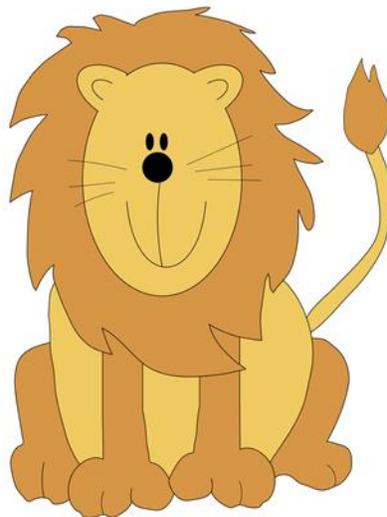


Blacklick Elementary

Student/Parent Handbook

BLACKLICK ELEMENTARY
6540 Havens Corners Road
Blacklick, Ohio 43004
PHONE: 614-759-5100
FAX: 614-759-5110



2016-2017

"Going the Extra Mile!"

Blacklick Elementary Student Handbook: 2016-2017

Dear Blacklick Families,

On behalf of the Blacklick Elementary staff, I would like to welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year. A new school year brings much excitement and many changes. This handbook has been prepared for the purpose of answering questions that are frequently asked by students, parents, and families. It contains essential information about Blacklick Elementary as well as the Gahanna Jefferson School District.

Please take time to read this information, review it with your child, and keep it for your reference throughout the school year. Should you have any questions that are not answered, please be sure to contact me at (614) 759-5100 or by email at grovesk@gjps.org. I would be happy to meet with you and answer your questions.

Respectfully,

Kristen Groves
Principal

Blacklick Elementary Mission Statement

Together our mission is to create a safe, supportive school community that will encourage each child who attends Blacklick Elementary to become a respectful, responsible, positive, prepared and safe citizen of our world. Our students will become critical-thinkers and problem-solvers, able to explore and evaluate information while working independently and cooperatively with others.

Blacklick Contact Information:

614-759-5100

6540 Havens Corners Road

Blacklick, Ohio 43004

GJPS School Board Member E-Mails

Matt Campbell – campbellmp@gjps.org

Jason Phillips – phillipsj@gjps.org

Beryl Piccolantonio - piccolantonio@gjps.org

Daphne Moehring – moehringd@gjps.org

Joe Gottron – gottronj@gjps.org.

Blacklick Elementary Personnel 2016-2017

Kristen Groves	Principal
Janis Piatek	Secretary (K-5)
Lori Bobish	Preschool Secretary
Kim Lindsey	Clinic Aide
Sherrri Snoad	School Nurse
Stephanie Brickner	Preschool
Jessica Irwin	Preschool
Mary Myers-Link	Preschool
Jessica Lister	Preschool
Cheryl Bower	Kindergarten
Sue Park	Kindergarten
Desiree Schirg	Kindergarten
Olivia Czezele	Kindergarten
Heather Bailey-Lewis	Grade 1
Alana Cramlet	Grade 1
Dana Hutchinson	Grade 1
Jennifer Sengstock	Grade 1
Shannon Crackel	Grade 2
Jim Heider	Grade 2
Sarah Pershing	Grade 2
Emily Obrovac	Grade 2
Dustin Dashner	Grade 3
Ashley Honeycutt	Grade 3
Christina Miller	Grade 3
Ashley Phillippi	Grade 3
Mary Leopold	Grade 4
Ed Thomas	Grade 4
Stephanie Thomas	Grade 4
Lori Kokales-Westbrook	Grade 4
Paulie Basford	Grade 5
Jillian Rogers	Grade 5
Amanda Gurney	Grade 5
Blaine Henry	Grade 5
Jeff Bower	Physical Education
Cathy Stewart	Art
Susan Vandop	Music
Angela Ferraris	Librarian
Moriah Myers-Allen	Intervention Specialist
Kari Hutson	Intervention Specialist
Joey Francisco	Intervention Specialist
Nicole Koontz	Intervention Specialist
Christine Tolliver	Intervention Specialist
MaryAnn Byrum	Reading Teacher
Paula Madison	Reading Teacher
Sandy Nicholson	GATE
Kim Neary	ELL
Amy Scott	Instructional Support Coach
April Hunter	Speech Therapist
Autumn Hadley	School Psychologist
Dawn Jenkins	Guidance Counselor
Amanda Crafton	Mental Health Counselor
Amy Canan	Educational Aide
Marianne Wittich	Educational Aide
Molly Peters	Educational Aide
Teresa Baird	Alternative Instructor
Leslie Rumsey	Alternative Instructor
George Moore	Custodian (Daytime)
Eli Bergenstein	Custodian (PM)
Betsy Pierce, Debra Burgett, Stephanie Gilzow	Cafeteria Staff

Blacklick Elementary School

Student Expectations

As a part of the Gahanna-Jefferson Schools, Blacklick Elementary is committed to developing learners with strong personal character and self-discipline. Collaborating with families and students, our staff is committed to establishing a school environment based on our school wide theme of **Blacklick PRIDE:**

ResPectful
Responsible
PosIitive
PrepareD
SafE

COMMUNICATION

Communication between the school and home is a vital part of your student's success. We have established many programs to help the communication lines flow.

PRIDE FOLDERS

Pride Folders are sent home once a week (usually the first school day of the week) with student work from the previous week. Parents are asked to review the papers in the folder and return the folder with the student the next day.

NEWSLETTERS

Blacklick News is a newsletter written by the principal and the staff and is emailed to the parents on a weekly basis. The latest newsletter is also posted on www.gahannaschools.org. This letter will inform parents of upcoming events, special activities, school procedures and other news items. In addition, each classroom teacher periodically writes a newsletter for the parents in his/her classroom.

CURRICULUM NIGHTS

Curriculum Nights are held either the last week of summer or the first several weeks of school in each classroom. These sessions give parents an opportunity to hear the teacher present an overview of performance expectations and planned activities for the year. **This evening is designed for parents.**

AN EVENING AT BLACKLICK

This night could emphasize different curriculum areas such as: Math, Literacy, Science, or Related Arts.

4th & 5th GRADE MUSICAL PRODUCTION

As a culmination to their studies in music class, students present an annual musical theatre production. All 4th and 5th grade students are involved in this production.

REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

- Parents will receive report cards at the end of each trimester. Report cards will be sent home on the following dates: November 14, February 21, and May 25.
- Interim reports for grades K-5 are sent home in the middle of the trimester. Progress reporting dates are as follows: October 3, December 19, and April 3.
- Formal parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall and early spring. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for the following dates this school year: October 4, October 6, February 28 and March 2.
- At other times during the school year, conferences may be requested by a parent or a teacher when it is deemed necessary.

SCHOOL FEES AND MATERIALS

Please pay your child's school fees by October 3, 2016. School Fees are \$35.00 per student. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch are eligible to have their school fees waived.

Report cards will be held for unpaid school fees.

SCHOOL HOURS

7:50 School Day Begins! Students should arrive by 7:50 AM

8:00 Tardy Bell Rings

8:05 Announcements on Rocky's Report

Lunch/Recess

10:45 - 11:30 Kindergarten

11:00 - 11:45 First Grade

11:15 - 12:00 Second Grade

11:30 - 12:15 Third Grade

11:45 - 12:30 Fourth Grade

12:00 - 12:45 Fifth Grade

2:25 Bus Riders Dismissed

2:30 Non-bus riding students are dismissed.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

We would appreciate it if students **would not** arrive before 7:50 in the morning. Blacklick staff members are not available to supervise children before 7:50 am. Students are not permitted to use playground equipment before school. At the end of the school day, we ask that students leave school promptly. Blacklick staff members are not available to supervise children after 2:30 pm. Students being transported home by parents/guardians should be picked up by 2:30 pm. ***Your cooperation in waiting until all the students are dismissed to discuss items with the teacher would be appreciated. Teachers need to be able to focus on providing directions and safely dismissing students.***

AFTER SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

We encourage families to make after school arrangements ***before*** your child arrives at school. We would appreciate if phone calls to the office regarding after school arrangements be limited to emergencies or change in arrangements. If you need to call the school office to change the arrangements for your child after school, please call before 2:00 pm. ***If we do not receive***

notification from a parent/guardian, your child will be sent home the way they normally go home.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

All Blacklick students are entitled to bus transportation except those families living in the Stepping Stone subdivision. Transportation questions can be addressed at 751-7581 (Bus Garage).

Students riding the bus must follow the rules established by the Board of Education. Students not following the rules set by the driver and the Board of Education will be subject to written reprimands and face possible dismissal and/or suspension from bus-riding privileges. Please refer to GJPS Bus Rules (See Rule 24).

Students are prohibited from:

- Creating noise at railroad crossing and other dangerous points
- Changing seats while the bus is in motion.
- Creating excessive noise, loud talking or laughter at any time
 - Distracting the bus driver in any manner.
 - Putting any part of the body outside of the bus.
 - Fighting on the bus.
 - Spitting or throwing any object from the bus.
 - Smoking or lighting matches on the bus.
 - Eating, drinking, or littering with the bus in motion.
 - Failing to obey the driver.
 - Transporting birds or animals, dead or alive.
 - Transporting any glass containers.
 - Damaging or marking any part of the bus.
 - Using profane or unbecoming language.
 - Bullying others on the bus. Bullying is defined as *words and/or actions intended to cause physical and/or emotional harm to others.*

A **Bus Transfer Request form** must be submitted to the office if a parent wishes, on a regular basis, to have their child picked up or returned to an address other than his/her own. This form is in our office.

For an emergency situation where guardians will not be home after school, guardians may send a note stating that their child can go home with a friend. **This note must be presented to the principal in order to take place.** There are no guarantees that your child will be able to ride on a different bus due to buses reaching their full capacity.

CAR TRANSPORTATION

- Car riders must be dropped off and picked up at the REAR entrance of the school. In the morning, students should walk around the building using the sidewalk and enter the building through the front doors. All other doors will be locked.
- If your child isn't present when you arrive at school to pick him or her up, you should

continue to drive around the circle so that others in line don't have to wait.

- Children not picked up by 2:35 P.M. will walk to the office to wait.
- Any changes to your child's transportation (buses, car riders, Kids Place and daycare), a written note must be given to the classroom teacher by 1:30 p.m.

SEVERE WEATHER: SCHOOL CLOSING/DELAY INFORMATION

In case of severe weather (snow, low temperatures, ice), the official announcement for school closings or delay will be made on local radio and television stations. Radio and television stations that may carry the information include: WCMH, WSYX, WBNS, WNCI, SWNY, WLVQ, WCOL, and WTVN. Listen for "GAHANNA SCHOOLS" or "GAHANNA-JEFFERSON SCHOOLS". Calamity day information is also available on the school district's website (www.gahannaschools.org), Facebook, and Twitter pages.

School delays will be 2 hours. If start of school is delayed, busses will pick up students two hours later. School will end at the regular time. Students will arrive home at their regular time. If school is delayed two hours, all day kindergarten students should report to school with all other students in grades 1-5.

EARLY RELEASE GUIDELINES (POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS)

Situations will vary, but generally, if situations warrant an early release, high school students will be released first followed by middle school and then elementary at the regular release time. The reason elementary is dismissed at the regular time is for the safety of the younger students when returning home.

High school students will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m. Middle school students will be dismissed at 1:45 p.m. Elementary schools will follow their normal dismissal schedule at 2:25 p.m.

The decision to release school early will be made by 12:30 p.m. to ensure time to contact and position people appropriately for the dismissal. The School Messenger system will be used to contact all families.

SECURITY CAMERAS

Interior and exterior security cameras are located at each building in the Gahanna-Jefferson school district. Cameras are not located in areas where people would normally expect to have privacy.

STUDENT RECORDS

Please report any changes in address, phone number, and other vital information to the school office as soon as it is known. We can then maintain current information in our files. Families who plan to move to some other address, either within the district or to another town, should likewise inform the school as soon as possible. The necessary withdrawal forms can be prepared for the parents' signature. Remember, we cannot release a student's personal records without a parent signature.

Wellness

GJPS Wellness Committee meets at least four times a year to collaborate with parents, teachers,

school administrators, students, school health professionals, and community members to further our culture of wellness. The WC is dedicated to improving the health of students through increasing physical activity and nutrition education. The Committee welcomes new members and publishes a newsletter periodically. Please see the Family Wellness area on the GJPS website under Child Nutrition for wellness resources and contact information.

Physical Education

A comprehensive physical education program is provided for students in K-12 with the academic content standards adopted by the State. The PE curriculum provides students with opportunities to learn and practice skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

Nutrition

School Meals: The Food Service/Child Nutrition program will provide all students' affordable access to varied and nutritious food based on the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans, USDA meal patterns, and Smart Snacks in Schools. Students are discouraged from sharing food with one another during meal times due to allergies, and other dietary restrictions.

Nutrition Education & Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influences lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques, nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs.

Peanuts and Tree Nuts are prohibited:

In an effort to protect each child's safety, Blacklick Elementary will only permit peanuts and tree nuts in the cafeteria and the staff lunch/break room. All instructional spaces (classrooms) will be nut free. There will be a designated "nut free" table in the cafeteria. Peanuts and tree nuts will be monitored closely by trained staff and faculty. **The use of peanuts and nuts at any school function during or after school is strictly prohibited.** In order to maintain safety, peanuts and tree nuts are prohibited in classroom parties, classroom activities, and all PTO sponsored or school sponsored events. All school lunches prepared and purchased from the cafeteria are nut free.

Healthy Snacks

Yogurt/yogurt parfaits, cheese, fruit or veggie cups/kabobs, bottled water, 100% fruit or vegetable juice; **no nut snacks or peanut butter please!** We encourage parents to bring treats that follow the Smart Snacks In Schools standards. See list on the district website for additional information.

Classroom Celebrations

We know that birthdays and holidays are important to every child and that kids like to celebrate with their classmates. However, sending in a food treat to the classroom to celebrate can exclude

those children who have food allergies, diabetes or other dietary restrictions.

Suggested alternatives to food treats for birthday and holiday parties at school are:

- Party favors - erasers, pencils, stickers, bracelets, key chains, slinkies, etc.
- Parent or guest can visit the classroom and read a book to the students!
- Purchase something for the classroom - book, game, plant, craft, etc.
- Bring in something the students can sign - a t-shirt, tote bag, autograph book

HOLIDAYS, BIRTHDAYS, AND CLASSROOM TREATS

Blacklick Elementary promotes good nutrition in school as one way for our students to receive a quality education and build healthy habits for life. Childhood obesity rates are on the rise, and because this issue can lead to chronic health problems, it is up to us as parents and educators to take an active role in addressing this problem.

- Students are permitted to bring in a healthy snack (nut free) to celebrate their birthday. Parents are encouraged to visit www.snackwise.org/snacklist/completelist.html for a list of healthy snacks that are ideal for sharing with their classroom.
- Preferred beverages are bottled water and 100% juice boxes.
- Students are **not** permitted to distribute birthday party invitations at school unless the **entire class** is invited. This rule is enforced to protect the feelings of all students.
- We strongly discourage the delivery of balloons and flowers to students at school. Deliveries will be kept in the school office until the end of the day. Flowers and balloons are not permitted on the school bus.
- Religious holidays are not celebrated with decorations, activities, or programs. When religious beliefs preclude a child's participation in such celebrations, the child is permitted to go to the library or to another classroom during this brief period.
- We have one school party at Blacklick. The Valentine's Party is scheduled for February 9, 2017 from 1:15 - 2:15 p.m.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Any questions concerning the operation of the cafeteria, menus, or cooks shall be directed to the coordinator of food services, Mrs. Green, at the administrative offices (471-7065).

Student lunches will be \$2.65 this year for the hot lunch. You will notice on the menu that students have a choice of three different lunch types: a sandwich lunch, a main entree', or yogurt. Milk will be 50 cents for those who pack their lunch. The lunch menu will be available on the district website at www.gahannaschools.org.

Parents are encouraged to use the meal pay plus website (www.mypaymentsplus.com) to monitor student account balances and/or deposit money.

We want to encourage children to practice good nutrition habits at school, and because of this we will no longer allow students to bring "pop" in their packed lunches from home.

Lunch Debit System

The debit system allows parents to put money into their child's meal account. Each student is assigned a 6-digit student ID number assigned specifically to them. Funds are deposited in advance of the meal purchases. Families may deposit funds for multiple weeks, and deposits should be made

by check or money order, payable to Blacklick Elementary Cafeteria. You can also make online payments through www.mypaymentsplus.com. Cash deposits will be accepted, but are made at your own risk. There is no limit to the amount of money you can deposit into your child's account. Students may also choose to pay cash instead on a daily basis.

School Lunch Loans

If a student forgets or loses his lunch or lunch money, we will allow that child to "charge" lunch (but not a la carte items) up to a maximum of \$10.00. Charges must be repaid to the cafeteria immediately. Students reaching the maximum charge of \$10.00 will be given a cheese sandwich for lunch. Please monitor your child's lunch account. Parents can access their student's balances through www.mypaymentsplus.com. It's a free, efficient way to view your child's cafeteria balance.

Free/Reduced Lunch Program

Families may apply for the free/reduced lunch program. Eligibility for free or reduced lunch is based on total family income. Families interested in the program should complete the Free/Reduced lunch program form and return it to the school office. The price for a reduced lunch is \$0.40.

Families Bringing Lunch for their Child

All visitors must report first to the school office. We will ask that lunches be left in the school office and the office staff will call the student to the office to pick up the lunch.

Families Visiting at Lunch

All visitors must report to the school office. Families staying for lunch must sign in and wear a visitor's badge. We also ask that you sign out in the office before leaving the building.

CAFETERIA RULES

1. Talking is to be kept to a normal level of conversation.
2. There is to be no throwing of food at any time.
3. All areas around the table should be picked up of litter after each student is finished eating.
4. Students will be dismissed by the duty teacher when they are finished.
5. Students waiting in line should keep their hands to themselves and feet off of the wall.
6. Students are to sit in designated areas as specified by teachers.
7. The duty teacher will monitor to keep noise to an acceptable level.
8. Peanut butter and tree nut lunches are not permitted in the NUT FREE table zone.

GENERAL PLAYGROUND RULES (Outside Recess)

1. Tackle football is not permitted.
2. Football games are not permitted on the blacktop.
3. Students will not play games that include pulling on clothing or grabbing hats, coats, etc.
4. Tether ball is limited to 2 players per ball.
5. Hard baseballs or regular softballs are not permitted during recess.
6. When swinging, only one person per swing is permitted. No twisting of swings. Students will

- not push each other on the swings. Students will not jump off of the swings.
7. Slides are intended for sliding down only, not walking up and down.
 8. Snowball throwing is not permitted at any time.
 9. Skateboards and roller skates/blades are not permitted at school or on the playground.
 10. Students will line up as soon as they hear the whistle or bell ring for their grade level.
 11. Students will ask permission from a duty teacher before re-entering the building from the playground.
 12. Students will report all injuries to the duty teacher.

GENERAL INSIDE RECESS RULES

1. All students are to be seated either at desks, tables, or on the floor.
2. There is to be no running or throwing in the classroom.
3. There is to be no visiting between classrooms.
4. Board games, etc. are permitted as specified by the classroom teacher.
5. No electronic games are permitted during inside recess (iPads, cell phones, iPods, Gameboys, etc.).
6. Computers may not be used without the classroom teacher present during inside recess.

Fundraising

Activity-based fundraisers are wonderful such as field days, walk/run/bike/dance a thons, jump rope or hula hoop competitions. Other non-food fundraisers that work well are talent shows, yard sales, festivals, singing telegrams, and art shows.

Only foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold on school grounds during the school day (midnight until 30 minutes after the instructional day). See the GJPS Child Nutrition website area for Smart Snack info.

HEALTH INFORMATION

A part-time Registered Nurse is assigned to each elementary and middle school. There are also clinic aids available during school hours to take care of ill children, minor injuries and administration of specific medications.

If your child is complaining of being sick in the morning, please take their temperature before sending them to school. If the child is vomiting or has a temperature of 100 degree F or greater, the child must stay home from school until they are fever-free (without the use of medicine, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen) for 24 hours. Gahanna-Jefferson students with a communicable disease are excluded from school in accordance with the recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health.

For questions or clarifications, please contact the school nurse. Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart can be viewed on-line at:
<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/file.asp?id=1730&type=application/pdf>

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

We strongly urge that all medications be administered at home whenever possible. Please consult the prescribing physician or dentist to ascertain if the medication can be administered at times

when your child is at home. We will only administer medication at school if the physician feels it is absolutely necessary.

Before the school will give your child prescribed medication which must be taken at school, State law (Section 3313.713 O.R.C.) requires that:

1. The parent must complete and sign a parent permission form.
2. The physician or dentist complete and sign a physician's authorization form. A note from the doctor will not be accepted unless it contains all the information contained in State law (Section 3313.713 O.R.C.)
3. Both completed and signed forms must be returned to school before the medication can be administered at school.
4. The medication must be brought to school **by an adult** in the original container labeled with your child's name, the physician's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, and time it is to be taken.
5. Each medication must have a separate set of forms.
6. Any change in dosage will require new forms to be completed by the physician and parent before the new dosage can be given. A new prescription bottle with the correct label must be provided to the school.
7. No over-the-counter medications (aspirin, Tylenol, cough medication, etc.) will be given at school unless prescribed by the physician or dentist and the required forms are completed and on file in the school office.
8. If liquid medications are prescribed, an accurate measuring spoon must be provided by the parent.

A responsible adult needs to transport medication to and from school. Medication should not be transported by students. These policies are designed to protect your child and the school. Forms may be obtained by calling the school office. If you have any questions, please contact the principal or the school nurse.

GUIDE TO STUDENT BEHAVIOR

A copy of the entire Student Code of Conduct is posted in the school office area, as well as in the front section of this document.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The Blacklick staff believes that attitude is an essential part of a student's ability to learn. We have emphasized several areas of student behavior:

- Weather permitting, all students are expected to go out to recess after lunch.
- Once outside, no one is permitted to re-enter the building without the permission of the teacher on duty.
- While on the Big Toy, safe play is expected at all times. There is no jumping or flipping from the upper levels or the ladder. Users are to go down the slides one at a time and always with feet first. No one is to go up the slides. Students are also not to play tag on the Big Toy.
- When the grass area is wet or muddy, everyone must stay on the blacktop. Students will

play on "blacktop only" when snow conditions exist.

- Students are to line up at designated areas as soon as the bell sounds for their group.
- Students are not permitted to bring their own toys to school.
- Students are discouraged from bringing to school anything that distracts or disrupts others. Electronic games and devices, collections, toys, and pets should not be brought to school unless they are needed for an approved project.
- Electronic communication devices (i.e., cell phones, iPods) are not permitted to be used during the regular school day. They are to be kept in book bags, only to be used outside of school hours. The school district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal belongings. We recognize that parents may provide their children with mobile phones for a variety of reasons including safety related concerns. If parents need to reach their child during the school day, parents should call the school office at 614-759-5100. Mobile phones carried by students during the school day will be collected by school staff and may be returned to students at the end of the school day (first time) or parents/guardians may be required to pick up the mobile phone from the school office (subsequent times).
- Students will refrain from all bullying behavior. Bullying behavior is defined as words and/or actions intended to cause physical and/or emotional harm to others on an ongoing basis.
- Gambling of any nature, bully attitudes, fighting, vulgarity or rowdy conduct is strictly prohibited on school property.
- No student is allowed to leave school property without permission.
- Cheating on tests or other school assignments is prohibited. Offenders will receive a zero and may be subject to further disciplinary action.
- Chewing of gum is not permitted at school.
- Students' desks are the property of the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools and cubbies may be searched at any time.
- Everyone at Blacklick will be in an environment free from harassment of any kind: verbal, physical, or sexual in nature. Perpetrators will be severely disciplined.

HALLWAY EXPECTATIONS

1. Students will walk quietly in the hallways using a Level 0 voice.
2. Students will walk directly to their destination.
3. Students will look with their eyes and not touch walls or student work samples displayed in the hallway.
4. Students will stay with their class or group.
5. Students will keep their hands to their sides and feet to themselves.
6. Students will use a silent greeting signal (smile, thumbs up, wave).

GUIDE TO STUDENT DRESS

Although the responsibility of being well-groomed for school resides at home, and the school asks that all students consider health, safety, and an atmosphere that will promote learning. Therefore, we ask the parents to support and promote the following guidelines:

- Safe footwear is to be worn at all times. For reasons of safety, we ask that students not wear flip-flops, clogs, large heeled shoes or flimsy sandals. **Students need to wear appropriate shoe attire on gym days, no sandals or flip-flops please.** This also

applies to outdoor recess.

- Transparent or revealing tops, muscle shirts, tank tops, half shirts, halter and bare midriff tops are not permitted. No spaghetti type shirts or shoulder less shirts are to be worn. Straps should be two-three fingers wide.
- Shorts and skirts are acceptable except for those that are revealing, such as biking shorts or cut-off jeans. Using the **mid-thigh** rule for guidance is our policy.
- No hats, sweatbands, sunglasses or outside coats are to be worn inside the building.
- Clothing with profanity, suggestive, or questionable pictures and/or lettering are not to be worn, nor clothing that advertises alcohol, drugs, or disrupts the educational environment.
- Hair color and hair styles which are distracting in our learning environment are not be worn.
- Altered clothing with patches and holes are not permitted.
- Tattoos should not be worn at school.
- If the temperature is above 20 degrees, students need to be prepared to go outside for recess with boots, coats, hat, and gloves.

RIGHTS OF NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

A non-custodial parent has the right to receive official information related to his/her child such as progress reports. The office should be notified of the desire to receive such information.

Duplicate copies of the reports will be mailed to the requesting parent. Should a non-custodial parent wish to receive other communications from the school, which are not considered official, he/she may send or bring stamped and addressed envelopes to the office. Newsletters, etc. will then be mailed to them. Non-custodial parents may participate in parent-teacher conferences that concern their child. In the interest of efficiency, effectiveness, and the time of the teacher, we strongly urge that both parents meet with the teacher at the same time. In the interest of time we prefer not to schedule two separate conferences for the same child.

HOMEWORK POLICY

- All students need to read a minimum of 10-15 minutes each evening (20-30 minutes for older students) and review math facts appropriate for their grade level, regardless of whether other classroom assignments are given.
- Students in grades 1-5 are provided with a student assignment book and are shown how to use it.
- If a student forgets homework and it is brought into the office, the student will be called down before lunch to retrieve it.

CURRICULUM

As a matter of information, the ENTIRE curriculum taught in Gahanna-Jefferson Schools is approved by the local Board of Education and acknowledged by the State Department of Education as the adopted Common Core Curriculum. This includes objectives for each subject area. The teachers develop their lesson plans using these various courses of study.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee (TGRG)

In June of 2012, Ohio passed a state law called the Third Grade Reading Guarantee which put a greater emphasis on reading instruction and intervention in the early grades. Through this

initiative, school districts are required to identify reading deficiencies in kindergarten through third grade students using a diagnostic screening assessment before September 30th of each year. These assessments are then used to identify students who are "not on track" to be reading at grade level by the end of the school year. The Third Grade Reading Guarantee law states that all third graders must demonstrate competency and reading skills at grade level before they can be promoted to fourth grade. This competency can be exhibited by performing at or above the target score on state tests and district selected alternative assessment measures.

More information regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee will be communicated to parents throughout the school year. You can also visit the Ohio Department of Education's website for family resources at <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-Family-Resources>.

VOLUNTEERS

We encourage volunteers in our school! The foundation of a child's education begins at home; therefore, we want you to continue your support of your child while he or she is in school. There are countless opportunities for parents or other relatives to volunteer time and talent during the school year.

BLACKLICK PRIDE PARTNER PTO

We have an active PTO at Blacklick. A list of the officers and committees will be sent home to all families. Below are some PTO activities and functions:

- Sponsor school/classroom parties - room mothers/fathers will be chosen early in the school year - parties include a Valentine's Day party in February.
- Sponsor various functions to honor the staff and employees.
- Strides for PRIDE Walk-a-thon: To raise funds to supply the school with extra items beyond the day to day necessities.
- Super Games day at the end of the school year.
- Author visits/artist in residence visits to school.
- Muffin morning, donut day - breakfast for families.
- Many, many more.....

FIELD TRIPS

When trips are taken, parents are informed in advance and are asked to sign a **Permission to Participate** form. The parents' signature on this form does not remove liability from the teacher or parent. It merely acknowledges that the parent knows his/her child will be away from the school and is aware of the nature of the field trip and its purpose. Parents have the right to deny participation in any field trip. Only students whose parents have signed permission slips will be permitted to leave the building to participate in such activities.

LOST & FOUND

An amazing amount of clothing and personal belongings are lost throughout the year. Most are lost; a few are found. All lost items are taken to the *Lost and Found*, which is located on a clothing rack/table in the back hallway. Students are encouraged to check for items they have lost. Items not claimed before winter break and again at the end of the school year are donated to a local

charity.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Parents are always welcome in our school. Parents and visitors will need to ring the doorbell and be identified by the secretary to enter the building. All visitors must sign in and wear a visitor badge when inside the building. If parents wish to visit classes while school is in session, please call the principal in advance to schedule a convenient time. Formal conferences can be scheduled by contacting the teacher.

SEXUAL OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

In our ongoing effort to be proactive in providing the safest possible learning environment for our students, the Gahanna Jefferson School District has a notification policy that, in the event of a convicted sexual offender who is classified as a sexual predator or a sexual offender requiring community notification, we will, within the guidelines of the law, notify community residents.

Additionally, please be aware that individuals wishing to have the most current status and information updates regarding sexual predators, habitual sex offenders or sex-oriented offenders, may do so by contacting:

The Franklin County Sheriff's Sexual Information Line at 462-3350

or

Visiting the web-site at: www.sheriff.franklin.oh.us

Individuals can also go to the Ohio Attorney General's web-site (www.ag.state.oh.us) and register to receive an e-mail notification whenever an offender registers within one mile of an address of your choosing. The Gahanna Jefferson School District reporting procedures are established with the collaboration of the Gahanna Police Department.

SAFETY DRILLS

Fire drills, tornado drills, and lock-down drills are practiced throughout the school year and provide for maximum safety for all children.

STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL TELEPHONES

Our phone lines are limited. After-school arrangements should be made before children come to school. Students may use the phone with permission from their teacher, secretary, or principal.

CELL PHONES

Cell phones are permitted at school. Phones are to remain off and in the student's book bags. The school is not responsible for cell phones that are lost, stolen, or damaged. Cell phone calls and

texting are not permitted during the school day.

**GAHANNA-JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT
STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK (ELEMENTARY)
2016-2017**

FORWARD

This student handbook contains information about student rights and responsibilities. Each parent and student is responsible for knowing its contents. Please take time to become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available throughout the year. Should you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook or the school handbook, you may contact the school office for assistance.

MISSION OF GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The mission of the Gahanna-Jefferson School System is to develop citizens who possess the self-esteem, motivation and skills needed to communicate effectively, acquire and apply knowledge, make responsible decisions, respect cultural diversity and adapt to the challenges of the 21st century by providing a diverse, well-trained staff, dedicated to delivering a comprehensive curriculum which is based on research and which meets student and community needs.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Directory information about students who attend the Gahanna-Jefferson Elementary Schools will be made available upon a legitimate request unless a parent or guardian notifies the building Principal in writing by September 30, 2016 that such information shall not be distributed.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT BEHAVIOR

The Gahanna Jefferson staff believes that attitude is important to the student's ability to learn. Good attitude develops good discipline, which lends itself to a good learning environment. With this in mind, we emphasize several areas of student behavior in the building handbook under "School Discipline" and "General Rules." In addition, please note that:

1. All rowdy conduct is strictly prohibited on school grounds.
2. Students' desks and locker areas are the property of the Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools and may be searched at any time.
3. No skateboards/scooters are allowed on school property.

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Since an orderly atmosphere is essential if learning is to take place, rules and guidelines assist in developing student responsibility and self-discipline as well as aide in promoting the common good and positive climate of the entire school. The Gahanna-Jefferson Elementary Schools must provide each student with the maximum opportunity to acquire an education. No student has the right to interfere with this opportunity by his/her actions, poor manners, or lack of consideration. All rules and guidelines are instituted and enforced with this thought in mind. Student and/or parent conferences, detentions, Saturday sessions, in-school restrictions, out-of-school suspensions, or expulsion will be used whenever it is deemed necessary.

Students are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly, courteous, dignified and respectful manner at all times. The following code of student conduct specifies certain types of conduct for

which a student may be suspended, expelled, or removed. Such conduct may occur either:

- A. On/off school grounds during school hours including the time immediately preceding and after school;
- B. On school grounds during a school-sponsored activity, event or function; OR on school grounds at any other time when the school is being used by any school group;
- C. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity, event or function;
- D. In transit to or from school;
- E. On a school bus or at a school bus stop;
- F. Off school grounds at any time for a violation (1) that involves assault upon, or damage or destruction to the property of, a teacher, administrator, or other school employee, or (2) that poses a danger to the security and well-being of teachers, administrators, other school employees, or that would put a reasonable such person in fear of harm to personal security and well-being, or (3) that brings the District into ill repute (such as vandalism or the writing of graffiti that identifies the District or a school within the District).

Students are responsible for all items they bring on school grounds. Students are also responsible for all the contents of book bags and items in possession, whether known or unknown. School officials have the right to search students for inappropriate items and if they are in the vicinity of stolen property. This must be done to locate items and to dispel fake claims issued against a student.

A student who violates any of these rules may be suspended for up to ten (10) days, and may be expelled for up to one (1) year. If fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year in which the violation takes place, any remaining part or all of the suspension or expulsion may be applied to the following school year. It shall be the decision of the proper school administrator, after weighing the facts and circumstances, as to which corrective measures are appropriate or adequate.

1. **Academic Misconduct** - A student shall not cheat on tests or other school assignments, or plagiarize. Any student caught cheating on a quiz, test, or project will receive a zero and may be subject to disciplinary action. Any student who steals the instructional materials from a teacher or staff member will be subject to disciplinary action. Any student who **knowingly** provides a term paper, project or test information, including the Ohio Achievement Assessments (AIR), for another student will be subject to disciplinary action. In the event a student is caught cheating on a state assessment (AIR), the proctor shall take the student's test booklet and give a written account of the incident to the Building Coordinator.
2. **Alcohol and Other Drugs** - No student shall possess, conceal, use, purchase, offer to purchase, sell, give, distribute, supply or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any drug, prescription drug or counterfeit drug, the use or possession of which is prohibited by law or school policy. Nor shall students possess, conceal, use, purchase, offer to sell,

give, distribute, supply or otherwise transmit any drug paraphernalia or instruments, such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits or any other items normally or actually used for the packaging, conveyance, dispensation or use of alcohol or other drugs. Failure to comply with this rule will be cause for suspension or expulsion from school, school property, and school activities. Counseling and/or treatment may be advised through an outside agency. Offenses are accumulative during elementary school, middle school, and high school years. Please refer to Drug/Alcohol Policy (Page 11).

3. **Appearance and Dress** - Students shall not violate school rules pertaining to appearance and dress. Students shall attend school dressed in a manner which is clean, not hazardous to their safety or to the safety of others, and which does not detract from the educational environment. Please refer to *Guide to Student Dress* (Page 19).
4. **Arson/Unauthorized Use of Fire** - A student shall not start an unauthorized fire, initiate a bomb threat or false fire alarm, fail to report a fire, or tamper with safety equipment. Neither should a student possess an incendiary device on school property.
5. **Attendance** - A student shall comply with school attendance regulations. No student shall be absent from all or any portion of regularly scheduled classes or other mandatory activities without school authorization and parental consent. Presence in unauthorized areas, such as the school parking lot during the school day, without a pass or without permission of a staff member, shall be considered a violation of this provision. Leaving the school campus without the permission of authorized school personnel shall also be a violation of this provision. Repeated tardiness to school or to specific classes shall also be considered a violation of this provision and may result in suspension or expulsion. Please refer to *Student Attendance Policies and Practices* (Page 14).
6. **Civil Compliance** - No student shall violate any State Statutes or City Ordinance while under school authority.
7. **Damage or Destruction of Property** - A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to or destruction of any school property or property belonging to another person.
8. **Disruption of School** - A student shall not by use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause substantial disruption or obstruction of the process or function of the school. Neither shall he/she urge other students to engage in such conduct.
9. **Explosives** - A student shall not offer to sell, sell, give as a gift, possess, handle, transmit, conceal or use any fireworks, explosive device, or substance that can be used as an explosive.
10. **Extortion** - A student shall not compel or attempt to compel any person to give up anything of value by means of any expressed or implied threat, harassment, intimidation, or injury to person, property, or reputation.
11. **Fighting/Assault/Unauthorized Touching** - A student shall not engage in fighting or otherwise cause physical injury or behave in such a way that could threaten to cause physical injury to staff, other students, or other individuals.
12. **Forgery/Falsification** - A student shall not forge the name of another person or falsify times, dates, grades, addresses, or any other data whether orally or in writing. A student may not intentionally mislead or withhold information from a school official regarding incidents involving student conduct.
13. **Gambling** - A student shall not gamble or assist others to gamble; e.g., card playing will not be permitted.

14. **Gang Paraphernalia** - Students shall not use or possess gang-related literature, or names on person, books or property.
15. **Harassment/Bullying/Hazing** - A student shall not harass, bully, haze, persecute, intimidate, insult, abuse or participate in any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces any student, staff or other school employee. Any speech or action that is inappropriate because of its subject matter (i.e. gender, sexual, ethnic, or religious and/or disability) and creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive learning environment is prohibited. Harassment, intimidation or bullying is defined as any intentional written, verbal, or physical act that one student exhibits toward another student more than once that both: 1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, and 2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment. Cyber communication and dating violence are considered under this policy.
16. **Inappropriate Behavior/Other Conduct** - It is recognized that no list of prohibited conduct can specifically encompass every action, which may become a subject of discipline. The superintendent or building principal shall have the authority to impose discipline upon a student for conduct not set forth herein if it substantially disrupts or interferes with the good order, discipline, operation, or educational process of the school or if it materially is or poses a threat to the safety of persons or property.
17. **Identification** - All students must promptly, upon request, identify themselves to school authorities.
18. **Inappropriate Use of Technology** - The inappropriate use of technology is subject to disciplinary action. Technology includes, but is not limited to, the use of computers, copiers, fax machines, cell phones/camera phones, gaming units, personal music devices, digital cameras and recorders. Please refer to Computer Use Agreement (Page 30).
19. **Insubordination/Disrespect** - A student shall comply with directives and accept Board authorized discipline and punishment from teachers, student teachers, educational aides, substitute teachers, principals, or other school personnel.
20. **Intimidation or Threats** - A student shall not threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means, any student, teacher, school employee or other individual. Nor shall a student urge another student or any other person to employ threats of intimidation. Any student who uses intimidation or threat of force using gang or group affiliation may be disciplined more severely.
21. **Laser Pens and Similar Devices** - Due to the potential for harm to persons and property, laser pens and other inappropriate electronic devices will be considered prohibited items on Gahanna Public Schools property. Possession or use could result in suspension. Parents may retrieve the confiscated item(s).
22. **Possession of Stolen Property** - A student shall not receive, retain, or possess school or private property knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe, it has been stolen.
23. **Profanity/Abusive Language/Obscenity** - A student shall not use profane, vulgar, racially or religiously or sexually derogatory or other improper language. Nor shall a student use vulgar, profane or other improper gestures or signs.
24. **School Bus Violation** - A student shall not interfere with or disrupt the operation of a school bus by activities dangerous to its safe operation including, but not limited to, failing to remain seated, throwing objects out the window or at passengers or at the driver, shouting or other disorderly conduct which can cause physical harm, emotional stress or diversion of the driver's attention. Students shall conduct themselves in a safe and orderly

manner while waiting to board the bus and after leaving the bus. They shall not trespass or impose on nearby property.

25. **Sexual Misconduct** - Students are not to hold hands or walk with arms around each other or display any other physical affection while on school premises, under school authority, or while attending any school-sponsored activities. "Sexual misconduct" includes public indecency, having sexual contact with another with or without consent, and sexually harassing comments and behavior. Students should report such conduct to a teacher or administrator.
26. **Theft** - A student shall not take or acquire the property of the school or any other person without authorization.
27. **Throwing of Objects** - Students are not permitted to throw any objects including snowballs and ice on school property or within school jurisdiction.
28. **Tobacco** - No student shall offer to sell, possess or use tobacco or have a cigarette lighter and matches.
29. **Trespassing** - A student shall not enter upon school grounds or into school buildings to which the student is not assigned, except with the permission of an appropriate administrator of that building or to attend a school-sponsored event in which his/her regularly-assigned school is involved or where students from his/her school have been invited to attend.
30. **Unauthorized Sales** - A student shall not sell, buy, offer to sell or buy, exchange, or distribute any service or product without prior authorization of the building principal.
31. **Violation of School Discipline Procedures** - The violation of conditions of student suspensions or other disciplinary procedures shall be considered a separate disciplinary violation and shall be subject to additional penalties. Students who repeatedly violate the Student Code of Conduct may be subject to additional penalties. Students who repeatedly violate the Student Code of Conduct may also be subject to additional disciplinary action.
32. **Weapons and Dangerous Instruments** - No student shall sell, possess, handle, transmit, conceal, use, distribute, supply or purchase or offer to sell, possess, handle, transmit, conceal, use, distribute, supply or purchase any object that is considered as a weapon, a dangerous instrument or is a look-alike weapon. Weapons and dangerous instruments shall include any object, which is used or may be used to inflict physical harm or property damage. Examples, which are not meant to be all-inclusive, are knives, guns, chains and sharpened sticks. **Unawareness of the possession of weapons or dangerous instruments on school property does not absolve the student of responsibility for possession of that object.**

REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by emergency removal, suspension, expulsion, or permanent exclusion is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student in this district, and one that cannot be imposed without due process.

For purposes of this policy and the Superintendent's administrative guidelines, the following definitions shall apply: **(OUR SENSITIVITY TO A NATIONWIDE CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF STUDENTS UNDERLIES OUR ADHERENCE TO A ZERO TOLERANCE ON WEAPONS.)**

A. "Emergency removal" shall be the exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an on-going threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District.

B. "Suspension" shall be the temporary exclusion of a student by the school building administrator from the District's program for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. The student may not return to school until the days are served. Failure to follow this directive may result in additional days of suspension. If at the time of a suspension there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the suspension, the superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

C. "Expulsion" shall be the exclusion of a student from the schools of this district for a period not to exceed eighty (80) school days unless the incident involves a firearm. If at the time of an expulsion there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining periods to the following school year. If a student brings a firearm on school property in a school vehicle, or to any school sponsored activity he/she shall be expelled for one (1) year unless the superintendent reduces the punishment for reasons related to the specific circumstances. The superintendent may also expel a student for up to one (1) year if the student brings a knife onto school property in a school vehicle or to any school sponsored activity. A student may also be expelled for a year if he/she possesses a firearm or knife at school or any other property owned or controlled by the Board which firearm or knife was initially brought onto district property by another person. In compliance with federal law, the superintendent shall also refer any student expelled for possession of a firearm to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system serving the district.

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Introduction

It is the primary concern of the Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education that educational and co-curricular programs for all students precede in an orderly and non-disruptive manner. The sale, use, or possession of intoxicants, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs, or other controlled substances by students is an obstacle to this objective and an interference with the rights of students to receive quality academic instruction.

The Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education recognizes that individuals who are experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs are in need of assistance. The type of assistance needed may vary; however, the district is committed to work cooperatively with student and family to help provide alternatives from which these individuals can benefit. Such school district resources as student groups, parent groups, school counselors, school psychologists, and special transitional programs are to be encouraged, made available, and recommended. Students and parents will also be given information about outside agencies and encouraged to take advantage of their services and programs.

Student alcohol and other drug education and referral to counseling resources shall be viewed as instructional and rehabilitative, not as an alternative to the disciplinary measures specified in this policy.

Statement of Policy

Students of the Gahanna-Jefferson Public School District shall not possess, conceal, use, purchase, offer to purchase, sell, give, distribute, supply, or otherwise transmit, offer to sell, give, distribute, supply or otherwise transmit, or be under the influence of any drug, prescription drug, or counterfeit drug, the use or possession of which is prohibited by law or school policy. Nor shall students possess, conceal, use, purchase, offer to purchase, sell, give, distribute, supply, or otherwise transmit, any drug paraphernalia or instruments, such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits or any other items normally or actually used for packaging, conveyance, dispensation, or use of alcohol or other drugs. Such conduct is prohibited as follows:

- A. At school bus stops or on any property owned, leased by, or under the control of the Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education, including vehicles used for the transport of students.
- B. On/off school grounds during school hours, including the time immediately preceding and after school.
- C. On/off school grounds while at a school sponsored activity, event, or function or on school grounds while the school or grounds are being used for school activities.

This policy will be subject to enforcement and/or disciplinary action by the administration during the course of the school year, including classes and other school sponsored or sanctioned activities during the summer or other school breaks. Additionally, offenses in violation of this policy are accumulative:

- A. during a student's elementary school years.
- B. during a student's middle school years beginning with a first offense level of discipline at middle school.
- C. during a student's high school years beginning with a first offense level discipline at high school.

Offenses and Disciplinary Action

The actions set forth below will be considered routine disciplinary measures for each category and occurrence of offense and shall be administered in accordance with the policies and regulations of the Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education. By "routine disciplinary measures" it is intended that the penalties delineated below shall be considered the standard penalty imposed for the offense described.

Students who voluntarily request assistance or counseling in situations where no offense, as specified below, has been detected by school officials, will not be deemed in violation of school policy based on information divulged. In situations where an offense, as specified below, has been detected by school officials, violations of this policy will not necessarily be excused because the student has requested counseling.

Alcohol and Other Drugs: Policy

1. Selling/Distribution

No student shall sell, transmit, distribute, supply, or offer to sell, transmit, distribute, or supply any quantity of alcohol, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia or instruments, or prescription drugs.

A. 1st Offense:

1. Parent(s) will be notified immediately and the students will be removed from school for the remainder of the day.
2. Police shall be notified.
3. Consultation with parent(s) and student emphasizing available education and counseling services for alcohol and other drug evaluation procedures will be conducted.
4. The student shall be suspended for ten (10) days and may be recommended for expulsion.
5. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the Juvenile Court will be notified for the purpose of suspending the temporary instruction permit or operator's license or denying the opportunity to obtain such a permit or license until the student becomes age 18 and earns a high school diploma or GED.

B. 2nd or Subsequent Offenses:

1. Parent(s) will be notified immediately and the students will be removed from school for the remainder of the day.
2. Police shall be notified.
3. Consultation with parent(s) and student emphasizing available education and counseling services for alcohol and other drug evaluation procedures will be conducted.
4. The student shall be suspended for ten (10) days and recommended for expulsion.

2. Use/Possession/Purchase

No student shall possess, conceal, use, purchase, offer to purchase drug paraphernalia or instruments, such as pipes, roach clips, syringes, hypodermic needles, cocaine spoons or kits or any other items normally or actually used for packaging, conveyance, dispensation, or use of alcohol or other drugs. Nor shall any student use, be under the influence of, possess, conceal, have control of, purchase or attempt to purchase intoxicants, illegal drugs, counterfeit drugs, controlled substances, or prescription drugs when such use, possession, or control is prohibited by law, school policies or regulations of the Board of Education.

Students may possess or use prescription and non-prescription medications consistent with School District Medication Policy (see Medication Policy).

A. 1st Offense:

1. Parent(s) will be notified, and the student will be removed from school for the remainder of the day.
2. Police shall be notified.
3. The nurse will be notified, and the emergency medical rescue squad will be called, if necessary.
4. The student shall lose parking privileges for the remainder of the year.

5. Parent/guardian of the offending student shall choose one of the following options:
The student will be suspended for ten (10) days from school. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the Juvenile Court will be notified for the purpose of suspending the temporary instruction permit or operator's license or denying the opportunity to obtain such a permit or license until the student becomes age 18, earns a high school diploma or GED.

Or

The student will be suspended for seven (7) days from school with the agreement to complete an evaluation that includes an educational component pertaining to alcohol and other drugs. Such evaluation shall be documented by a certified counselor as agreed to by school officials, parents/guardians, and the student. A written copy of the evaluation must be sent to school officials including findings and recommendations for the student.

B. 2nd Offense:

1. Parent(s) will be notified, and the student will be removed from school for the remainder of the day.
2. Police shall be notified.
3. The nurse will be notified, and the emergency medical rescue squad will be called, if necessary.
4. The Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the Juvenile Court will be notified for the purpose of suspending the temporary instruction permit or operator's license or denying the opportunity to obtain such a permit or license until the student becomes age 18, earns a high school diploma, or GED. The student will be suspended for ten (10) days and a recommendation for expulsion with no alternative option for lesser penalty.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND PRACTICES

School Hours

Students are permitted in the building at 7:50 a.m. and classes begin at 8:00 am. Bus riders are dismissed at 2:25 p.m. and walkers are dismissed at 2:30 p.m. **Students are asked not to arrive before 7:50 a.m. The tardy bell rings at 8:00 a.m.** Students not in attendance for more than one-half of the A.M. or P.M. session will be counted absent for that particular session. Students arriving after 9:00 AM or leaving before 1:30 will be considered absent half day.

Regular attendance is a most important factor in the establishment of a good scholastic record. Work missed through the absence from school is very difficult to make up. **There is NO SUBSTITUTE for actual participation in the daily classroom discussion and work.**

Classes are in session from 8:00 a.m. - 2:25 p.m. Students are not permitted in the building after 2:25 p.m. unless supervised by a member of the faculty. The building office hours are from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Students are **NOT** permitted to enter the building until 7:50 a.m. or they are involved in an approved activity. Students are required to be in school on time for their first class. Students may not leave school between classes or before their last class without the permission of the office.

1. Call-Ins/Notification of Absences

Knowing where your sons and daughters are during the school day is very important to the school as well as you. The school and the parent/guardian need to work together to assure that we keep each other informed when students are not in school.

- a. The school is requesting that the parent/guardian make every effort to notify the school in **ALL** cases of student absence. Calls should be made to the school between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. The school office number to call is 614-759-5100.
- b. It is desired that the parent/guardian notify the school in advance of an absence when possible. For example, a phone call or a note from a parent/guardian on Wednesday to notify the school of an absence on Friday would be greatly appreciated.
- c. If a student is absent, the school will attempt to contact the parent/guardian who has **NOT** notified the school. If no contact is made, an explanation from the parent/guardian will be necessary. **If the school does not receive an explanation of the absence within three (3) school days, the absence will automatically be considered unexcused.**
- d. A student who signs in before 9:00 a.m. will be considered tardy. If it is after 9:00 a.m., then the student will be marked as a half day of absence. If a student signs out before 1:30 p.m., then it would be a half day of absence. A student who leaves after 1:30 p.m. will be marked as an early dismissal/departure. Whether the absence from the time missed at school is considered excused or unexcused is dependent upon the reason given and to the discretion of the principal or his/her designee.

2. Excusable Reasons for Absence

An excused absence may be granted at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee. **A student will have a minimum of one school day for each day of excused absence to make up assignments.** An excused absence will only be granted for the time missed at school for the following reasons:

- A. personal illness, other health-related appointments, or professional appointments (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required and will be required after the tenth day of excused absences allowed by the District in a school year)
- B. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child (a written physician's statement and an explanation as to why the child's absence was necessary may be required)
- C. quarantine of the home (as determined by the proper health officials)
- D. death of a relative (limited to a period of three (3) days unless a reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence)

- E. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s) (applicable only to a child over fourteen (14) years of age)
- F. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- G. out-of-state travel to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity (up to a maximum of four (4) days per school year)
- H. emergency or other set of circumstances (as may be acceptable to the Superintendent)
- I. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751
- J. service as a precinct officer at a primary, special, or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy 5725
- K. college visitation (not to exceed three (3) days per school year)
- L. family travel (which is included within the 10 days of excused absences allowed by the District)

The Superintendent may excuse a student over fourteen (14) years of age from attendance at school for a future limited period for the purpose of performing essential work directly or exclusively for his/her parents or guardians. Such excuse should not exceed five (5) days and may at the discretion of the Superintendent be renewed for five (5) additional days. At no time, however, shall such excuse cause a student to be absent from school for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days.

At the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, a student may be excused for a longer period of time than ten (10) days if a child's parent or guardian has recently died or become totally or partially incapacitated and there is no older brother or sister living in the home who is out of school. In such case, the Superintendent may request a certificate of a physician attesting to the physical condition of the parent or guardian.

3. Needs Medical/Court Excuse (NMCE)

After a student has been absent ten (10) days (excused or unexcused) in any school year, a letter will be sent to the home and may request a Needs Medical/Court Excuse (NMCE) for any additional days missed. This will require that the student have a doctor/dentist/court excuse for every absence in order for it to be excused. A student has three (3) days to provide a doctor, dentist, or court excuse. If the student does not have a doctor/dentist/court excuse, the absence will be unexcused. Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher or a communicable illness and have been sent home by the nurse will be excused by the school. An NMCE student who gets permission from his/her parent/guardian to go home from the clinic is unexcused. Truancy charges may be filed on a student who has five (5) or more unexcused absences after the 10th day of excused absences allowed by the District.

4. Tardiness

Students late to school (after 8:00 a.m.) must report to the office to sign in before reporting to class. Parents/Guardians must provide an explanation for the tardiness. Excessive tardies that are unexcused will result in a disciplinary action by the office. **If the school does not receive an explanation of the tardiness within three (3) school days, the tardiness will automatically be considered unexcused.**

5. Unexcused Absences, Tardies, Early Dismissal

The determination of whether or not the time missed from school is excused or unexcused will be at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee. Excessive absences, tardies, and early dismissals that are unexcused will result in a disciplinary action by the office. Examples of unexcused absences, tardies, and early dismissals include, but are not limited to:

- a. Cutting classes or study halls
- b. Missing the bus or a ride
- c. Oversleeping
- d. Shopping
- e. Suspension
- f. Truancy
- g. Lice (It may be unexcused if the absence related to lice is excessive.)

No student shall leave school grounds without permission of the principal or the assistant principal.

6. Truancy and Habitual Absence

For those students who have habitual or chronic attendance problems, the administrator of the building will address those problems in accordance with state law and board policy. A student shall be considered truant each day he/she is absent without excuse from his/her assigned location.

A student will be considered "habitually truant" under State law if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for five (5) or more consecutive school days, for seven (7) or more school days in one (1) month, or twelve (12) or more school days in one (1) school year.

A student will be considered "chronically truant" under State law if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for seven (7) or more consecutive school days, for ten (10) or more school days in one (1) month, or for fifteen (15) or more school days in one (1) year.

Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student who is otherwise habitually or chronically truant include but are not limited to:

- A. the student was enrolled in another school district;
- B. the student was excused from attendance in accordance with R.C. 3321.04; or
- C. the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

If a student is "habitually truant" and the student's parent has failed to cause the student's attendance, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to file a complaint with the Judge of

the Juvenile Court and/or to take any other appropriate intervention actions as set forth in this Board's policy.

If a student is "chronically truant" and the student's parent has failed to cause the student's attendance, the Board authorizes the Superintendent to file a complaint with the Judge of the Juvenile Court and/or to take any other appropriate intervention actions as set forth in this Board's policy.

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is "habitually or chronically" truant, the Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to take any of the following intervention actions:

- A. assign the student to a truancy intervention program
- B. provide counseling to the student
- C. request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- D. request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- E. notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences
- F. take appropriate legal action
- G. assign the student to an alternative school

The Superintendent is authorized to establish an educational program for parents of truant students which is designed to encourage parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any parent who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for parental education neglect, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Whenever any student of compulsory school age has ten (10) consecutive days or a total of fifteen (15) days of unexcused absence from school during any semester, s/he will be considered habitually absent. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to inform the student and his/her parents, guardian, or custodian of the record of excessive absence as well as the District's intent to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, if appropriate, and the Judge of the Juvenile Court of the student's excessive absence.

7. Returning to School after an Absence

The first day a student returns to school from any and all absences, he/she must report to the office for an excuse form. All students should make arrangements to complete missed work. **A student will have a minimum of one school day for each day of absence to make up assignments.**

If a student misses more than one (1) day of school, homework may be requested by calling the office before 9:00 a.m. Work will be sent to the office by 2:15 p.m. It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to make arrangements to have it picked up after this time. Please remember that the school office closes at 3:30 p.m. daily.

8. Steps for Absence by Permission

Appointments with a doctor, dentist, court etc., should not be made during school time. In case this should be necessary, however, the parent/guardian of the student must contact

the school prior to the student's first scheduled period. If the student is released, and it is learned that the excuse was **NOT** valid, the absence will be unexcused. Students leaving or returning to the school grounds during the school day **MUST** first report to the office. Failure to sign out may result in an unexcused absence.

9. **Family Travel**

Ohio has specific compulsory attendance regulations, and Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools must comply with those statutes. Ohio Revised Code Section 3321.02 states, "every child actually resident in the state shall be amenable to the laws relating to compulsory education, and neither he nor the person in charge of him shall be excused from the operations of said sections or the penalties under them on the ground that the child's residency is seasonal, that the parent of the child is a resident of another state, or that the child has attended school for the legal period in another state."

Whenever a pre-planned absence for family travel is requested, the parent/guardian must discuss it with the principal. The length of absence should be made clear, and those involved should have an opportunity to express their views on the potential effects of the absence.

The District will only approve a student's absence for family travel when he/she will be in the company of his/her own parent/guardian or other family members but not other students' parent(s)/guardian(s), unless there are extenuating circumstances deemed appropriate by the principal. In order for the family travel to be an excused absence, it must be within the ten (10) days of excused absences allowed by the District.

If a student is absent for family travel outside of the ten (10) days of excused absences allowed by the District, he/she will be considered unexcused from school and subject to truancy regulations. The school district may be obligated to report the parent/guardian to the Franklin County Juvenile Court System and file charges of lack of compliance with the compulsory education rules. During this time period, the student may be given approximate assignments to be completed. The time missed will be counted as an authorized, unexcused absence but shall not be a factor in determining grades unless the make-up work is not completed.

10. **Planned Absence (e.g. family travel, college visit, etc.)**

In the event that the student knows in advance that he/she will be absent (e.g. family travel, college visit, etc.) for several days, the parent/guardian should send a note to the office a week in advance. The student will be given a "**Planned Absence Form.**" This form must be returned to the office before the planned absence begins. All make-up work is due on the first day the student returns from the planned absence. This work includes any tests that the student may have missed during his/her planned absence. **We strongly discourage any planned absences during the last week of any grading period or during state-wide testing.**

11. **Absence on Extra-Curricular Days**

Students who are absent from school a half day or longer may not be permitted to participate in any extra-curricular activity on that day

ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

- These guidelines shall be used to ensure that the Board of Education's policy on nondiscrimination (2260) is implemented properly and in compliance with federal and state laws and regulations, particularly part 104 of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (34CFR). A copy of Part 104 is provided as AG 2260A. Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination in educational practices shall be posted throughout the District, published in any District statement regarding the availability of educational services, and in all student handbooks.
- Children who have been diagnosed as having a disability and who, through a multifaceted evaluation, qualify for categorical service under IDEA will be served under the existing State Special Educational regulations. Section 504 protects and safeguards all students with a mental or physical impairment which is defined as substantially limiting one (1) or more major life activities or:
 - A. The student has a record of such impairment.
 - B. The student is regarded as having such impairment.

The district will identify, evaluate, and provide an appropriate education for students who are disabled under Section 504.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORTS

5630.01- Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports and Limited use of Restraints and Seclusion

The Board is committed to the District-wide use of PBIS with students. Student Personnel shall work to prevent the need for the use of restraint and/or seclusion.

Professional staff members and support staff determined appropriate by the Superintendent are permitted to physically restrain and/or seclude a student in limited circumstances as set forth in this Policy.

All restraint and seclusion shall only be done in accordance with this Policy, which is based on the standards adopted by the State Board of Education regarding the use of student restraint and seclusion, and consistent with the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE's) Policy on Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, and Restraint and seclusion (adopted January 15, 2013).

The Superintendent shall develop emergency procedures for the District.

Physical restraint and seclusion shall be implemented only by Student Personnel who have been trained in accordance with this Policy to protect the care, welfare, dignity and safety of the student, except in the case of rare and unavoidable emergency situations when trained personnel are not immediately available.

Notwithstanding the requirements of this Policy and ODE's corresponding standards and policy, school personnel may use reasonable force and restraint in accordance with R.C. 3319.41. Persons employed or engaged as teachers, principals, or administrators, nonlicensed school employees and school bus drivers may, within their scope of their employment, use and apply such amount of force and restraint as is reasonable and necessary to quell a disturbance threatening physical injury to others, to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects upon the person or within the control of the pupil, for the purpose of self-defense, or for the protection of persons or property. Seclusion of a preschool-age student is prohibited, except that a preschool-age child may be separated from his or her classmates, either in the classroom or in a safe, lighted, and well-

ventilated space, for an amount of time that is brief in duration and appropriate to the child's age and development, if the child is always within sight and hearing of a preschool staff member.

The following practices are prohibited under all circumstances, including emergency safety situations:

- a. corporal punishment;
- b. child endangerment as defined in Ohio Revised Code 2919.22;
- c. aversive behavioral interventions.

ANNUAL MEDICAID NOTIFICATION

The Gahanna-Jefferson Public School District is eligible to receive federal Medicaid reimbursement for medically necessary services provided to their special education students when the services meet the requirements of the state's School-Based Medicaid Program and are provided in accordance with the students' IEPs (§300.154(d)(2)(i)-(iii)).

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) require schools to notify parents that the district participates in this program. The district utilizes services ordered in the IEP and the Medicaid identification number, in conjunction with the state Medicaid Agency and our Medicaid billing agent, to receive reimbursements for these services from the School-Based Medicaid Program.

The district's participation in this program in no way impacts the services being provided to the student nor impacts the family's Medicaid benefits. In the event parents no longer want the district to access student information for the purposes of seeking reimbursements through this program, they can notify the district Special Education department by calling 614-337-3777. This annual notification is being provided to you in accordance with program requirements.

PESTICIDE APPLICATION ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

Pesticides may periodically be applied to school property. Parents have the right to request prior notification of pesticide applications on school property. Any parent that wishes to have prior notification of pesticide application should notify the building principal in writing. Prior notification will be provided to those parents who request the notification in the form of a written notice to be sent home with the child or through email.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES/COLLECTIONS/PETS/TOYS

Students are discouraged from bringing to school anything that distracts or disrupts others. Electronic games and devices, collections, toys, and pets **should not** be brought to school unless they are needed for an approved project. Electronic communication devices (i.e., cell phones, pagers, PDA's, and two-way radios) **are not** permitted to be used during the regular school day. If your child must bring a cell phone it is to be turned off and kept in book bag, only to be used outside of school hours. The school district is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged personal belongings. We recognize that parents may provide their children with mobile phones for a variety of reasons including safety related concerns. If parents need to reach their child during the school day, parents should call the school office at 614-759-5100. Mobile phones carried by students during the school day will be collected by school staff and may be returned to students at the end of the school day (first time) or parents/guardians may be required to pick up the mobile phone

from the school office (subsequent times).

ELECTRONIC READING DEVICES

Electronic Reading devices (e.g., Kindle, Nook, tablets etc.) can be a useful and motivating way to read. Blacklick Elementary recognizes the potential value of these tools to students. However, students will be permitted to use electronic reading devices only for approved projects with advance permission by parents and teachers. An [E-Reader Permission form](#) should be completed, signed by teacher and parent and returned to school before the device is brought to school. Blacklick Elementary, its staff, and the Gahanna-Jefferson school district are not responsible for items that are lost, stolen or damaged. All other school policies regarding appropriate use of school technology remain in effect when students use personal devices.

NOTICES

FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 —

The "Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974" requires school systems to annually inform students 18 years of age or older, and parents/guardians of students under 18 of certain provisions contained therein.

Schools keep a record of the educational development of each student. These records contain information about courses taken, grades, test scores and other information which is collected in the interest of developing the best educational program for the individual student.

Parents/guardians have the right to access and review the child's school record. To do so, submit a written request to the building principal who will schedule a time for you to come to the school and review the records in the presence of a staff member.

Parents may also question the contents of the child's school record. If there is a concern about the accuracy or appropriateness of the information, a formal review of the information may be requested. Parents/guardians and school officials will have the opportunity to discuss concerns.

Each child's records are confidential and will not be released without prior parental/guardian consent for students under 18 years of age, or without prior written consent of students 18 years of age or older.

There are a few exceptions to the consent requirements. These include use by school officials in the school district; release to officials of another school district in which the student intends to enroll; and response to a court order. Also, "Directory Information" for students in the 12th grade only shall be released to any of the branches of the U. S. Armed Forces upon request without written consent from the parents or legal guardian of the student. "Directory Information" includes the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, and other similar information.

Directory Information shall not be released if the parent or legal guardian submits a written request to the building principal by September 30 of each year that such information not be released. Also, parents/guardians of any student who do not want any personally identifiable information (includes portions of directory information) about their child to be used in any public relations materials generated by the school district must notify the building principal in writing by September 30 of each year.

Any citizen of the Gahanna-Jefferson School District is welcome to contact the Department of Pupil Services at 471-7065 or the principal of the child's school for more information about the district's policy regarding the confidentiality of student records.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICIES

SECTION 504—The Gahanna Jefferson Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of disabilities relative to admission, access, treatment, or employment in its programs and activities as required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Public Law 93-112, as amended by the Rehabilitation Amendments of 1974, Public Law 93-516. Inquiries regarding this policy may be directed to Mrs. Sue Wieging, Director of Special Education, at 471-7065.

TITLE IX—The Gahanna Jefferson Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies and practices as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be directed to Sherri Zynda, Director of Special Programs, at 471-7065; or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Region V, 55 Erieview Plaza, Room 222, Cleveland, Ohio 44114. Phone (216) 522-4970.

PERSONNEL—It is the policy of the Gahanna Jefferson Public School District to select personnel on the basis of merit and fitness and qualifications of applicants without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disabilities age or ancestry.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the District.

Matt Cygnor	Sue Wieging
Human Resources Director	Special Ed Director
614-471-7065	614-471-7065
160 S. Hamilton Road	160 S. Hamilton Road
Gahanna, OH 43230	Gahanna, OH 43230

The Compliance Officers are available during regular school/work hours to discuss Title IX questions, sexual violence concerns, and to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties. Compliance Officers shall accept sexual violence complaints directly from any members of the School District community or a visitor to the District, as well as those initially filed within a school building administrator. Upon receiving a complaint, the Compliance Officer or designee will discuss confidentiality issues with the complainant (and his/her parent, if the complainant is a minor), and open an investigation as described in policy 5517.02 below.

STUDENT NETWORK AND ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY AGREEMENT

This agreement is between _____, a Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools student, his or her parents or guardians, and the GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (the District). The purpose of this agreement is to define the acceptable use of district- and student-owned technologies. All District-owned technologies are provided for educational purposes only, whether used on or off campus.

The Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools is committed to the belief that technology skills are a critical component of a 21st Century Education, and is also vital to all areas of the Gahanna-Jefferson Graduate Profile. We are, therefore, pleased to be able to offer our students access to a wide and expanding range of technologies to support student learning and growth through local and global communication, collaboration, research opportunities, and resource sharing.

Technology, like all extremely powerful tools, can be intentionally or unintentionally misused. One of the Graduate Profile goals is to use technology responsibly and honestly, and this document is a tool to help outline the proper and ethical use of the vast range of district and personal technologies available to our students. Most often this focus is on Internet and district computer network use, but we touch upon other technologies as well. It is impossible to specify every possible use or misuse of technology, so while these outlines establish a framework of understanding students are encouraged to seek the advice of district staff with any questions about proper and improper technology use. Due to the rapidly changing technology environment within Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools, the district reserves the right, at our sole discretion, to change, modify or otherwise alter these terms and conditions at any time. Such modifications shall become effective immediately upon the posting thereof in the Technology area of the district's public website, available at (<http://www.gahannaschools.org/District/DistrictTechnology.aspx>). Please visit this area on a regular basis to keep yourself apprised of any changes.

Internet access provides our students with the ability to explore research materials and interact with individuals and groups worldwide. This 21st Century Skill is a requirement for effective participation in an increasingly global environment and in local employment opportunities. However, not all Internet resources have educational value, and some may be inappropriate. While a best effort attempt is made to use Internet filtering to help students avoid resource-wasting and inappropriate sites, students are reminded that all district equipment is provided for educational purposes only. In situations where resource-wasting or inappropriate material is encountered, the user is "one click away" from removing that material from their screen and it is the user's responsibility to do so.

Also, it is important to remember that the Internet and many other current and developing technologies are intended for collaboration and sharing, and as a result it is best to consider everything done with these technologies as public. Student Internet activity in particular may be tracked by outside parties, so it is critical that each student protects his or her network and other

account information and passwords as they will be held responsible for activity through their personal and unique account. Students should never share this information with others, nor should they use the login credentials of others. Students are expected not only to avoid illegal use of district and personally owned technologies, but to in all cases use these tools intelligently and ethically, and not to the detriment of themselves, the district, or others. Not only is this a critical component of 21st Century Citizenship, it is also important to remember that parents and guardians are legally responsible for their student's activity so it is beneficial to stress these points and your expectations with your student.

District technologies are provided, and student technologies may be allowed, solely for the support of District academic programs and student learning. Examples of acceptable technology use include:

1. Appropriate collaboration and exchange of information for research and other project purposes;
2. Developing a familiarity with the technology for educational and employment purposes;
3. Expanding the opportunities for relevant technology use to produce reports, multimedia, and other assigned projects;
4. Developing Graduate Profile goals of becoming a Responsible Community Member, Comprehensive Problem Solver, Proficient Technology User, Collaborative Team Member, and an Effective Communicator.

In exchange for the use of available technology resources, the undersigned student and parent/guardian understand and agree to the following terms and conditions.

A. The use of technology, whether district-provided or student-owned, is a privilege which may be revoked by the District at any time and for any reason. Reasons for revoking privileges include, but are not limited to:

- a. Improper use of the technology,
- b. Failure to properly protect and secure the technology,
- c. Altering or modifying system software and/or hardware,
- d. Intentionally or unintentionally adding viruses, spyware, and other harmful programs to District systems,
- e. Placing unauthorized information or comments on District-owned or publicly accessible servers,
- f. Using the technology to cause embarrassment or harm to other individuals or groups.

The District reserves the right to remove files, limit or deny technology access, and refer offending students for other disciplinary actions consistent with the Student Handbook.

B. Students will not use their District-approved computer access to obtain, view, download, or otherwise gain access to materials deemed unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, hateful, or otherwise objectionable.

D. Students are expected to be *Responsible Community Members* and to *use technology responsibly, honestly, and ethically*. Students **shall**:

- a. Polite, courteous, and respectful in your messages to others.
- b. The use of language appropriate to school situations in all communications made through the Board's computers, networks, and other technologies.
- c. Diligently delete their unneeded files regularly to minimize District storage needs.
- d. Protect their critical files by making regular backups of their important work.
- e. Comply with the Student Handbook.

Students **shall not**:

- f. Use obscene, profane, vulgar, sexually explicit, defamatory, or abusive language in your messages.
 - g. Reveal names, addresses, phone numbers, or passwords of yourself or other students, family members, teachers, administrators, or other staff members via the Internet or any other medium.
 - h. Transmit pictures or other information that could be used to establish your identity or the identity of others without prior approval of a teacher.
 - i. Transmit pictures or other information about fellow students, teachers, or groups.
 - j. Agree to meet any person encountered online without prior parent approval.
- E. All information services and features contained on District network resources and other technologies are intended for the private use of registered staff and students only and any use of these resources for commercial for-profit or other unauthorized purposes (i.e. advertisements, political lobbying), in any form, is expressly forbidden.
- F. While all reasonable efforts are made to ensure reliable operation of, and access to, all district technologies, the District cannot guarantee uninterrupted access or use of the network or other technologies, nor can it be held responsible for loss of data due to electrical or mechanical failure or human error.
- G. District network resources are intended for exclusive use by registered users. The student is responsible for the use of his/her user ID password and/or access privilege. Any problems which arise from the use of a student's user ID are the responsibility of the ID holder. Use of a user ID by someone other than to whom it was originally registered is forbidden and may be grounds for loss of access privileges. Students may not allow other users to utilize their personal and unique login IDs and passwords.
- H. Any misuse of technology access will result in suspension of privileges and/or other disciplinary action determined by the District consistent with the Student Handbook. Misuse shall include, but not be limited to:
- a. Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users;
 - b. Misrepresenting other users on the Network or through other technology-based tools;
 - c. Using any technology in any way that causes concern, worry, or embarrassment to any student, District staff member, or other;
 - d. Disrupting the operation of the Network or other technology-based tools through abuse.;
 - e. Malicious use of District-provided or student-owned devices through hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminatory remarks;
 - f. Interfering with others' use of District technologies;
 - g. Extensive use for non-curriculum-related communication;
 - h. Illegal or unethical modification of systems including, but not limited to:
 - i. The illegal installation of copyrighted or unauthorized software;
 - ii. Unauthorized downloading, copying, deleting, altering or other misuse of licensed copyrighted software;
 - iii. Using the Internet to engage in "hacking" or other unlawful activities;
 - iv. Accessing, or attempting to access, the personal files of other users or the District on the District's network or other technologies;
 - v. The intentional or unintentional degradation or disruption of system performance;
 - vi. Attempts to bypass internet filtering controls;
 - vii. Transmission of any material in violation of any State or Federal law or

regulation, or Board policy;

viii. Malicious use of the Board's computers/network to develop programs that harass other users, infiltrate or attempt to infiltrate any computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer, or any other illegal or unethical activity;

ix. Any violation of the Student Handbook.

- I. The District reserves the right to log Internet use and monitor electronic mail, file server space utilization, and other technology system processes and services. Much of this monitoring is required to ensure the efficient and effective operation of District technologies and to proactively address technological and other issues and can occur without the prior notification of students or staff. AUP infractions and legal violations found during any routine or targeted monitoring may be actionable under the policies and guidelines of the District and State and Federal laws.
- J. The student may only log on and use the network under the supervision of a staff member and only with his/her assigned unique user ID. Students must protect their personal login credentials, as they will be held responsible for activities performed using these credentials.
- K. Downloading of unauthorized programs or information onto the Board's hard drives is prohibited; all downloads must have prior approval and be saved to thumb drives, CD ROMs or other authorized external devices. If a student transfers files from online information services, the student must scan all files with a virus-detection program before opening the file for use. If a student transfers a file or software program that infects the Network with a virus and causes damage, the student may be liable for any and all repair costs to restore the network and attached devices to full functionality.
- L. The District reserves the right to disable or remove a network user account to prevent unauthorized activity, and will not be held responsible for any file loss or inconvenience should this account activity become necessary.
- M. Any damage done to the District's network or equipment by a user not following the guidelines described in this document is the sole responsibility of that user.
- N. Students are prohibited from accessing or participating in online "chat rooms" and must secure prior approval from a teacher or building administrator before joining and/or participating in online services such as; Listservs, Blogs, Podcasts, "electronic communities", or other forms of direct electronic communication.
- O. Students will at no time post personal information about, or photographs of, themselves or others on the Web or using any other technology.
- P. Privacy in communication of the Internet and the Network is not guaranteed. The Board reserves the right to monitor, review, and inspect any directories, files, and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board's computers/network. Messages relating to or in support of illegal or unethical activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Q. Use of the Internet and any information procured from the Internet is at the student's own risk. The Board is not responsible for any damage a user suffers, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions. The Board is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services. Information (including text, graphics, audio, video, etc.) from Internet sources used in student papers, reports, and projects should be cited the same as references to printed materials.
- R. The Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, and/or inappropriate for a school setting and/or harmful

to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication, and/or services on the Internet which the Board of Education has not authorized for educational purposes and/ or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable, or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet.

- S. Students accessing the Internet through any device, whether District-provided or student-owned, assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.
- T. As we move toward 24/7 education, students are increasingly likely to be loaned district equipment in support of the District's educational goals. All of the components of this Acceptable Use Policy shall apply when using any District- provided technology, whether on or off campus. Students who are loaned any District technology also agree to be bound by the conditions specified on the District's IT Equipment Loan Policy.

In consideration for the privileges of using the District's technologies, and in consideration for having access to the information contained on the network and Internet resources, the undersigned student and parent/guardian hereby release the District, and their operators and administration from any and all claims of any claims arising from my/my child's use, or inability to use District network resources.

The undersigned student agrees to abide by such rules and regulations of system usage as may be amended by the District at any time. Students and parents can visit <http://www.gahannaschools.org/District/DistrictTechnology.aspx> to view the most current version of this agreement.

The undersigned student and parent understand that any failure to abide by this agreement may result in cancellation of the privilege to use the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools' computer network and/or other technologies, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook and/or civil or criminal liability.

As the parent/ guardian of this student, I have read the Student Technology User Agreement, and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to technology, including the district network and the Internet is, designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators, or officers) responsible for material my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet --i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/ son to follow when selecting, sharing, and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations.

Summary of GJPS Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior Policy

1. **Harassment, intimidation or bullying**, whether by other students, staff or third parties, is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This includes various forms of aggressive behavior, including, but not limited to, physical, verbal and psychological abuse.

2. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying means **any intentional** written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits towards another student(s):

- A. more than once and
- B. the behavior causes mental or physical harm and
- C. is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive so that
- D. it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

3. Aggressive behavior can be defined as inappropriate conduct that is **repeated enough**, or **severe enough** to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- stalking -bullying -intimidation
- menacing -coercion -name-calling
- taunting -making threats -hazing
- cyber bullying (includes internet, PDA, cellular phones, etc.)

4. **The policy applies at school, to and from school and at any school-sponsored event.**

Reporting Responsibility:

1. **Parents:** Any parent or guardian who believes that their child has been a target of bullying behavior is encouraged to immediately report such behavior to school personnel. School personnel will document the concern, or provide the documentation form to the parent, and forward the information to the principal or assistant principal. Administration will investigate allegations and complete a written summary of the findings.
2. **Students:** All students are encouraged to report such behavior to a staff member and may maintain anonymity if desired. However, anonymity may limit the scope and outcome of an investigation.
3. **School personnel:** Staff is required to report any suspected bullying or harassment behavior to administration. They may make a verbal, informal report, which the administrator will document or they may complete a report form themselves, which allows the principal to begin the investigative process.
4. **Administrators will:**
 - A. Complete any necessary documentation and complete the investigation.
 - B. Notify the complainant of the outcome of the investigation, within the confines of educational law.
 - C. If aggressive behavior is verified, the administrator will notify the parents of the victim, as well as those of the aggressor.
 - D. Semi-annually, principals shall submit a written summary to the Superintendent of verified bullying and harassment incidents, which will then be submitted to the board and posted on the web site.

Privacy and Immunity

1. All efforts will be made to protect the identity of the complainant or witnesses. All records generated under this policy will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.
2. A school district employee, student or volunteer shall be individually immune from liability in a civil action for damages from reporting an incident in accordance with this policy and state law.

Education and Notification

1. The district will provide training and education to staff and students related to bullying and harassment, including information related to the implementation of this policy.
2. Notice of this policy will be annually circulated to and posted in conspicuous locations in all school buildings and departments within the district.

Parent Acknowledgement of Handbook 2016-2017

I have received and reviewed with my child the Gahanna-Jefferson District & Blacklick Elementary School Student/Parent Handbook. We understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to students and agree to support and abide by the rules, guidelines, procedures, student network agreement, and policies of the Gahanna-Jefferson School District.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Please sign and return this page to your child's teacher.