

- Classroom Teachers: Suggestions, questions, or concerns about a classroom issue, academic progress, or a specific grade level or class curriculum.
- Office Staff: Questions dealing with attendance, changes in transportation, changes in custody, or registration.
- Principal or Assistant Principal: Questions regarding student discipline, unresolved issues related to classroom concerns only after an attempt has been made to work it out with the classroom teacher, questions, school-wide issues or facilities use.
- Special Education Case Manager: Questions concerning IEPs or 504.

If you are not sure whom to call, please call the office, and we will direct your call to the person best suited to assist in resolving any questions or concerns you may have.

#### **Arrival**

Upon arrival at the school in the morning, students will go to the playground until 7:45 am. In the event of inclement weather, students will go to the cafeteria. If prior arrangements have been made with a teacher to obtain extra individual help they may enter the building earlier.



#### **Attendance**

Attendance/Absences/Tardiness/Dismissals: Per the state law on school attendance, RSA 193:1, states that the child shall attend school full-time when the school is in session unless the child has been temporarily excused by the parent for purposes agreed upon by the school authorities and parent. Parent is defined as "a parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child."

#### Absences: Parents should:

- Call or email the Admin Assistant and the Principal, preferably by 8:30 AM, to notify us that your child is absent. office@psd.sau7.org
- If a student is absent and the school is not notified by 8:30 am, the school will
  contact the parent/guardian at home or work. If the school is unable to contact
  the parent/guardian, the local police department may be notified of the student's
  absence.
- If a student is absent for three (3) or more days without a doctor's note local police may be contacted.
- Upon returning to school, the student will present a note to the office written by the parent. The note and all the data submitted with it will help us determine whether to label the absence, excused, unexcused, or to be determined if there were extenuating circumstances. The note should include:
  - Name of the student
  - o Date(s) of the absence
  - Reasons for absence, including any appointment cards or any letters from doctors, etc. that verify the absence.
- All work will be required to be made up.

If we do not receive a note, the absence will be considered UNEXCUSED. If you have a question or concern about an absence, please contact the office. However, it should be noted that the final decision regarding whether the absence is excused or unexcused will be made by the principal or assistant principal.

### Types of Absences:

## **Excused Absences** will be granted for:

- medical reasons, such as an illness, or an appointment with a doctor, dentist, optometrist, or counselor.
- School-sponsored activities such as field trips or athletic events.
- a death in the family.
- appointment with a lawyer .
- court appearance.
- other extenuating reasons approved by the principal. Extenuating reasons for an absence MUST be approved by the principal and documentation provided.

Students who have excused absences are allowed two (2) days for every one (1) day absent to make up missed work. Students must see the school nurse prior to being dismissed from school in the event of illness if the absence is to be excused.

**Unexcused Absences**: It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher for all missed assignments. Any student who does not submit the proper documentation indicated in the sections above and within the prescribed amount of time will be considered unexcused for purposes of attendance. Examples of unexcused absences:

- out- of- school suspension, In-school suspensions
- truancy
- haircuts, and other personal care appointments
- vacations
- anything else not categorized above as an extenuating unexcused absence

Students who have unexcused absences are allowed one (1) day for every one (1) day absent to make up missed work

\*\*\*Assignments that are due on the day of an absence are due upon the return to class.

If a student is absent from school (unless it is excused with a note-see above), they will not be allowed to attend after school events, (games, dances, concerts, plays, etc.) Please call the school with any questions

**Parents Requesting Dismissal:** The student should send a note or email to the office prior to 8:30 AM the day of the dismissal. <a href="mailto:office@psd.sau7.org">office@psd.sau7.org</a> The note should include the following:

- The date of the dismissal
- The name of the student
- The time the student must leave
- The reason(s) for the dismissal
- A parent signature

Any student who is dismissed prior to 2:32 PM. will be considered an early dismissal. Such students will not receive credit for a complete day of school.



#### **TEMPORARY TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

If your child's after school transportation changes, you must notify the office in writing and **not less than one hour before student dismissal time**. If the office does not receive a note from the student in the morning, then the parent must call the school and follow said phone call with an email to the school office. If we do not receive a handwritten note or a phone call followed by an email notification regarding the change from a parent, the student will be dismissed according to their usual routines. Students may call home and have the office talk to a parent to gain approval.

Families must let the office know about pre-planned trips (outside of school vacations) two weeks prior to the trip. Students are requested to receive assignments in advance and have work completed upon return. Vacations are

#### considered unexcused absences.

## **Attendance Appeals**

Parents who wish to schedule an attendance hearing with the School Board will first notify the principal. The principal will schedule requests for appointments through the Superintendent. The principal will notify the parents of the date and time of the hearing.

#### **Tardiness**

It is critical for your child to arrive at school on time in order to receive all of the benefits of the academic school day. Please do your part in helping your child to experience success every day by having them arrive no later than 7:55 AM.

- After reaching the first three (3) tardies, an administrative letter will be mailed to the parent or guardian.
- After a student in grades K-6 has five (5) tardy arrivals, a meeting will be set up between the principal, parents, and guidance counselor.

## Delay, Early Dismissal and Cancellation

If school is dismissed early because of inclement weather or for some other emergency, local businesses and radio stations will be notified. If you work in the local area, your employer may tell you if school has been dismissed.

School is rarely canceled. If school is canceled due to inclement weather, the announcement will be made through the school's Facebook page, the school sign and WMUR (channel 9) The channel 9 website is <a href="www.wmur.com">www.wmur.com</a>. You will also be notified using our "One Call" messaging system with details pertaining to cancellations, early dismissals and other school news. The messaging system will call all staff and students and leave a recorded message.

#### Nurse's Hours

SAU #7 schools are fortunate to have a full-time RN on staff all day, every day, in each building. The school nurse is responsible for evaluating students in need and communicating with parents. In case of an emergency, 911 will be called and parents/guardians will be contacted. Parents are responsible for communicating with the school nurse regarding any medication their child is taking and/or other medical information the nurse needs to be aware of. In order to be an excused absence, students must see the nurse if they are not feeling well prior to being picked up for dismissal.

#### Homework

The purpose of homework is to practice concepts and skills learned in the classroom, to study for tests and quizzes, and to allow students to reinforce independent learning skills. Failure to complete homework is a cause of poor student achievement. How homework is factored into a student's grade is up to each individual teacher. Each

teacher will clearly explain to students, and share with parents, the process they use for checking and grading homework.

The average amount of time a student spends on completing his or her homework varies by grade level, subject area, and student ability. However, a general rule of thumb for grades 1-6 is ten (10) minutes per grade level. So, a first grader could expect ten (10) minutes of homework and a sixth grader could expect sixty (60) minutes of homework. Parents and guardians have a strong influence over a child's attitude toward homework. By showing an interest in what the child is learning, a positive message is sent to the child about the value of homework. Asking questions about what your child has learned in school causes them to think about the skills and concepts they practiced. According to brain research, this thinking reinforces learning.

#### Retention

In some instances, school personnel will recommend that a student repeat a grade. Retention is beneficial in situations where a developmentally younger student has struggled to cope with the expectations of school socially, emotionally, and physically as well as intellectually. Failing grades and immature behavior are often warning signs that an extra year of school is indicated. Before a student is retained, the teacher and often the principal will have several conferences with the parent to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of retention. Retention is intended to benefit, not to punish, a student, and to prepare them for the next grade.



### **BEHAVIOR**

Prevention of misbehavior is the best disciplinary policy. We believe it is only fair that the school establishes "reasonable rules" and the students are given an opportunity to be aware of those rules and the consequences associated with those rules. We believe in a progressive disciplinary system. There are several levels of discipline:

## Graduated and age-appropriate system of supports and intervention strategies, such as:

- Student conferences
- Parent conferences
- Counseling
- Peer mediation
- Restorative practices
- Instruction in conflict resolution and anger management

## Graduated and age-appropriate disciplinary consequences such as:

- Restriction from extra-curricular activities
- Temporary (same day) removal from class or activity
- Detention

- In-school-suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion

Special Education students will be treated the same as regular education students unless there is a Behavior Plan in his/her Individualized Education Plan or specifications in the IDEA law.

## Major vs. Minor Behaviors

All staff members are expected to maintain school discipline. Minor behaviors will be dealt with in the classroom, while major behaviors will be dealt with by the Assistant Principal and/or Principal. Behavior incidents will be entered into Alma. The following pages describe discipline consequences.

Minor Infractions (to be handled by the teacher or adult)

Possible consequences (including but not limited to):

- Warning,
- apology,
- loss of privileges
- change in seating
- time out
- parent contact
- restitution
- after-school/lunch detention

Note: Students in kindergarten through grade five do NOT lose recess time unless the incident is related to recess.

## Major Infractions (to be handled by the assistant principal/principal)

Per our school Memorandum of Understanding with the Pittsburg Police Department, these behaviors will be turned over to the police:

- threatening language,
- threatening behavior, or
- any violation of any State Law

The School Board expects the principal to use some discretion in choosing when to refer or not refer an incident to police.

#### Safe School Zone Referenced Policies

The Safe School Policy pursuant to RSA 193:13 requires that the school officials report to the Pittsburg Police Department:

- incidents of theft
- vandalism
- actions involving drugs/alcohol, firearms/other weapons, sexual acts
- robbery/theft
- arson
- criminal mischief

- vandalism
- assaults/threats

If your son/daughter has been involved in one or more of these behaviors, the school administration will share this information with the police who may take additional action.



### Tier I Classroom Rules

Teachers and students will work together to create clear expectations and consequences for their classrooms; however, these rules apply to all classrooms.

- Grades K-6 communication/electronic devices must be left in backpacks during the day.
- To leave a classroom, students must have permission and a pass signed by the teacher.
  - o The **only** reasons a student may sign out from a class are:
    - To go to the bathroom
    - To go to the nurse's office.
    - To speak with guidance or administration

In addition, the following items are all teacher discipline issues and the classroom teacher will deal with these issues according to their classroom expectations.

- a. Work Refusal
- b. Homework not completed
- c. Talking out of turn
- d. Swearing or inappropriate verbal or nonverbal language
- e. General horseplay
- f. Violation of classroom rules not listed above

## Consequences:

- 1. Verbal reprimand: Verbal counseling by a teacher or staff member. These are generally warnings or simply "on the spot" corrections.
- 2. Teacher detention: These are detentions issued by a staff or faculty member and are to be served with that staff or faculty member. The teacher will send home A Notice of Detention detailing when the student is to serve the detention. This will be sent home giving one day's notice. These can also be assigned during lunch.
- 3. Teacher/Parent Conference: Students who continue to exhibit behaviors that impede the learning environment for themselves, or others will be requested to come in for a conference with the classroom teacher and the school principal or assistant principal in an effort to resolve the behavior issues.



#### Tier II Administrative Referral

If a student's behavior is not able to be dealt with effectively in the classroom and the student is referred to the principal's office or to the assistant principal, he or she will be given a few minutes to calm down. The student will be expected to process why he or she was sent to the office, and to apologize for his or her behavior. The student may also be expected to write a plan in order to be allowed back into the classroom depending on the offense. This plan must be agreed to by the sending teacher. The student will reenter the classroom once all the prescribed steps, which will be determined by the principal, are completed.

Students **may** be sent to the assistant principal (or principal) for any of the following:

- 1. Swearing or inappropriate verbal or nonverbal language that is beyond a simple curse word and is directed toward others (In addition, please see level IV for possible consequences that could be applied for this item)
- 2. Continuous disruption of class or continuous and documented rule (school or classroom) infraction that has not been successfully addressed with the application of teacher consequences and parental involvement via written or verbal communication
- 3. Rudeness and disrespect directed at the teacher or other students that continue after the student has been spoken to by the classroom teacher and consequences applied.
- 4. Unprivileged physical contact. Unprivileged physical contact means one person touching another person without that person's permission. Examples of this could be pinching, slapping, or rubbing someone's head
- 5. Failure to comply with the reasonable requests of a faculty or staff member and disciplinary action is not successful. Even if the student is sent to the office, a plan of action needs to be in place by the instructor. The parents will be notified by the classroom instructor.

## Consequences:

The consequences for the above infractions are progressive. The progression below is the typical progression of consequences.

- 1. Write an apology letter to the person the inappropriate action was directed at, and create a plan to return to the classroom without further inappropriate action
- 2. Office Detention and contact parents
- 3. In School Suspension
- 4. Out of School Suspension (Meeting with teacher and parents)

#### Tier III

In School Suspension (ISS) is used for serious offenses where the student requires a safe, structured, supervised, and socially isolated environment. The administrator assigning the ISS, will notify the parent (telephonically and in writing), why the student is receiving an ISS and when the ISS will be served. Various behaviors that would warrant an in-school intervention are listed below.

1. Verbal or nonverbal intimidation or threat to either a staff and faculty member

- or a peer. This includes unprivileged physical contact where one student touches another without his or her permission.
- 2. Bullying or harassment \*\*. (Further action will be taken if bullying and/or harassment is founded)
- 3. Profanity directed toward a faculty or staff member.
- 4. Destruction of school or personal property (not belonging to an offending student).
- 5. Leaving campus without permission.
- 6. Chronic documentation of cutting class. (Defined as cutting any class four or more times).
- 7. Physical assault or attempted physical assault.
- 8. Throwing objects that present a safety issue (scissors, books, chairs, etc)
- 9. Chronic documentation of PDA (public displays of affection)

Please note: In school suspension and out of school suspension would be reserved for only severe infraction at the elementary school level.

## **Expectations for students assigned to ISS**

- 1.Report to the Principal's Office from 7:55-2:32
- 2. Students who are tardy, absent, or are dismissed from school early will make up the missed ISS time upon the student's arrival of the next school day.
- 3. Bathroom breaks: Students will use the Nurse's bathroom as needed.
- 4. Lunch: Students will eat lunch with a designated staff person.
- 5. Teachers will provide the students' work for the day
- 6. Students will complete all assignments provided by regular classroom teachers.
- 7. A staff member may aid the student in the completion of their work as deemed necessary. The office will collect all completed work and return it to the teacher. The principal may assign additional work as deemed necessary and appropriate.
- 8. Students will positively reflect on their behavior and why they were assigned ISS.
- 9. Based on their reflection, students will complete a plan for not earning an ISS again.
- 10. Students will be responsible for maintaining their area in the Principal's Office and will be expected to clean up their area.
- 11. Students will behave in a responsible and respectful manner. Students who will not behave in a respectful manner may be sent home and assigned a "do over" ISS.
- 12. Students who are assigned an ISS will not be allowed to participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities for the days their ISS is assigned. If an ISS carries over a weekend, holiday or vacation, the student will not be permitted to participate in co-curricular or extracurricular activities until the student has fully completed the ISS assignment and has returned to the regular classroom.



<sup>\*\*</sup> Bullying and Harassment are not all-inclusive terms. Not every interaction between students automatically rises to the level of either bullying or harassment. Potential

incidents of bullying will be reported in conjunction with state law and school board policy. A series of investigative steps will be taken to determine if bullying occurred. If it is determined that bullying did occur, offenders are subject to consequences up to and including expulsion. Current board policy JICK is available on the school's website.

## https://pittsburgschool.sau7.org/

## **Level IV Major Infractions**

It is the goal of Pittsburg School to keep all students engaged in school. We believe that students should be removed from the learning environment only for the most severe infractions or violent behavior. Out of School Suspension is used for extreme situations and as a possible last resort before a student is expelled from school. Only administrators will administer an OSS. In the event that an OSS is issued for fighting, both students who were involved in the fight will be sent home for the remainder of the day for a "cooling off period". Please note, defending oneself is not generally considered "fighting" unless the person initially defending himself or herself lashes out and continues the fight. For their safety and because their actions might be misconstrued, students should not physically try to break up a fight. If a situation did occur when a student helped control a fight, generally that student would not receive disciplinary action. In the Principal's absence, the Assistant Principal shall deal with major infractions immediately as permitted by the principal. Students who fight will be sent home for a "cooling off" even if the principal is not in attendance; the Assistant Principal has the authority to do so. Someone must be home to receive the students that are sent home.

Major Infractions include but are not limited to:

- 1. Weapons.
- 2. Drugs/drug paraphernalia.
- 3. Alcohol.
- 4. Smoking/vaping/ smoking paraphernalia (lighters, tobacco, wrapping papers, vapes).
- 5. Throwing objects that present a safety issue (books, scissors, pencils, chairs, etc.) in anger.
- 6. Bomb scare.
- 7. False setting of fire alarm.
- 8. Vandalism.
- 9. Damage or theft of personal or school property.
- 10. Severe or repeated (documented) bullying or harassment.
- 11. Threats of physical violence or actual physical violence.
- 12. Threatening the faculty and staff.

## Consequences:

- 1. Parents will be notified telephonically and in writing.
- 2. Pittsburg Police will be notified as required by RSA 193 D, charges may be filed.
- 3. Days missed for OSS will be counted as Unexcused Absences and additional consequences may apply (see Section II Attendance).

- 4. Students are not allowed on school property while serving the OSS, nor are they allowed to attend school sponsored events or activities off campus.
- 5. Students are responsible for all assignments and learning missed while on OSS.
- 6. Students will receive credit for assignments completed during OSS.
- 7. Students will be allowed to make up tests, quizzes, etc. for credit.
- 8. Students will be permitted to make up midterm or final tests.
- 9. Students may be assigned community service as part of his or her restitution. Oftentimes this means completing janitorial tasks around the school, but it could be other forms of community service. In either case, the student will be supervised. If law enforcement is involved, law enforcement will assign community service.

#### LEVEL V EXPULSION

At this point the student will normally have an extended history of major discipline infractions, have demonstrated flagrant disregard for the reasonable rules of the school, and have shown little response to other levels of rehabilitation. Should the board decide to expel a student, an expulsion hearing allowing the parent to have an opportunity to explain why their son/daughter should be allowed to continue in school or to provide proof of their child's innocence will be arranged

#### **DISCIPLINE APPEALS PROCESS**

**Appeal Procedures**: The only disciplinary action that may be appealed beyond the building level is an OSS. An OSS may be appealed to the Superintendent. The consequence will be held in abeyance until the Superintendent has made the decision. Any violation between the time the principal issued an OSS and the final decision of the Superintendent shall be considered a separate incident and will result in additional consequences.

After reviewing the case, the Superintendent may reduce or increase the punishment. The school board will only hear an appeal if the OSS is for more than five days. Although appeal rights only apply for significant deprivation of student educational property rights, parents or students may express their concerns about fairness and appropriateness of punishments to the Superintendent and/or the School Board. The Superintendent must be contacted before students or parents will be allowed to discuss the issue with the Board. This is NOT to prevent a discussion but to allow the Superintendent to comply with his/her responsibility to construct the agenda.

## **Academic Cheating**

Integrity is always behaving in accordance with principles so that people will respect and trust you. It is important to maintain your integrity as a student and as a person. When a student is academically dishonest by plagiarizing, cheating, or otherwise presenting information under false pretenses, parents will be notified.

## **Definitions**:

**Plagiarism**: The process of taking another person's work, ideas, music, or words and using them as if they were your own or without explaining that you took them from someone else. **Cheating**: The giving of or receiving of written, oral or pictorial information in a manner that is contrary to the teacher's instructions either implied or stated.

When a teacher finds reason to suspect that cheating is or has occurred, he or she will present the student with his or her evidence and inquire as to whether cheating has occurred.

If the student admits to academic cheating, then the teacher will notify the principal who will in turn notify the parents and appropriate consequences will be applied.

If the student denies that he or she academically cheated, then the teacher will share the information with the principal. The principal will schedule a meeting about the matter and invite the student's parents to the meeting. The principal will then make the determination of whether academic cheating has occurred and notify the student and parents of his or her determination. If necessary, appropriate consequences will be applied.

**Consequences:** The consequences of academic cheating will be based on a variety of factors such as, the nature of the assignment, the extent of the student's dishonesty, and whether the student has a history of academic dishonesty. Students can expect that they will receive a zero for the work and will still have to appropriately complete the work.

Additionally, students may receive an in-school suspension or in the case of repeated offenses in the same course lose credit for the course.



## **Bus Discipline**

The School Board and staff members are very concerned about safety as we transport pupils. Cooperation from both parents and students is requested as we attempt to keep the buses safe for all concerned.

#### I. General rules and information:

- A. Students using bus transportation should understand that the school bus is an extension of the school. All school rules and regulations that pertain to student conduct in the schools are applicable to student conduct on a school bus.
- B. Students are under the jurisdiction of the school from the time they board the bus in the morning until they are returned to the stop nearest their home.
- C. Bus students will be admitted to and discharged from the bus at their homes and the school in which they are enrolled. Exceptions will be made only with notes to the office. Notes must be given to the office before 1:30 PM. For the safety of the students, parents or designee must be home before the bus driver will leave students in kindergarten through grade five. Every effort will be made by the

#### bus drivers to determine that an adult is home.

- D. No student shall be put off the bus while traveling to and from school. Parents shall be notified, and that day's trips completed before the student can be removed from transportation service.
- E. Parents are responsible for the transportation of large objects, such as glass aquariums, large school projects, sleds and skis. This is a safety matter, since large objects can not only obstruct the driver's view of what is happening in the bus, but in the event of a sudden stop could cause injury to students.
- F. If a bus driver suspects that a student's bag or knapsack contains contraband such as a weapon, alcohol, or tobacco, he/she will keep the bag at the front of the bus and turn it over to an administrator via the bus coordinator. The administrator may search the bag if he/she believes there is reasonable suspicion for the search.
- G. Students must be in 5th grade to be dropped off at their house unsupervised by the parent or guardian.



#### **Dress Code**

The school is an academic and professional environment. Your personal appearance reflects upon yourself, your home, and your school. When selecting school attire, it is the responsibility of the student to use good judgment allowing for both comfort and clean appearance. The dress code represents the values of Pittsburg School; respect for ourselves and others, the importance of community, and seriousness of academics.

**Footwear:** No footwear is to be worn that is destructive to school property. Footwear is required and expected to be worn in the building at all times. Footwear must be appropriate to the weather and climate. Sandals and flip-flops may be worn at your own risk.

**Messages on Clothing:** No clothing is to be worn that displays words or pictures that may be construed as vulgar, inappropriate, or offensive in any way.

**Tops:** Tank tops may be worn as an undershirt only. Shoulder straps must be at least two inches wide. Muscle shirts are not allowed or tank tops with the wide openings in the arms. Shirts must be worn that cover the midriff, sides, and chest. If you raise your hands above your head and flesh is showing, you need to change your shirt.

**Bottoms:** The length of dresses, skirts, or shorts shall be appropriate in length. (the tips of fingertips is a good guideline to follow) No short shorts, dresses or skirts shorter than mid-thigh. Pants should be worn at the waist or top of the hips. Underwear or bare skin is not to show at any time.

**Headgear:** No headgear, including hoods, are to be worn in the school from the time the student enters the building until they leave the building at the end of the regular

school day. Headgear includes, but is not limited to: baseball caps, bandanas and hats.

**Sunglasses:** Sunglasses shall not be worn unless a student has a prescription from an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

Specific classes or class activities will, on occasion, require that students dress in a special manner. For example, students need to wear gym shoes for PE class and may be precluded from participating if not dressed appropriately. Teachers will notify parents in written communication which outlines any specific dress code requirements pertaining to their class or activity.

If a student violates the dress code, he/she will be asked to turn shirts inside out if the shirt is inappropriate, change any other inappropriate article of clothing, or call home for a change of clothes. If this is not possible, then in extreme situations, the school will provide appropriate clothing for the student to wear. Further disciplinary action may be taken as appropriate.

#### GENERAL

## Student Supervision Before and After School

Unless previously coordinated with a staff member, students are not to enter school before 7:45 a.m.

Unless under the direct supervision of a teacher, advisor, or coach, students are not allowed to be in the school after dismissal, at 2:32 pm for students who ride the bus. All other students must immediately depart after the buses have left unless prior arrangements have been made with an instructor, they are serving detention with administration, or involved in after school activities. Additionally, students will be supervised until their parents pick them up after practice, a game, or school event.



## Field Trips

Field trips are meant to enrich student learning. These off-site school trips require parental permission for student participation. The student must have written permission to participate in a field trip prior to departure.



## School Meals Program Managed by Abbey Group

The Food Service Program is provided to students and is intended to be a user funded enterprise; however, the program is supplemented by federal and state funding. The costs for breakfast and lunch meals for the 2022-2023 school year are as follows: Snack milk -\$0.70

Breakfast-\$1.70

Lunch- \$2.95 (K-5) \$3.15 (6-12)

The school district offers a snack milk or juice program to students and payment must be received in advance to participate in this program, regardless of income eligibility. The Abbey Group may provide the student with a card or the student may enter their account number on the keypad at the end of the lunch line.

See Policy 45 EFC for more detailed information regarding payment for school meals.

## **Prepayment**

Prepayment for additional lunches and breakfast is encouraged. Parents may make payments online or by sending in cash or a check with your student. Checks must be made payable to the Pittsburg School District. Information about how to pay online will be sent home with price information for breakfast and lunch, on the first day of school. This information can also be found on our website.

#### **Balance Refunds**

Refunds due students will be paid to parents/guardians at the end of the school year when requested by the parent/guardian. Credit balances will be carried forward to the next school year.

Students who wish to bring their own lunch from home may purchase milk through the food service program. Elementary students are provided a break time during which they may eat a snack from home. Parents are encouraged to supply a simple, nutritious snack for their child. Milk may be purchased for snack break.

## **Breakfast Program**

The Pittsburg School has a breakfast program. Breakfast will begin at 7:45 upon entrance to the building. Students will eat breakfast in their classrooms.

## Fresh Fruits and Vegetables:

The NH Education Department, Office of Nutrition Programs and Services (ONPS) is pleased to announce that Pittsburg School has qualified to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the school year 2024-2025. Fresh fruits and vegetables will be made available at no charge to students.

#### Cafeteria Rules

Lunch is a time for students to relax and socialize as well as enjoy their lunches. All elementary students will go to the cafeteria at 11:50. Additionally, the following rules apply:

- 1. Listen to the lunchroom attendant and follow all his or her directions
- 2. Wait patiently while waiting to be called up and while in line
- 3. Don't cut or save spaces for anyone either in line or at a table
- 4. Choose a place to sit and stay there
- 5. Don't play with your food and don't touch other student's food
- 6. Use your inside or two-foot voice. While in line, only people directly in front of you

or behind you should be able to voice. While at your table, only people sitting with you should be able to hear your voice

- 7. Ask permission to use the bathroom. Line up one at a time
- 8. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria. No food is allowed to be finished out of the cafeteria
- 9. Clean up your lunch items and place all trash in appropriate containers
- 10. Wait to be dismissed

#### Visitors and Student Guests:

Any adult who is not employed by Pittsburg School District, or is not a current student of Pittsburg School is considered a Visitor. Any school aged child, who is not a current student is considered a guest. All visitors and guests are required to sign in and wear identification if going beyond the Office Alcove. The school expects all visitors and guests to abide by school rules while on school grounds. Any visitor who does not follow basic rules of decorum will be asked to leave.

- a. **Student Guests**: Students may have guests visit the school provided they fill out a Student Guest Form, obtain permission from their teachers and the principal at least two school days BEFORE they bring their guest. Failure to do this will result in the guest not being allowed entry into the building. The student hosting the guest is responsible for their guest. Any infraction by the guest will result in the guest's immediate removal from school and the host serving any penalty incurred by the guest. If the guest plans to eat in the cafeteria, they must bring cash to purchase their lunch.
- b. **Adult Visitors**: These individuals must register with the office before visiting any classrooms and obtain a visitors pass. Parents or guardians are considered visitors and after the start of classes, at 8:00, must have a visitors pass from the office if remaining in the building.



#### School Functions

In conducting school functions, such as dances, parties, entertainment, and sports events we want students to be a credit to their school and community. In addition to the regular school rules, Students will also abide by these following rules:

- a. Students are responsible for all tasks necessary for hosting the school function, including decorating and cleaning up after the event. If custodians must clean up after the students, then the club/activity will be charged the cost of cleaning. Future use of the facility by the club or for the activity may be in jeopardy. Once students and guests have entered the building, if they leave, they will not be permitted back into the event. Students leaving prior to the end of the event must sign out and leave school grounds immediately and will not be readmitted to the function.
- b. All exits must remain clear in case of emergency. Students who wish to bring one

- guest to a school event (on campus or off) must have prior written approval from the principal or vice principal at least 48 (forty-eight) hours in advance of the event. The forms are available in the office.
- c. Students or guests who are asked to leave because of their behavior may not be allowed at future school events and other disciplinary actions may be taken. Law enforcement officials will be notified about any behavior which endangers others or is suspected of being illegal.

## Extracurricular/School Sponsored Activities:

**Eligibility:** Student athletes are required to maintain good grades and behavior. The academic policy states that a student must be in good academic and disciplinary standing determined by the principal. Repeated disciplinary referrals could result in removal or suspension from the team. In grades 5-6, a student is placed on academic probation when he/she fails two or more courses in a quarter. Academic probation status means that a student loses the privilege to participate in school sports. Parents are notified by mail by the principal's office if their child is placed on academic probation. Academic probation lasts for the duration of the quarter and can be lifted the following quarter if the student's grades improve and are no longer failing grades.

**Attendance:** School attendance is required for all athletes on days of games and practices and players must arrive on time to school the days following games. This includes being present the Friday before a Saturday event. Unless given permission by the principal, a student who is not in attendance on the day of a game or practice will not be eligible to participate. Students with a valid excuse for being absent on a game day or practice day should contact the principal or athletic director prior to that day.

**Detentions:** Student athletes are expected to attend all assigned detentions. Any student athlete that skips an assigned detention to participate or attend a game or practice will be suspended from the next regularly scheduled athletic contest.

The principal has final determination as to eligibility under these rules.

## **School Sponsored Activities**

Students participating in athletic trips, field trips, extracurricular activities, etc. are under the jurisdiction of Pittsburg School District. All school expectations apply during these events as they do in school. If there are any infractions, the students will receive the normal penalty for the infraction and may be deprived of their opportunity to participate in future activities.

**Transportation**: Transportation to events will be provided by Pittsburg School District buses or privately owned vehicles.

1. Bus: Bus transportation will be provided for the students. Students wishing to ride home with their parents must turn in a written request to the principal for his/her signature. A signed copy will go to the student and the advisor so they will have verification of the permission. One will be kept on file at Pittsburg School.

2. If the bus drives by the student's home or regular bus stop, on the return from any school related activity, the parent or guardian may request in writing that the child be dropped off at his or her regular stop. However, a parent or guardian must be visibly present. If the parent or guardian is not visibly present, then the child will be brought back to the school. No student will be left unattended.

## **School Property**

Desks, textbooks, and other materials or supplies loaned by the school to the students remain the property of the school. Searches of students' persons will be conducted if there is reasonable cause to believe that a breach of school policy or law is being committed. Searches will be conducted by a school administrator and one other school employee and will be done only with the consent and knowledge of the superintendent of schools. School employees are not agents of law enforcement officials. Search and seizure by law enforcement, on school property, may occur when a warrant or other legal basis exists.

## **AUP/Computer Use**

All students must have a signed Acceptable Use Policy on file with the tech department before using the computers and the Internet in this school. Any library user may use the computers provided they have received instruction from the technology coordinator in charge. Students must log off when finished using the computers. Students are reminded not to share passwords/accounts with other individuals.

Students will be issued a network username and passwords to operate the system. These network usernames will allow tracking of what a student has accessed. The school reserves the right to check these files at any time. The student has no expectation of privacy when using the school's internet. Refer to the appendix for the detailed acceptable use agreement.

- Telephones in classrooms and the office area are business phones and are not to be used by students. Students may use the phone in the office during breakfast and lunch. Classes will not be interrupted for incoming calls. Please leave a message with office personnel and we will ensure the message is delivered to the student.
- Only those students with a temporary or permanent medical condition, as determined by a doctor, will be allowed to use the elevator. Students assisting these students by carrying books or other items will use the stairs, unless the Principal or Assistant Principal deems it necessary.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in either the library or any of the Computer Labs.
- Students who lose or damage textbooks or other materials will be required to replace them. Bills will be sent home. Should any student damage school facilities, they will be expected to reimburse the district for expenses associated with repairing what they damaged.

#### Lost and Found

Items found in the school will be turned into the main office and held for a two-week period. Items such as coats, boots, jewelry, etc. will be advertised in student announcements. At the end of two weeks, unclaimed items will be donated to the local thrift shop.

Pittsburg Cafeteria doubles as an auditorium for public events. We request students store athletic equipment in a locker room locker. If this equipment cannot fit in their locker students may store it under the coat rack area if it is not more than one bag deep. No equipment may be stored in the Cafeteria/Auditorium overnight. Items found in the Cafeteria/Auditorium will also be turned into lost and found. Pittsburg Canaan Yellow Jacket athletic gear will be turned into the Athletic Director.



#### **HEALTH / SAFETY**

#### **Medical items**

The district provides full-time nursing. Treatment is limited to first aid. Parents/Guardians must be notified through the nurse's office before a student may be released to go home due to illness.

- a. Medications: No prescription medications will be administered by the school nurse (or office personnel in the absence of the nurse) except upon the written order of the physician who has examined and prescribed for a particular child.
- b. All Parents must also sign a written consent form or provide the prescription requesting school personnel to administer the medication during school hours.
- c. Accidents requiring medical attention are to be reported to the school nurse who will notify parents/guardians and the school administration.
- d. Physical examinations will be required for all children upon entry into school unless evidence of examination is provided by the sending school district.
- e. Illness: **Students who are ill should not report to school**, but if they do, the student will need to report to the office. If the school nurse is in, the student will see the nurse. If the nurse is not in, office personnel will attempt to help the student. If the nurse determines the student should not be in school, parents will be notified, and the student will be dismissed. **No student will be excused from school unless his/her parent or guardian is notified**.
- f. Insurance: Students are required to show proof of insurance to participate in athletics. See Athletic Contract for additional information.
- g. The nurse or designee may offer "over the counter" medication as authorized. For instance, Tylenol, cough medicine, or throat lozenges. A Parental Consent Form must be on file for this to occur. Students are not permitted to have over the counter medications in their possession without written permission from the school nurse.

## Any student providing others with such medications is subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the SAU #7 Alcohol and Drug Policy.

h. The nurse will monitor the number of student visits. Should any individual student request excessive medication parents will be notified.

## **Student Control Policy:**

This section refers to actions taken by staff members to intervene in a verbal or physical assault. Based on their assessment of the situation, staff members may exercise reasonable physical restraint of students to bring the situation under control. Staff members shall **not** put themselves or other students in jeopardy. Guidelines for these situations are as follows:

- a. Staff members must attempt to resolve the disturbance in the event the disruption is creating a danger to any student(s) and/or staff member(s). If the student who is creating the disturbance presents a danger to himself/herself, to other students, and/or to the staff member, the staff member shall have the right to use only such physical force as is necessary to prevent injury.
- b. In the event the staff member is unable to resolve the disturbance, the staff member shall contact another staff member or the principal for immediate assistance.

## **Classroom Safety**

Each student is expected to always comply with teacher safety rules. Failure to comply with safety rules may place the student, other students, or staff members at risk, which is unacceptable.

## **Emergency Evacuation of Pittsburg School**

Fire drills, "lockdown" procedures, and emergency location planning and practice are critical in successfully coping with emergency situations. Staff members will be familiar with their role in this plan and ensure students are briefed on their roles. These plans may be practiced with or without notice. When an emergency situation occurs, real or practice, students are expected to take the situation seriously and comply with staff directions. Staff members will ensure students know proper evacuation procedures. Parents and students may review a copy of the School Emergency Response Plan (SERP) located in the office.

#### **Firearms**

Any student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school under the jurisdiction of Pittsburg School District **will be expelled** from school for a period of not less than one year and may suffer criminal penalties as well. Firearms are defined as any instrument that uses gunpowder to propel a projectile.

## Dangerous Weapons (See Policy JICI)

Dangerous weapons, such as, but not limited to, firearms, BB, Pellet or paintball guns, explosives, incendiary or gas devices, martial arts weapons (as defined in RSA 159:24 – any kind of sword, knife, spear, throwing star, throwing dart, or nunchaku or any other object designed for use in the martial arts which is capable of being used as a lethal or dangerous weapon.) electronic defense weapons (as defined in RSA 159:20), clubs, billies, metallic knuckles or containers containing chemicals such as pepper gas or mace, or the use of any object as a weapon are not permitted on school property, on school vehicles or at school sponsored activities. Student violations of this policy will result in both school disciplinary action and notification of the police. Suspension or expulsion from school could result.

#### **ELECTRONIC/ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Student use of all electronic devices is strictly prohibited during the school day (7:50 am-2:33pm). This includes lunch periods. Such devices are to be kept in your backpack with the power off. **The administration recommends that these devices not be brought to school.** The school district is not responsible for loss, damage or theft of electronic devices brought to school.

School Two-Hour Delay Schedule

2024-2025

Block I – 10:00 am-10:37 am

Block II - 10:40 am - 11:16 am

Lunch -11:16 am -11:46 pm

Block III – 11:49 am – 1:09pm

Block IV – 1:12 pm -2:32 pm

Any afternoon specials will still happen, but any morning specials will be canceled.

## PITTSBURG SCHOOL EARLY RELEASE DAYS 2024-2025

Friday, September 20, 2021

Block I - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block II - 9:00am - 9:57am

Block III - 10:00am - 10:56am

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block IV - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

Friday, November 8, 2024

Block II - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block III - 9:00am - 9:57am

Block IV - 10:00am - 10:56am

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block I - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

Friday, December 13, 2024

Block III - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block IV - 9:00am - 9:57am

Block I - 10:00am - 10:56am

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block II - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

Friday, January 10, 2025

Block IV - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block I - 9:00am - 9:57am

 $Block\ II-10:00am-10:56am$ 

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block III - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

Friday, February 14, 2025

Block I - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block II - 9:00am - 9:57am

Block III - 10:00am - 10:56am

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block IV - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

Friday, April 18, 2025

Block II - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block III - 9:00am - 9:57am

Block IV - 10:00am - 10:56am

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block I - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

Friday, May 9, 2025

Block III - 8:00am - 8:57am

Block IV - 9:00am - 9:57am

Block I - 10:00am - 10:56am

Lunch (High School) – 10:56am-11:20am Lunch (Elementary) - 11:25am-11:50am

Block II - 11:23-12:00

12:00pm - Dismissal

PITTSBURG SCHOOL TWO HOUR DELAY 2024-2025

Block I - 10:00 am-10:37 am

Block II - 10:40 am - 11:16 am

Lunch - 11:16 am - 11:46 pm

Block III - 11:49 am - 1:09pm

Block IV - 1:12 pm -2:32 pm

There will be no WIN

Lunch for high school and elementary will stay the same. Any afternoon specials will still happen, but any morning specials will be cancelled.

## Policy & Disclaimer

Should there be a conflict between Board policy and this handbook, the policy with the most recent date shall take precedence over all other policies. Should Board policy be enacted which alters the content of this handbook, students, parents, and staff will be notified.

Policy Code	Name of Policy
AC	Non-Discrimination, Equal Opportunity, & District Anti- Discrimination Plan
AC-E	Annual Notice of Contact Information
ACAC	Title IX Sexual Harassment and Grievance Process
BGAA	Policy Development, Adoption, and Review
EEAA	Video and Audio Recording on School Property
ECAF	Audio and Video Surveillance on School Buses
EFAA	Meal Charging
GBED	Prohibitions Regarding Use and Possession of Tobacco Products, E Cigarettes and E-Liquids in and on School Facilities and Grounds
IHAMA	Teaching About Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco
IHBH	Extended Learning Opportunities
IKA	Grading System
IKE	Promotion and Retention of Students
JH	Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy
JI	Student Rights and Responsibilities
JIC	Student Conduct 2021
JICC/EE	Student Conduct on School Buses
AE	
С	
JICD	Student Discipline and Due Process
JICFA	Hazing
JICG	Tobacco Products in Facilities and on Grounds
JICI	Weapons on School Property
JICK	Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention - Bullying
JIH	Student Searches and their Property
JJA	Student Activities & Organizations
JLDBB	Suicide Prevention and Response
JLF	Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect
JRA	Student Records and Access - FERPA
JLCD	Administering Medication to Students

My signature below verifies that I have read and understand the Parent/Student Handbook AND the Grading Guidelines document							
Signature of Parents or Guardians							
Date							
Signature of Student							
Year of Graduation							
 Date							