



**GENESEO**

COMMUNITY UNIT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT #228

Where the *future* grows.

**GENESEO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2023-2024**

## Table of Contents

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Chapter 1	Introductory Information and General Notes	5 - 7
Chapter 2	Attendance and Promotion	8 - 14
Chapter 3	Student Fees and Meal Costs	15 - 17
Chapter 4	Transportation	18 - 19
Chapter 5	Health and Safety	20 - <del>24</del> 25
Chapter 6	Discipline and Conduct	<del>25- 34</del> 26-35
Chapter 7	Internet, Technology & Publications	<del>35-39</del> 36-40
Chapter 8	Search and Seizure	<del>40-41</del> 41-42
Chapter 9	Extra-Curricular Activities	<del>42-45</del> 43-46
Chapter 10	Student and Parental Right Notifications	<del>46-48</del> 47-49

### Geneseo Middle School General Information

**School Address:** 333 E. Ogden Avenue  
Geneseo, IL 61254

**Main Office Phone:** (309) 945-0599

**School Hours:** 8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Detention:** 7:35-8:03 a.m. & 3:15-3:45 p.m.

**Attendance Line:** (309) 945-0111

Available 24 hours to report a student absent from school. Please call before 10:00 a.m.

#### **School Health:**

<https://sites.google.com/geneseoschools.org/schoolhealth-geneseocusd228/?pli=1>

#### **District Website: [geneseoschools.org](http://geneseoschools.org)**

Visit the website for information regarding each school in our district. Through this website you can access the middle school page, Skyward Family Access, and a variety of other information and announcements.

Welcome to Geneseo Middle School. We have developed this handbook to clearly communicate to you and your child our mission, learning expectations, policies, procedures, and conduct guidelines. We want to thank you for giving us the privilege of teaching your child, learning alongside them, and caring for their safety and future.

### Our Core Values

- *Setting high expectations for achievement*
- *Safe and caring learning environment*
- *Effective and efficient operations*
- *Stewards of the District's finances*

### Our Mission

- *Teach*
- *Learn*
- *Care*

### Beyond the Classroom

Listed below are the various clubs, sports and co-curricular activities available at Geneseo Middle School. We encourage students to participate in the many fun activities that middle school has to offer.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Band  
Builders Club  
Chess Club  
Choir  
On the Same Page  
Rebecca Caudill Book Reading  
Scholastic Bowl  
Speech Team  
Student Senate  
Wrestling  
Yearbook

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Band  
Basketball – Boys & Girls  
Builders Club  
Chess Club  
Choir  
Cross Country  
Football (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)  
Golf  
Jazz Band  
On the Same Page  
Rebecca Caudill Book Reading  
Scholastic Bowl  
Softball  
Speech Team  
Student Council  
Swing Choir  
Track  
Volleyball  
Wrestling  
Yearbook

### **Geneseo Middle School Song**

Hail, hail to 'ol G.M.S.!  
Send us your mighty, give us your best.  
Green and white, our colors true,  
Our Maple Leafs win through and through!  
Loyal to him and loyal to her.  
We will forever be reassured,  
That in years to come we'll see  
Many a victory! Hey!

### **Handbook Disclaimer**

This handbook is not intended to create a contractual relationship with the student, parents or guardians. Rather, it is intended to describe the school, its current practices, procedures, rules, and regulations. The discipline policy lists only examples of behavior. It is not possible to identify every action that might result in discipline consequences. The discipline policy is a guideline, and administrators have the authority to make decisions outside of what is written, including imposing more severe or different penalties, depending upon the facts and circumstances.

School actions shall be independent, and arrest, indictment, trial, conviction, or acquittal in the criminal or juvenile courts shall not be determinative of the action necessary for the school to maintain a safe, orderly, and disciplined educational environment. Should it come to the attention of the District that any action has occurred which may invoke school discipline, the officials and employees of the District may cooperate with police and other investigative agencies in providing and sharing information about the student to the degree that the official or employee deems necessary and in keeping within the guidelines Section 6(a) 6.5 of the Illinois School Student Records Act.

## **Chapter 1: Introductory Information and General Notes**

### **General School Information**

This handbook is a summary of the school's rules and expectations and is not a comprehensive statement of school procedures. This handbook may be amended during the school year without notice. The Board's comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District's website ([geneseoschools.org](http://geneseoschools.org)) or at the Board office located at:

648 N. Chicago St.  
Geneseo, IL 61254

### **Before School Procedures**

Students who walk or are driven to school should not be on school property before 7:30 a.m. (9:30 a.m. on a 2-hr delay schedule). Students who ride the bus may not leave school grounds after their bus has dropped them at the Middle School. *To help alleviate congestion in the parking lot and to ensure student and driver safety, parents who drive their students to school must drop them off near the office doors.*

#### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:**

Upon arriving at school in the morning, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students shall report to the west parking lot. Students are not to congregate on the east, north, or south sides of the building. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who wish to enter the building must use the west doors. During inclement weather and during Quarter 2 and 3, all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will sit in the gym bleachers.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade control teacher will be stationed at the west door and will issue permits for students having business in the building before school. Teachers will be available in their rooms at 7:45 a.m. to assist students. Students wishing to work with a teacher must have a pass from that teacher or a note from their parent. Students are encouraged to obtain permits from teachers on the previous day to gain assistance with academic concerns. Permits will be honored between 7:45 and 8:03 a.m. only. Students in an unauthorized place will be assigned disciplinary time.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:**

6<sup>th</sup> grade students will enter the middle school using the southeast entrance into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hall, at the east end of the building. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade control teacher will be stationed at the entrance and direct the students to their morning station. Students wishing to work with a teacher must have a pass from that teacher or a note from their parent. Students are encouraged to obtain permits from teachers on the previous day to gain assistance with academic concerns. Permits will be honored only between 7:45 and 8:03 a.m. Students in an unauthorized place will be assigned disciplinary time. During inclement weather and during Quarter 2 and 3, students will be in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hallway or in the Multipurpose room.

All students wishing to serve morning disciplinary time should enter through the west doors and check in with the control teacher.

## **After School Procedures**

### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

Only students supervised by a teacher or coach are allowed in the building after 3:30 p.m. Bus riders have 5 minutes to board their buses. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bus riders are to exit out the west doors and wait on the sidewalk to board the buses. All walkers and bike riders are to exit out the south/main office doors. **Car riders may NOT cross the parking lot to be picked up after school. Drivers MUST pull up to the sidewalk for pick-up to ensure student safety.**

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

Only students supervised by a teacher or coach are allowed in the building after 3:30 p.m. Bus riders have 5 minutes to board their buses. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, whether walkers, bike riders or bus riders, are to exit out the south/main office doors. Bus riders will follow the sidewalk to the buses. They are to wait on the sidewalk until told to board the buses. **Car riders may NOT cross the parking lot to be picked up after school. Drivers MUST pull up to the sidewalk for pick-up to ensure student safety.**

## **Visitors**

During school hours, all visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.

In order to improve the safety and security of our schools, all visitors to school buildings will be asked to show a photo ID before a guest badge is granted. The photo ID will remain in the office until the visitor checks out. Approved visitors must take a tag identifying themselves as a guest and place the tag to their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct themselves in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

Students may not bring friends to school to visit. Parents wishing to meet with a teacher should contact the teacher or the counseling department to schedule an appointment.

## **Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

### **Skyward Family Access**

Skyward Family Access is a wonderful online resource for parents to view all aspects of their student's information. Using the assigned login and password, parents can view report cards, current and past grades, missing assignments, attendance, schedule, food service balance, health information, fee information, and notifications from classroom teachers. It is also possible to contact teachers via email through Family Access. **Simply choose the link labeled "Family Access" at [geneseoschools.org](http://geneseoschools.org).**

### **Video & Audio Monitoring Systems**

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system may be in use in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors, and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

### **Use of Drones or Airborne Cameras**

Any use of drones is strictly prohibited without the express written prior permission of school administration.

## Chapter 2: Attendance and Promotion

### **Attendance and Truancy**

#### Compulsory School Attendance

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

*Cross Reference:*

*PRESS 7:70, Attendance and Truancy*

Regular attendance is extremely important for a student's success in school. There is no way to duplicate the classroom experience after a student has been absent. When a student must be absent, parents are asked to use the following procedures:

1. For their child's safety, parents or guardians are asked to call the school when their child is not expected to be at school. Please call the Middle School attendance line (309-945-0111) before 10:00 a.m. on the day the child is absent.
2. If a parent or guardian has not contacted the school by telephone, a note explaining the absence is required. The student must submit the note to the attendance secretary in the office before school on the day he/she returns.

There are three types of absences:

1. Excused
2. Unexcused
3. Truant

The following is a list of excused absences:

- Student illness (**When students are out of school for four consecutive days or more due to personal illness or other medically-related reason, a written notice from a doctor is required to be considered an excused absence**).
- Family emergency/death in the family.
- Observance of religious holidays and activities.
- Subpoenas or other situations where a student is called as a witness in judicial proceedings.
- For the purpose of sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral for a deceased veteran. Students must notify school administrators at least 2 days prior to the date of the absence and shall provide the school administrators with the date, time, and location of the military honors funeral.
- A student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support posting.
- Other circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the safety or health of the student as approved by the building principal.



- Students may use up to five (5) mental or behavioral health days per year. A student is not required to provide a medical note and must be given the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed during such absences. Following the second day, a student will be contacted by their school counselor.

The following is a list of unexcused absences:

- Vacation days, even if they are pre-planned and the school is notified.
- Any absence that is not considered an excused absence.

The school may require documentation explaining the reason for the student's absence. In the event of any absence, the student's parent or guardian is required to call the school's attendance line (309-945-0111), before 10:00 a.m. to explain the absence. If a call has not been made to the attendance line by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the student's absence, a school official will call the home to inquire why the student is not in school. If a parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the absence will be marked as "not cleared." If no parent or guardian contact is made within 24 hours of a "not cleared" absence, the absence will be marked as truant, and the appropriate discipline will be assigned. Once truancy discipline has been assigned it cannot be changed.

### **Consequences for Excessive Unexcused/Excused Absences**

1. Five (5) days of unexcused absences
  1. Letter sent home
  2. Notification that five (5) unexcused absences within 180 school days will warrant referral to the truant officer (this is cumulative and reflects the past school year)
  3. Parent conference if requested
  4. Referral to school counselor
  5. For multiple days, more than three (3) consecutive unexcused absences, students will be given not more than three days to make up the work.
  6. Any student who has accumulated five (5) days of unexcused absences per school year must obtain a doctor's note for each and every absence over the five (5) days to be considered excused.
2. Ten (10) days of excused and/or unexcused absences
  1. 10 Day Absence Policy letter sent home
  2. Referral to truant officer and Regional Office of Education if the student is under 17 years of age. If the student is 17 or older, a conference will be held with parents/guardians and student concerning alternative placement possibilities
  3. Referral to school social worker
  4. Any student who has accumulated ten (10) days of unexcused and/or excused absences per school year must obtain a doctor's note for each and every absence over the ten (10) days to be considered excused.

After 15 consecutive days of non-student attendance, the student may be dropped from GMS enrollment. The parent/guardian may re-enroll the student but will be charged a re-enrollment fee.

**Reminder: Nine (9) total unexcused absences means a student is in direct violation of the Compulsory Attendance Laws of Illinois.**

**Truancy**

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district.

Students who miss more than 1% but less than 5% of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are truant. Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without a valid cause are chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

1. Referral to the truancy officer
2. Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
3. Referral to the State's Attorney
4. Appropriate school discipline

A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant may be convicted of a Class C misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of thirty days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$1500.00

*REF: Board Policy 7:70*

*Adopted 05/11/2017*

**Leaving for Appointments during the School Day**

When a student plans to leave during the school day for an appointment, the parent/guardian should write a note and send it to school with the student. The student should then take the note before school to either the front office (6<sup>th</sup> graders) or the control table near the cafeteria (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders). Students will receive a permit to leave class at the appointed time and should sign out at the front office. If possible, students should bring a medical excuse to the office upon return.

**Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observance**

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s). Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

## **Make-Up Work**

If a student is absent, the student will be permitted to make up any missed work, including homework and/or tests. If a due date is assigned prior to the date of absence, the pre-assigned work will be completed and turned into class on the student's return date or on the date originally assigned. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact your student's teacher.

## Excused Absences

Students receiving an excused absence should contact their teachers regarding the work missed. The student will be allowed two school days to make up the work missed for every day absent.

## Unexcused Absences

Students receiving an unexcused absence are responsible for contacting their teachers regarding work missed. The student will be allowed one school day to make up the work missed for each day absent. A maximum of five school days will be allowed to make up work regardless of the length of unexcused absence. The individual teacher will determine the make-up assignment, with any additional work deemed necessary.

## **Homework Requests**

If you would like to request homework on a day that your student is absent, please mention this on the attendance line when you call in your student's absence. **Students should consider checking Google Classroom or their grade level website for online assignments.** Homework will be ready for pick up after 2:30 p.m. in the main office.

## **Advance Notification of Absence**

Students who know in advance that they need to be absent must have their parents sign and return a "Notification of Absence" form. This form may be picked up in the main office and must be returned when complete. Students are responsible for contacting their teachers to sign the form and to collect their assignments in advance.

## **Tardiness**

Students are expected to arrive and be in class on time. Each student may receive three (3) tardies per semester and no disciplinary time will be assigned. Students receiving tardy admits number four (4) and five (5) will receive 30 minutes of disciplinary time per tardy admit. Students receiving tardy number six (6) and seven (7) will receive 60 minutes of disciplinary time. If a student receives more than seven (7) tardies, the disciplinary consequences continue to increase and may include more detentions, in-school detentions, or out-of-school suspension. If a student is late to class because the student was detained by a teacher, the student must ask that teacher for an admit.

## **Academic Retention/Promotion Policy**

### Promotion

Students who successfully complete their academic work for the school year will be promoted to the next grade level.

### Retention

A student will be considered for retention at the same grade level if: the student has failed five or more of their core academic subjects (ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science) during one school year, or if the student has failed two semesters of ELA and two semesters of Math during one school year.

### **GMS Practice (Homework) Purpose Statement**

At Geneseo Middle School the purpose of practice (homework) is to extend student learning experiences beyond the classroom, promote skill mastery, provide opportunities for students to go further with their own desire to acquire knowledge, and complete work that is unfinished, which leads to improved final demonstration of skills.

The goal of Geneseo Middle School is to ensure we are respectful of the families of our community and the education of our students in and out of the classroom. Therefore, care will be taken to balance academics with family and leisure activities.

### **Grades**

The school year is divided into two grading periods, one each semester. Grade reports are processed after each of the two grading periods. Students and parents can view current grades and print grade reports via Skyward Family Access through the link provided at [geneseoschools.org](http://geneseoschools.org). Families wishing to receive a paper copy of the report should contact the middle school office. The basic factors that determine grades include, but are not limited to daily work, practice (homework), quizzes, tests, and reports.

The grading system is as follows:

A	Advanced
B	Proficient
C	Developing
D	Beginning
F	Insufficient Not Enough Evidence
I	Incomplete

Scale:

**NEW CHART ADDED**

<b>GMS Grading Scale for 2023-24</b>		
Letter Grade	Percentages	GPA
A+	100-98%	4.00
A	98-90%	4.00
B	89-80%	3.00
C	79-70%	2.00
D	69-60%	1.00
F	59% and below	0.00

### **Monitoring Student Progress**

Progress reports for students with a current grade of "D" or "F" in a class are mailed home twice per semester. Parent / Teacher conferences are typically held in the fall, but parents may contact teachers at any time with a concern via email or by calling the counseling office. The school counselors may be able to arrange a parent / teacher meeting if necessary. Skyward Family Access is a great tool for monitoring daily student work, test scores and class information.

### **Grading Accuracy and Reassessment**

The purpose of grade reporting is to communicate student performance accurately by ensuring a student's grade is reflective *of learning* based on standards as well as the most important skills and concepts of a discipline. Students are *expected* to complete practice (homework) within posted timelines to demonstrate learning progress and receive accurate grade reporting. Students who do not complete practice (homework) may lose opportunities to reassess until it is completed as expected.

Students may qualify for reassessment opportunities on summative assessments. Summative assessments may include a unit assessment such as an exam, project, essay, performance, or module. It is best practice for a student to initiate reassessment immediately after the summative, with the expectation of relearning and reassessment occurring no later than two weeks after the original summative assessment date.

Each teacher will determine the timeline, process, time and place for reassessment. These requirements for reassessment will be communicated at the beginning of a course.

### **Honor Roll**

Students with a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher will be included on the Geneseo Middle School First Honor Roll. Students with a grade point average of 3.00 to 3.49 will be included on the Geneseo Middle School Second Honor Roll. Student grade point averages are calculated twice during the school year, once after first semester and again after second semester.

### **Adding/Dropping an Elective Class**

The selection of elective classes is made during the registration process. ~~Students should discuss their elective options with their parents and come to a decision together. Once the school year begins, an elective class can be added or dropped only at the end of the semester.~~ Exceptions to this policy will be handled as follows:

- The dropping of an elective class within the first 10 days of a semester results in a W (withdraw) on a student transcript for that course.
- After the first 10 days of a semester, **any dropping of a class will result and up to the last day of 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, any dropping of a class will result in WF (withdraw fail) on a student transcript for that course.**
- **Any dropping of a class in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will result in an F (fail) on a student transcript for that course.**

Class changes are made by contacting the counseling department. To add or drop an elective, students and parents are asked to contact both the teacher and the counseling department.

### **Accelerated Placement/Enriched Classes**

Accelerated placement is defined as placement of a child in an educational setting with curriculum that is usually reserved for children who are older or in higher grades than the child; and includes, but is not limited to, acceleration of a child in a single subject, and grade acceleration. Accelerated placement is open to all children who demonstrate high ability in previous classroom performance, and high ability through an assessment process that includes multiple valid, reliable indicators. Accelerated placement is determined by a fair and equitable decision-making process that involves multiple educational personnel and the student's parents or guardians.

### **Physical Education**

Illinois State law requires that all boys and girls take physical education. This requirement can be waived only when a written doctor's permit advises against this type of activity. This permit must be brought to the office so that it can be placed in the student's file. However, parental notes will be accepted for temporary limitations or illness up to 2 consecutive days. A doctor's note is required on the 3rd day.

All students are required to have a ~~white or~~ gray T-shirt, solid green gym shorts, socks, and gym or tennis shoes. These articles can be purchased at most clothing stores. Gym clothes should be kept in the assigned PE locker. All students may be assigned disciplinary time for each no dress or improper dress beginning with their third violation. Their physical education grade will also be affected by not dressing properly for this class.

To prevent loss or theft, all gym clothes must be marked for identification purposes. Mark shorts on the front of the left leg with three initials (Example: David Alan Jones - DAJ). Mark shirts with a permanent marker, putting the student's last name on the back of the T-shirt or have the name ironed-on at the place of purchase.

~~The school does not furnish towels. Those students who wish to shower after class or athletics should bring a towel from home.~~

**Each student is issued a lock and gym locker. Items must be locked up at all times.**

## **Chapter 3: Student Fees and Meal Costs**

### **Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees**

The school establishes fees and charges to fund certain school activities. Some students may be unable to pay these fees. Students will not be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of their parent or guardian to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver does not exempt a student from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, **Chromebooks**, and/or equipment.

Applications for fee waivers may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. A student is eligible for a fee waiver if at least one of the following prerequisites are met:

1. The student currently lives in a household that meets the free lunch or breakfast eligibility guidelines established by the federal government pursuant to the National School Lunch Act; or
2. The student or the student's family is currently receiving aid under Article IV of the Illinois Public Aid Code (Aid to Families of Dependent Children).

The building principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

- An illness in the family;
- Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
- Seasonal employment;
- Emergency situations; or
- When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

The building principal will notify the parent/guardian promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. Questions regarding the fee waiver application process should be addressed to the building principal.

### **School Breakfast & Lunch Program**

All student food service accounts are pre-pay accounts. Each student is issued a PIN number to be used at the cashier when purchasing breakfast or lunch. Payments may be made in the form of cash or check at the school or online with a credit card. Students have the option of choosing between two lines that offer the same items. Breakfast is available in the cafeteria each morning from 7:40 to 8:03 a.m. Breakfast and lunch items may also be purchased at a la carte prices which are posted in the cafeteria. The lunch menu and prices are posted on the district website ([www.geneseoschools.org](http://www.geneseoschools.org)) and in the cafeteria.

The goal of the Food Service Program is to ensure that students are provided with well-balanced, nutritious meals at the lowest possible cost to students and parents. Sometimes, however, students would like a breakfast or lunch, but do not have money in their account or in-hand to cover the cost of the meal at the time of the meal service. The school lunch & breakfast programs are non-profit by design and depend upon revenues derived from meals

for its support. For this reason, the following policy guidelines have been established for students at all grade levels.

When a student account reaches a positive \$7.50 or lower, low balance notices will be e-mailed to guardians who have current email addresses on file with the district. These notices will be sent twice a week.

#### Negative Balance

When a negative balance is on the account, School Messenger will send weekly notices via text, phone call, and/or e-mail if on file with the district. If an account reaches a negative \$5.00, a notice is sent thru US mail to notify the household. Should the negative balance become greater than \$10.00, a letter will be sent home notifying the family that the debt needs to be cleared or they may contact the Food Service department to make alternate arrangements.

**When an account is negative, only reimbursable meals will be allowed. Purchases of ala carte items are not allowed at any level unless there are funds in the student account. These items will be removed from the tray if there are no funds to cover the price.**

This system is a debit system, not a credit system. Immediate payment is expected when the student balance is negative.

Meal assistance in the form of free or reduced-price meals is available with both the breakfast and lunch programs. Applications are available on the website or by contacting the Food Service Department at 945-0414.

#### End of Year Balances

At the end of each school year balances (positive or negative) on student accounts will carry over to the next school year. Graduating seniors with positive balances will be transferred to younger siblings or refunded upon request. Any remaining funds from graduating seniors with no siblings or from students that transfer out of district who have not requested a refund within 5 business days after the last day of school will forfeit those funds to the District Food Service Program.

Any updates that occur during the year will be posted on the [geneseoschools.org](http://geneseoschools.org) website.

#### **Payment of Student Fees and Food Service Accounts**

School registration fees are due before the start of the school year. The following methods may be used for payment:

- Cash or checks may be submitted to the main office.
- Credit cards may be used for online payment through the Skyward Family Access account. A service fee of \$1.00 will be assessed for each online payment. The main office is unable to process credit card payments.

Payments for food service accounts may be submitted in the same manner. Students with cash or checks should bring their payment to either the main office or the cafeteria serving line and fill out a deposit envelope. Money received at breakfast will be deposited to the



student individual account before lunch. Money given to the cashiers at lunch will be entered after lunch is served that day. Food service accounts are individual student accounts. Families may send one check but must note how the funds should be divided amongst each child's account.

Parents also have the option of paying food service accounts with a credit card through Skyward Family Access. Payments made online will be instantly credited to the student account.

Applications for the student free or reduced lunch and breakfast program are available at either the Unit Office at 648 N. Chicago Street or online at [www.geneseoschools.org](http://www.geneseoschools.org). Students entitled to free or reduced lunches may choose a full lunch from any line for their personal consumption. The free and reduced lunch does not apply to a la carte items. A la carte items can only be purchased if the student has money available in their account.

## Chapter 4: Transportation

### **Bus Transportation**

The district provides bus transportation to and from school through a contracted bus service for all students living 1.5 miles or more from the school. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned. Exceptions must be approved in advance by Pinks Bus Service at (309)944-6417.

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, the bus driver can handle bus discipline problems. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the administration. Parents will be informed of any and all inappropriate student behavior on a bus. Parents are encouraged to discuss bus safety and appropriate behavior with their children before the beginning of the school year and regularly during the year.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are expected to observe the following rules:

1. Give the bus drivers the same high level of respect and courtesy that is given to teachers. The atmosphere within the bus should be comparable with that of a well-disciplined classroom.
2. Sit on the seats within the compartment.
3. No loud or profane language.
4. Keep head, hands, and feet to yourself and inside the bus.
5. No eating or drinking on the bus.
6. Stay seated in your compartment until the bus stops.
7. Do not lower your windows below the line.
8. Be absolutely quiet at railroad crossings.
9. Board the bus at the first opportunity to do so, and do not leave the bus until you arrive home or at the designated unloading point.
10. A phone call to Pinks Bus Service is needed from a parent/guardian granting his/her child permission to leave the bus at any point other than at home.
11. Ride **ONLY** the bus assigned. Pinks Bus Service must give prior permission for guest riders.
12. Leave the bus **ONLY** at the school they attend in the morning.
13. No littering. Each bus will furnish a waste box, and materials are not to be thrown on the floor or out the windows.
14. Insubordination by students directed toward drivers will not be tolerated.
15. Intimidation of a student by another student will not be tolerated.
16. Line up for buses and remain in line until aboard. While waiting for the bus, students should not move beyond the safety zone until the bus is stopped and the driver opens the door for them. When entering or departing the bus, students may not cross the road until receiving the “**thumbs up**” signal from the driver.
17. Honor all safety rules. National, state, county, school district, and bus driver safety rules are all designed for the health and safety of all bus riders and must be obeyed.
18. **Do not** tamper with any safety device on a school bus unless instructed by your driver (i.e. crossing arms, emergency doors, fire extinguishers, etc.).

19. Vandalism to the bus will result in disciplinary action and possible referral to the police.
20. Cell phones and electronics should never be used for videos, photos, phone calls, or music without headphones, always following GMS acceptable use guidelines. Any inappropriate use of an electronic device will include disciplinary action enforced by both Pink's and GMS policies.

**Bus rules apply to all field trips and any other time a student may ride a bus.**

Video and audio cameras are active on buses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus.

For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact Pinks Bus Service at (309) 944-6417.

**Bus Misconduct**

All students who are found guilty of bus misconduct or a disruptive influence on a bus are subject to school disciplinary procedures, which may include the following consequences, depending on the frequency and severity of the infraction:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense - Bus driver will contact the parent and/or principal directly.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - 1 day suspension of bus privileges
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense - 3 day suspension of bus privileges
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense - 5 day suspension of bus privileges
- 5<sup>th</sup> offense - 10 day suspension of bus privileges
- 6<sup>th</sup> offense - Suspension from riding the bus for the remainder of the school year.

**Bus discipline policy listed is cumulative for the year.** In all cases, the building principal has the discretion to omit progressive disciplinary steps listed above if the misconduct is deemed to be of serious nature. Examples of serious misconduct are, but are not limited to fighting, fire or open flame on the bus, injuring another student or property, tampering with safety devices, and gross insubordination.

**Bicycles/Skateboards**

Bicycles must be parked and locked in the assigned bicycle rack. Bicycles and skateboards must be walked to and from the bike rack while on school grounds. No riding of bicycles or skateboarding on school grounds unless during PE class, supervised by a staff member and/or approved by administration. Any theft may be reported directly to the Geneseo Police Department.

## Chapter 5: Health and Safety

### **School Nurse**

A registered nurse is employed by the school to serve students and their families in a number of ways. The nurse is guided by directive from the State of Illinois and by School Board policy. The school nurse will:

1. Provide emergency treatment in the event of an accident.
2. Provide care for a child becoming ill while at school. All ill students must report to the nurse's office, and the nurse will decide:
  - a. If the student should rest and try to return to classes.
  - b. If the student should go home. The nurse must contact a parent or an individual indicated in the student's emergency contacts information before a student is allowed to leave. **Students should come to the nurse, not contact parents on their own if they are feeling unwell.**
  - c. If the student is able to participate in full school activity.

The nurse handles all of the above unless there is a written order from a medical doctor. The nurse will also:

1. Check the reasons for student absenteeism.
2. Maintain up-to-date health records for each student as required by the State of Illinois.
3. Administer vision and hearing testing. Vision **and hearing** screenings will be conducted during the school year as mandated by the State of Illinois.
4. Be a resource person to teachers and students.
5. Make home visitations (health and attendance problems).
6. Help with health, social, and family history information gathering for referral cases.

All **School Health** related information, forms, and requirements can be found on the school health webpage located on the district website or at <https://sites.google.com/geneseoschools.org/schoolhealth-geneseocusd228/>

### **Immunization, Health, Eye, and Dental Examinations**

Required Health Examinations and Immunization forms **should be turned in to the school nurse.**

All students are required to present appropriate proof that the student received a health examination and the immunizations against, and screenings for, preventable communicable diseases within one year prior to:

1. Entering the sixth grade
2. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.
3. **Enrolling from another Illinois school requires the last required state physical (6th grade) to be submitted.**

See 'Sports Physicals' (pg. 43) for participation requirements.

The required health examinations must include a diabetes screening (diabetes testing is not required) and a statement from a physician assuring “risk-assessed” or screened for lead poisoning.

The immunizations and physicals for 6<sup>th</sup> grade are due by the first day of the school year.

An athletic physical form is not adequate to cover entry for 6th grade or as a new or transfer student.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in exclusion from school.

### Eye Examination

The State of Illinois requires all students entering 6th grade have a vision exam completed within one year prior to the first day of school year in which the child enters 6th grade. The vision exam must be completed by an ophthalmologist or an optometrist.

All transfer students entering an Illinois school for the first time must present proof of an eye examination performed within one year prior to entry. New students who show proof of an upcoming scheduled exam will have a 60-day grace period.

### Vision Screening

Vision Screening will be conducted for pre-K through 12th grade students in the Geneseo School District for all State of Illinois grade requirements. Vision screening is not a substitute for a complete eye and vision evaluation. Your child is not required to undergo this vision screening if an optometrist or ophthalmologist has completed and signed a report form indicating that an examination has been administered within the previous 12 months and the report is on file at the school.

### Dental Examination

All children entering sixth grade must present proof of having been examined by a licensed dentist within 18 months prior to the May 15 deadline of the current school year.

### Exemptions

A student will be exempted from the above requirements for:

1. Religious reasons with an exemption form signed by the student’s physician and parent. The religious exemption form is available on the school health website;
2. Health examination or immunization requirements on medical grounds if a physician provides written verification;
3. Eye examination requirement if the student’s parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
4. Dental examination requirement if the student’s parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

### **Student Medication**

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student’s health and well-being. When a student’s licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing the Request for Administration of

Medicine form which is available [on the school health website](#). A physician's signature is only required to administer prescription medication.

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student's self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed Request for Administration of Medicine form is submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to [transport](#), possess, or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure. [A parent/guardian/authorized adult must bring in all medication and any refills needed for their student\(s\)](#). The remaining medication or the empty container must be picked up by the parent/guardian at the end of the treatment or the end of the school year (whichever comes first). If they are not picked up, [the school nurse](#), in the presence of a witness will discard them.

A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler prescribed for immediate use at the [parent's & school nurse's](#) discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian and doctor has completed and signed a Request for Administration of Medication or treatment form. The school and district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication or epinephrine auto-injector or the storage of any medication by school personnel. A student's parent/guardian must agree to indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and/or asthma inhaler, or the storage of any medication by school personnel. [Students with severe allergies and asthma must have an action plan on file with the school nurse.](#)

Students who are diabetic may self-carry and self-administer diabetic testing supplies and insulin. [A Request for Administration of Medication or treatment form signed by a physician and the student's parent/guardian is required.](#) Students who are diabetic must have a Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school [nurse](#).

### **Designated Caregiver Administration of Medical Cannabis**

The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act allows a parent/guardian of a student who is a minor to register with the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) as a designated caregiver to administer medical cannabis to their child. A designated caregiver may also be another individual other than the student's parent/guardian. Any designated caregiver must be at least 21 years old and is allowed to administer a medical cannabis infused product to a child who is a student on the premises of his or her school or on his or her school bus if:

1. Both the student and the designated caregiver possess valid registry identification cards issued by IDPH;
2. Copies of the registry identification cards are provided to the District; and
3. That student's parent/guardian completed, signed, and submitted a School Medication Authorization Form- Medical Cannabis.

Medical cannabis infused products includes oils, ointments, foods, and other products that

contain usable cannabis but are not smoked or vaped. Smoking and/or vaping medical cannabis is prohibited.

After administering the product to the student, the designated caregiver shall immediately remove it from school premises or the school bus. The product may not be administered in a manner that, in the opinion of the district or school, would create a disruption to the educational environment or cause exposure of the product to other students. A school administrator or nurse may administer medical cannabis and keep in a locked box on school premises. Copies of the registry identification cards and the school medication authorization form must be completed.

Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The district may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

### **Medication Procedures for Students with Asthma**

1. ALL students with asthma and inhalers must complete and submit an Action Plan to the school nurse.
2. This Action Plan will be kept on file in the nurse's office for use of the child's inhaler.
3. For students who carry their own inhaler, a school Medical Authorization Form must still be completed.
4. Action Plan and Medical Authorization Forms may be downloaded from the district webpage and completed by your child's doctor.

### **Communicable Diseases**

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
2. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. Students should not return to school until fever free, without anti-fever medications, **and have not been vomiting or experiencing diarrhea for at least 24 hours.**
4. A student excluded because of a communicable disease may be asked to present a letter from their doctor stating they are no longer contagious and may return to school.
5. **Any illness requiring an antibiotic is given a full 24 hours to start the treatment before returning.**

### **Head Lice**

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding head lice.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.

4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice. Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

### **Insurance**

All enrolled students are covered by an accident insurance plan free of charge. This insurance has limited coverage for injuries sustained during school time or at school-related activities. Claims for injuries incurred at school must be submitted through the school office. The student must immediately notify the supervising teacher, school nurse, or administrator of the injury and an accident report must be filed. Complete information will be available at registration. **The parent/guardian must submit to the school's accident insurance within 90 days of the injury. Contact the Unit Office for all insurance questions.**

### **Guidance & Counseling**

The school provides guidance and counseling programs for students. The school's counselors are available to those students who require additional assistance. Parents wishing to meet with a teacher should contact the Counseling Department to schedule an appointment. Students wishing to visit the counseling office during the school day should first request a pass from their counselor before school or at lunch. For attendance purposes, students must first check in with their classroom teacher before going to the counseling office. Students are encouraged to meet with the counselors during study hall, before or after school, or during ASAP.

### **Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988)**

Safe2Help Illinois; call: 844-4-SafeIL, text: 72332, email: [help@safe2helpil.com](mailto:help@safe2helpil.com)

### **Erin's Law**

Erin's Law, or Illinois Public Act 097-1147, requires public schools to provide age-appropriate child sexual abuse prevention education for children in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grades. Age-appropriate instruction will help students recognize unsafe situations, keep themselves safe, and help them with how to respond to unsafe situations. Common themes of instruction include: identifying safe versus unsafe or unwanted touching, 3 Safety Steps (Say "No!", Get Away, Tell Someone), and understanding the difference between good and bad secrets. Signs of sexual abuse are not always clear; however, some signs may indicate a child is experiencing abuse. You should talk to your child if you notice unexplained behavioral, emotional, or physical changes. Reach out to a school counselor or social worker if you have questions or need help.

### **Geneseo Schools Professional Conduct Bulletin**

<https://www.geneseoschools.org/documents/about/compliance/369609>

### **Resources and Referral Information:**

Braveheart Children's Advocacy Center  
292 South East Road Suite A  
Cambridge, IL 61238



### **Safety Drill Procedures and Conduct**

Emergency drills for fire, tornado and other emergency situations will be held at various times during the school year. Procedures are posted in each classroom or public space, and staff is trained to provide instruction and assist in the event of drills or emergencies.

There are 3 different types of Crisis Prevention situations of which students and parents should be aware: Soft Lockdown, Hard Lockdown and Code Red Active Intruder.

Soft Lockdown means that students and staff are not in imminent danger, but for student safety it is best to keep hallways clear.

Examples of situations that result in a Soft Lockdown may include:

- An injured child
- Ambulance
- Power outage
- Drug dog searches/locker searches
- Unsafe corridor, i.e. floor, ceiling, etc.

Hard Lockdown means that nearby events present imminent threats and there is reasonable certainty that student/staff could be in danger.

Examples of situations that result in a Hard Lockdown may include:

- Bomb threat
- Hostage threat
- Suicide/suicide threat
- Gun found/present on campus
- Student uprising/civil disturbance
- Chemical release
- Law enforcement information that identifies imminent danger

Code Red Active Intruder indicates there is an active threat in the building and students/staff should activate **RUN-HIDE-FIGHT** A.L.I.C.E. protocols (~~Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate~~):

*In the event of a school emergency, parents will be contacted as soon as possible through School Messenger with information and specific instructions regarding the incident.*

## **Chapter 6: Discipline and Conduct**

### **School Dress Code / Student Appearance**

Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well-fitting manner while on school property and/or in attendance at school sponsored activities. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, weapons, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.
- Hats, coats, bandanas, hoods, and sunglasses may not be worn in the building during the school day.
- Hairstyles, dress, and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted during physical education.
- **Clothing with excessive holes, rips, tears, and clothing that is otherwise poorly fitting, showing excessive skin, or showing undergarments is not acceptable. Clothing that is “see through”, exposing the bare midriff, and “muscle” shirts are not permitted during the school day. All parts of the midriff and back must be fully covered without pulling or tugging.** ~~Clothing with inappropriate holes, rips, tears, and clothing that is otherwise poorly fitting, showing skin and/or undergarments may not be worn at school.~~
- The length of shorts or skirts must be appropriate for the school environment.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, a teacher may ask the student to put on something more appropriate, contact a counselor for a second opinion, or ask the student to go to the Principal’s office. A building administrator will make the final decision regarding inappropriate dress.
- **Students whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff, or others may be subject to discipline.**

### **Cell Phone/Electronic Device Usage**

Using a cellular device, video recording device, smart watch, or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others is prohibited. All cell phones and similar electronic devices must be kept **"powered off and in lockers"** ~~powered off and out of sight~~ during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student’s individualized education program (IEP) or 504 plan; or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Violation of cell phone usage will result as follows\*:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense - Cell phone is sent to the office, warning issued.

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense - Confiscation of phone, parent/guardian picks up.

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense - Confiscation of phone, parent/guardian picks up, discipline assigned

**\*Failure to provide staff member with the electronic device when requested will result in additional disciplinary action.**

## **Student Behavior**

### Prohibited Student Conduct

Students may be disciplined for misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials, including vaping products.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. No opened beverages may be brought on to campus.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling:
  - a. Any illegal drug, or controlled substance, cannabis or any product containing THC (including medical cannabis, marijuana, hashish, and various edibles).
  - b. Any anabolic steroid or performance-enhancing substance, including those noted on the Illinois Association of High School's most current banned substance list, unless administered under a physician's care and supervision.
  - c. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law.
  - d. Any prescription and/or non-prescription medication.
  - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system.
  - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance not containing an illegal drug or controlled substance, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug or controlled substance; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug or controlled substance.
  - g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
  - h. E-cigarettes, liquid nicotine, and related paraphernalia

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a firearm or “look alike,” knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm.
5. Possessing/Drinking beverages other than water (juice or milk at breakfast/lunch). For example: energy drinks, coffee, protein drinks, etc. other than those approved by a teacher in a specific class.
6. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member’s direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
7. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials.
8. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, copy and pasting, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
9. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
10. Engaging in hazing or any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, **racial slur**, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying using a school computer or a school computer network, or other comparable conduct.
11. Engaging in Teen dating violence, as described in Board policy 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*, is prohibited.
12. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
13. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
14. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person’s personal property.
15. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
16. Being involved with any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
17. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
18. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, and hazing.
19. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as

- threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
20. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
  21. Sending, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit or otherwise inappropriate pictures or images, commonly known as “sexting.”
  22. Using, purchasing, selling, or possessing any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois Association of High School Association’s most current banned substance list, unless administered in accordance with a prescription.
  23. Students whose behavior causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff, or others may be subject to discipline.

For purposes of these rules, the term “possession” includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student’s person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student’s clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school’s student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student’s parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event; or
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.

## **Disciplinary Measures**

Disciplinary measures may include:

- Disciplinary conference
- Withholding of privileges
- Seizure of contraband
- Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property
- Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
- Suspension of bus riding privileges
- Expulsion from school and all school-sponsored activities and events for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
- Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law
- Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves illegal drugs (controlled substances), “look-alikes,” alcohol, or weapons
- Notifying parents/guardians
- Temporary removal from the classroom
- In-school detention for a period not to exceed 5 school days
- Before school, after school, and lunch detentions

A student may be immediately transferred to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for the transfer under State Law. The transfer shall be in the manner provided in Article 13A or 13B of the School Code.

## **Re-Engagement of Returning Students**

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student’s ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

## **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment is illegal and will not be used. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for students, staff, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense or defense of property.

## **Objects Used or Attempted to Be Used to Cause Harm**

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school may be expelled for a period up to two years:

(1) A firearm. For the purposes of this Section, “firearm” means any gun, rifle, shotgun, or weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including “look-a-likes” of any weapon as defined above. The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

This policy’s prohibitions concerning weapons apply regardless of whether: (1) a student is licensed to carry a concealed firearm, or (2) the Board permits visitors, who are licensed to carry a concealed firearm, to store a firearm in a locked vehicle in a school parking area.

*REF.: BOARD POLICY 7:190*

*Approved by Board Action 2/13/2020*

*LEGAL REF.: Gun-Free Schools Act, 20 U.S.C. §7151 et seq.  
Pro-Children Act of 1994, 20 U.S.C. §6081.  
410 ILCS 130/, Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program.  
430 ILCS 66/, Firearm Concealed Carry Act.  
105 ILCS 5/10-20.5b, 5/10-20.14, 5/10-20.28, 5/10-20.36, 5/10-21.7, 5/10-21.10,  
5/10-22.6, 5/10-27.1A, 5/10-27.1B, 5/24-24, 5/26-12, 5/27-23.7, 5/31-3, and  
110/3,10.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.280.*

*CROSS REF.: 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline), 6:110 (Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program), 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy), 7:130 (Student Rights and Responsibilities), 7:140 (Search and Seizure), 7:150 (Agency and Police Interviews, Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 7:220 (Bus Conduct), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:270 (Administering Medicines to Students), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)*

## **Gang & Gang Activity**

“Gang” is defined as any group, club, or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, or (5) incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

### **Bullying, Intimidation and (Sexual) Harassment**

Bullying, intimidation, and (sexual) harassment are not acceptable in any form and will not be tolerated at school or any school-related activity. The school district will protect students against retaliation for reporting incidents of bullying, intimidation, or harassment, and will take disciplinary action against any student who participates in such conduct (Board Policy 7:180).

Students who believe they are victims of bullying, intimidation or harassment or have witnessed such activities are encouraged to discuss the matter with the building administrator or counselor. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

Any student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in bullying, intimidation, or harassment will be subject to disciplinary consequences as provided in this handbook, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the school and district's discipline policy. Parents of students who have engaged in the above behavior will be notified. Any student making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment may also be subject to disciplinary consequences.

### **Conduct During Field Trips**

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline. All students who wish to attend a field trip must obtain written permission from a parent or guardian with authority to give permission. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher;
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

### **Social Media**

Students are responsible for their own behavior when communicating with social media and will be held accountable for the content of the communications that they state/post on social media locations. Use good judgment. **Students are responsible for complying with the School District's conduct requirements. Students may not disrupt the learning atmosphere, educational programs, school activities, and the rights of others.**



## GMS Student Intervention Procedures

<b>Disruptive Behavior / Dress Code / Profanity / Verbal Abuse / Defiance</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation	One 30-minute Detention
3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation	Two 30-minute Detentions
4 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Three 30-minute Detentions
5 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Four 30-minute Detentions
6 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Short In-School Detention
7 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Short In-School Detention
8 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Long In-School Detention
9 <sup>th</sup> and additional Violations	Possible Out-of-School Suspension
<b>Tardies (cumulative per semester)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Violations	Warning
4 <sup>th</sup> / 5 <sup>th</sup> Violations	One 30-minute Detention
6 <sup>th</sup> / 7 <sup>th</sup> Violations	Two 30-minute Detentions
8 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> Violations	Three 30-minute Detentions
10 <sup>th</sup> / 11 <sup>th</sup> Violations	Four 30-minute Detentions
12 <sup>th</sup> / 13 <sup>th</sup> Violations	Five 30-minute Detentions
14 <sup>th</sup> / 15 <sup>th</sup> Violations	Short In-School Detention
16 <sup>th</sup> and additional Violations	Long In-School Detention
<b>Short Truancy (1-3 Periods)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Violations	One 30-minute Detention assigned per period truant
3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> Violations	Two 30-minute Detentions assigned per period truant
5 <sup>th</sup> and additional Violations	Short In-School Detention
<b>Long Truancy (4 or more periods)</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> and additional Violations	Short In-School detention per day truant
<b>Electronic Devices / Phones / Camera</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Warning, student picks up device at the end of the day
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation	Warning, parent must pick up device
3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation	One 30-minute Detention, parent must pick up device
4 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Two 30-minute Detentions, parent must pick up device
5 <sup>th</sup> and additional Violations	Short In-School Detention, administration will enforce a check-in/check-out device policy

<b>Cheating / Plagiarism</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Warning with academic consequences
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation	One 30-minute detention with academic consequences
3 <sup>rd</sup> and additional Violations	Two 30-minute detentions with academic consequences
<b>Graffiti / Damage to School Property/ Theft</b>	
Any Violation	Clean up, Restitution, Possible Suspension, Possible Expulsion
<b>P.E. Uniform</b>	
<b>First Quarter</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation	Warning with the teacher and parent contact
3 <sup>rd</sup> and additional Violations	One 30-minute detention (administrator assigned)
<b>Second, Third and Fourth Quarters</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Violations	Warning with the teacher
3 <sup>rd</sup> / 4 <sup>th</sup> Violations	One 30-minute detention (teacher assigned)
5 <sup>th</sup> and additional Violations	One 30-minute detention (administrator assigned)
<b>Fighting / Initiating / Insubordination / Threatening</b>	
Any Violation	Possible Suspension, Police Contact, Possible Expulsion, Referral to Counselor
<b>Tobacco Products / Weapon</b> (possess, consume, transport, sell, or deliver actual or look-alike while on campus or school-related activities)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Possible 1 day Out-of-School Suspension, Police citation will be issued
2 <sup>nd</sup> and additional Violations	Possible 3 day Out-of-School Suspension, Police citation will be issued
<b>Drug / Paraphernalia / Alcohol</b> (possess, consume, transport, sell, or deliver actual or look alike while on campus or school-related activities)	
Any Violation	Possible 1-10 Days Out-of-School Suspension, Police contact, and Possible Expulsion
<b>Bullying / Cyber-bullying / Intimidation / Peer Harassment:</b> The following disciplinary actions will be at administrative discretion including, but not limited to:	
<b>Level 1: Taunting, pushing, shoving, teasing, gossiping, rumor spreading</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Warning, Referral to Counselor
2 <sup>nd</sup> and additional Violations	Two 30-minute detentions, up to an Out-of-School Suspension, and Referral to Counselor
<b>Level 2: Physical threats, racial slurs, damaging another's property, tripping / causing a fall, harassment (including texting or social media during the school day)</b>	

1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Two 30-minute detentions, Restitution, Refer to Counselor
2 <sup>nd</sup> and additional Violations	Short or Long In-School detention, up to an Out-of-School Suspension
<b>Level 3: Extortion, physical cruelty, destroying personal property, arranging public humiliation, assaulting, sexual harassment, sexting, theft</b>	
Any Violation	Possible Out-of-School Suspension, Referral to Counselor, Police Contact, Possible Expulsion
<b>Social Probation</b>	
<b>Attendance at any GMS activity is not allowed if the student currently has any of the following:</b>	
Unserved Discipline Violation	Not allowed to attend any events/activities until discipline is served
In-School Detention	7 days - starting the day of the assigned In-School Detention
1 to 2 Days of OSS	7 days - starting after the last day of Out-of- School Suspension
3 to 4 Days of OSS	14 days - starting after the last day of Out-of- School Suspension
5 or more Days of OSS	30 days - starting after the last day of Out-of- School Suspension
<b>Bus Discipline</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Violation	Warning
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violation	1 Day off the bus
3 <sup>rd</sup> Violation	3 Days off the bus
4 <sup>th</sup> Violation	5 Days off the bus
5 <sup>th</sup> Violation	10 Days off the bus
6 <sup>th</sup> Violation	Off the bus for the remainder of the school year

The Bus discipline policy listed is cumulative for the year unless otherwise noted. In all cases, the building administrator has the discretion to omit progressive disciplinary steps listed above if the

## **Chapter 7: Internet, Technology and Publications**

### **Access to Electronic Networks and Use of District Provided Computers**

Electronic networks, including the Internet, are a part of the district's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The Superintendent shall develop an implementation plan for this policy and appoint system administrator(s).

District provided computer devices are part of the district's instructional program and serve to promote educational excellence. These devices may be monitored for appropriate use.

The Geneseo School District is not responsible for any information that may be lost or damaged, or become unavailable when using the network or using a district provided computer, or for any information that is retrieved or transmitted via the Internet. Furthermore, the district will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the Internet.

### **Curriculum and Appropriate Online Behavior**

The use of the district's electronic networks shall: (1) be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the district as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students, and (2) comply with the selection criteria for instructional materials and library resource center materials. As required by federal law and Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, students will be educated about appropriate online behavior, including but not limited to: (1) interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and (2) cyber-bullying awareness and response. Staff members may, consistent with the Superintendent's implementation plan, use the Internet throughout the curriculum.

The district's electronic network is part of the curriculum and is not a public forum for general use.

### **Acceptable Use**

All use of the District's electronic networks and use of District's provided computers must be: (1) in support of education and/or research, and be in furtherance of the goals stated herein, or (2) for a legitimate school business purpose. Use is a privilege, not a right. Students and staff members have no expectation of privacy in any material that is stored, transmitted, or received via the District's electronic networks or District computers. General rules for behavior and communications apply when using electronic networks. The District's

*Authorization for Electronic Network Access* contains the appropriate uses, ethics, and protocol. Electronic communications and downloaded material, including files deleted from a user's account but not erased, may be monitored or read by school officials.

### **Internet Safety**

Technology protection measures shall be used on each District computer with Internet access. They shall include a filtering device that protects against Internet access by both adults and minors to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by federal law and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or system administrator. The Superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

- Ensure staff supervision of student access to online electronic networks
- Restrict student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials
- Ensure student and staff privacy, safety, and security when using electronic communications
- Restrict unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities
- Restrict unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information, such as, names and addresses

### **Authorization for Electronic Network Access and use of District Provided Computer**

Each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) must agree to the Authorization for Electronic Network Access by signing the Computer Acceptable Use Policy before being granted unsupervised use.

All users of the district's computers to access the Internet shall maintain the confidentiality of student records. Reasonable measures to protect against unreasonable access shall be taken before confidential student information is loaded onto the network.

The failure of any student or staff member to follow the terms of the *Authorization for Electronic Network Access* and Board Policy 5:125 (Personnel Social Networking), or this policy, will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

All use of the Internet shall be consistent with the district's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. This *Authorization* does not attempt to state all required or proscribed behavior by users.

However, some specific examples are provided. **The failure of any user to follow the terms of the *Authorization for Electronic Network Access* will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.** The signatures at the end of this document are legally binding and indicate the parties who signed have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

### **Terms and Conditions**

**Acceptable Use** - Access to the district's electronic network must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the district's educational objectives, or (b) for a

legitimate business use.

**Privileges** - The use of the district's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated the terms of access privileges and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

**Unacceptable Use** - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

- Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any state or federal law;
- Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or de-virused;
- Downloading copyrighted material for other than personal use;
- Using the network for private financial or commercial gain;
- Wastefully using resources, such as file space, especially when using for personal files (e.g. photos, videos applications);
- Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
- Invading the privacy of individuals, that includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature including a photograph;
- Using another user's account or password;
- Posting material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
- Posting anonymous messages;
- Using the network for commercial or private advertising;
- Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
- Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

**Network Etiquette** - You are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- Do not reveal the personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
- Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
- Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
- Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.

**No Warranties** - The district makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or

implied, for the service it is providing. The district will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The district specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

**Indemnification** - The user agrees to indemnify the district for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the district relating to, or arising out of, any violation of this *Authorization*.

**Security** - Network security is a high priority. If you can identify a security problem on the Internet, you must notify the system administrator or building principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.

**Vandalism** - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

**Telephone Charges** - The district assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

**Copyright Web Publishing Rules** - Copyright law and district policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the web or on district web sites or file servers, without explicit written permission.

- For each re-publication (on a Web site or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
- Students and staff engaged in producing web pages must provide library media specialists with e-mail or hard copy permissions before the web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of "public domain" documents must be provided.
- The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the Web site displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
- The "fair use" rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
- Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and student.

**Use of Electronic Mail** - The district's electronic mail system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the Geneseo School District. The Geneseo School District provides e-mail to aid students and staff members in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, and as an education tool.

- The district reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student or staff member to an electronic mail account is strictly prohibited.
- Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an electronic mail message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an e-mail message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
- Electronic messages transmitted via the Geneseo School District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet "domain." This domain name is a registered domain name and identifies the author as being with the Geneseo School District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the School District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all electronic mail messages transmitted to external recipients.
- Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
- Use of the district's electronic mail system constitutes consent to these regulations.

### **Internet Safety**

Internet access is limited to only those "acceptable uses" as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is almost assured if users will not engage in "unacceptable uses," as detailed in this *Authorization*, and otherwise follow this *Authorization*.

Staff members shall supervise students while students are using district internet access to ensure that the students abide by the Terms and Conditions for Internet access contained in this *Authorization*.

Each district computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The system administrator and Building Principals shall monitor student Internet access.

**Each student and parent/guardian must agree to the Authorization for Electronic Network Access by signing the Computer Acceptable Use Policy before access to the Electronic Network will be granted.**



## **Chapter 8: Search and Seizure**

### **Search and Seizure**

In an effort to maintain order, safety, and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. “School authorities” includes school liaison police officers.

### **School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students**

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

### **Students**

School authorities may search a student and/or the student’s personal effects in the student’s possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district’s student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student’s age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

When feasible, the search should be conducted as follows:

1. Outside the view of others, including students,
2. In the presence of a school administrator and an adult witness, and
3. By a certified employee or liaison police officer of the same sex as the student.

### **Seizure of Property**

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district’s policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school

authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

### **Notification Regarding Student Accounts or Profiles on Social Networking Websites**

State law requires the district to notify students and their parents/guardians that school officials may not request or require a student or his or her parent/guardian to provide a password or other related account information to gain access to the student's account or profile on a social networking website. School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

*REF.:Board Policy 7:140  
AMENDED 01/14/2021*

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, 5/10-22.6, and 5/10-22.10a.  
Right to Privacy in the School Setting Act, 105 ILCS 75/  
Cornfield v. Consolidated High School Dist. No. 230, 991 F.2d 1316 (7th Cir. 1993).  
People v. Dilworth, 169 Ill.2d 195 (1996), cert. denied, 116 S.Ct. 1692 (1996). People v. Pruitt, 278 Ill.App.3d 194 (1st Dist. 1996), app. denied, 667 N.E. 2d  
  
1061 (Ill.App.1, 1996).  
T.L.O. v. New Jersey, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).  
Vernonia School Dist. 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646 (1995).  
Safford Unified School Dist. No. 1 v. Redding, 557 U.S. 364 (2009).

## **Chapter 9: Extra-Curricular Activities**

### **Dances**

The Geneseo Middle School Student Council will sponsor dances for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Only students who are presently enrolled as full time students in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Geneseo Middle School may attend school dances.

Once a student has entered a dance, he/she is not permitted to leave before 8:30 without the permission of his/her parent/guardian. This permission must be given in person or in writing by the parent/guardian.

No one is allowed to loiter outside the building during a school dance. Students not attending the dance must stay off of school property.

Participation at dances is a privilege. Students who have been issued any type of suspension ~~between the dates of the previous dance and~~ **within two (2) calendar months** of the upcoming dance, have unserved disciplinary time, or who have not paid all applicable fines or fees, will not be allowed to attend dances. All school rules and policies (including dress code) apply during dances. Please refer to the dress code policy for more information.

### **Sports Physicals**

An athletic (IHSA sports) physical is required for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in any middle school athletic **activity**. This physical must have been completed within one year of the participating sport season and be on file in the school nurse's office. **Athletic physicals are valid for 395 days from the date of the examination.** Students will not be allowed to try-out, practice or participate in the sport without this physical. **If your student's physical expires during a season, they will not be able to participate at all until an updated form is received. Athletic physicals cannot be signed by a chiropractor.**

### **Eligibility Requirements for Interscholastic Activities**

In accordance with IESA standards, students must be passing all classes to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities. Eligibility will be calculated each Friday affecting participation for the following week. If ineligible to participate, an athlete is not allowed to travel to events with the team. The student should still attend all practices and home games. Eligibility will not be recorded the first week of each new quarter.

### **Attendance Requirements for Interscholastic Activities**

In order to participate or attend any after-school or evening activities, students must attend all of their classes from 11:30 a.m. through the end of the day. The only exceptions to these attendance requirements are school functions, medical appointments and bereavement time.

### **Permission to Ride with Parents from an Interscholastic Activity**

Any student participating in an activity may ride home with their parent from the away activity provided their parent communicates face-to-face with the coach or sponsor after the activity is completed. They will not need a note in the office prior to the game unless a parent wants to take another child home. In that case, both sets of parents will need to have notes in the office prior to the day of the activity.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT PURPOSE / PROCEDURE**

### **Statement of Purpose**

Student activities are separate from the regular school program. While the regular curricular program is a right afforded to each student, participation in the student activities program is a **privilege** for students who wish to participate and who comply with the rules and regulations established for the respective activities; and, as such, carries certain expectations beyond those found in the normal school situation.

The important goals of the activities program are to give students direction in developing healthful living habits, self-discipline, leadership, teamwork, and respect for rules and regulations. It is important that student activities participants recognize their responsibilities as role models, both at school and in the community. We believe that our activities provide an opportunity for our adult coaches and sponsors to teach many valuable lessons and skills, and this is an opportunity for student growth in many areas.

This Activity Code is designed to state expectations and help influence positive behavior of those students representing District 228 Schools. Students who participate in activities are ambassadors of the school and the community; therefore, when they choose to participate in an activity, the expectations of the students will be higher, both while in school and out of school on a year-round basis.

The Geneseo Community Unit School District takes a strong stance against the use of illegal drugs and alcohol. The school district encourages students to not place themselves in a situation where illegal alcohol and drug use is taking place.

Activity Code violations will be acted upon based on information received from one or more of the following:

1. Law Enforcement report
2. Staff member is an eyewitness to infraction
3. Student or his/her parent or guardian reports infraction

### **Categories of Activities Subject to the Activity Code**

1. All IESA and GMS sponsored athletic competitions and those affiliated with IESA and GMS events.

- Wrestling
- Cross Country
- Football
- Volleyball
- Track
- Golf
- Basketball
- Softball
- Other approved athletic activities

2. Other student competitions sanctioned by IESA and IMEA and all other “performance-based” activities

- IESA Speech, Drama, and Individual Events
- Chess Club
- Scholastic Bowl
- Other approved activities – for which no course credit is given.

3. Student activities, which are noncompetitive, extra-curricular public performances, and all other student activities (\*national charters may require more stringent consequences). Here are some examples, but not an all-inclusive list.

- Peer Tutors
- Builders Club
- Music – for which no course credit is given
- Music Trips and Tours
- Yearbook
- Student Council & Senate
- Other approved activities & clubs.

Each student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) are required to sign an acknowledgement of their receipt of the Activity Code before the student will be allowed to participate.

The school’s action shall be independent from arrest, charge or indictment, trial, conviction, or acquittal in the criminal or juvenile courts. There is no statute of limitations applicable to violations of the Activity Code.

### **Substance Abuse Policy**

Students who **possess, consume, transport, sell, or deliver actual or look-alike alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco products, E-cigarettes, liquid nicotine, smoking materials (rolling papers, etc.)**, either in school or out of school, will face the consequences explained in this Activity Code of Conduct.

### **First Offense:**

1. Student shall be removed from participation at games for one-third (33%) of the season or one-third of the year if that is applicable to the activity.

- a. If the student is not currently involved in any of these applicable activities, this one-third (33%) suspension will be carried over to the next applicable activity in which he/she participates.
2. Can travel and practice with the team at the coaches' discretion.  
However, the student is not allowed to dress for competitions during the time of the suspension. If the team is to leave for a competition prior to the dismissal of the school day, the student may not leave early to travel with the team.
3. If said student does not satisfy all of the consequences listed for the extracurricular activity portion of the Activity Code of Conduct, the unsatisfied portion will be carried forward for one year from the anniversary date of the incident to the next activity in which the student is a participant. If one (1) year passes, and the student does not participate in any extra-curricular activities, the Activity Code of Conduct requirements will have been fulfilled.

### **Second Offense:**

1. Student shall be removed from participation at games for two-thirds (66%) of the season or two-thirds of the year if that is applicable to the activity.
  - a. If the student is not currently involved in any of these applicable activities, this two-thirds (66%) suspension will be carried over to the next applicable activity in which he/she participates.
2. Can travel and practice with the team at the coaches' discretion. However, the student is not allowed to dress for competitions during the time of the suspension. If the team is to leave for a competition prior to the dismissal of the school day, the student may not leave early to travel with the team.
3. If said student does not satisfy all of the consequences listed for the extracurricular activity portion of the Activity Code of Conduct, the unsatisfied portion will be carried forward for one year from the anniversary date of the incident to the next activity in which the student is a participant. If one year passes, and the student does not participate in any extracurricular activities, the Activity Code of Conduct requirements will have been fulfilled.

### **Policy for Suspension**

A student who receives suspension will not be allowed to compete in any extracurricular activities or participate in any practices during the time of the suspension. If the suspension carries over a weekend, the student may not participate in extracurricular activities over that weekend.

### **VIOLATION OF CRIMINAL LAWS**

Additional participation penalties for criminal laws will be determined by a committee consisting of school administrator(s), the athletic director, and three coaches/sponsors not working with the student at the time of the infraction.

## **Chapter 10: Student and Parental Right Notifications**

### **Notice Regarding Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an IEP may qualify for services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the child:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
2. Has a record of physical or mental impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

*House bill 5770, became law on August 28, 2018.*

### **Student Records**

School records are confidential and information from them shall not be released other than as provided by law. Any record that contains personally identifiable or other information that would link the document to an individual student is a school student record, if maintained by the District, except (1) records that are kept in the sole possession of a school staff member, are destroyed not later than the student's graduation or permanent withdrawal, and are not accessible or revealed to any person except a temporary substitute teacher, and (2) records kept by law enforcement officials working in the school. *(Refer to Board Policy 7:340)*

The District maintains two types of school records for each student: **a permanent record** and a **temporary record**. These records may be integrated.

**Permanent record** shall include: basic identifying information; academic transcripts; attendance record; accident and health reports; information pertaining to release of this record; and honors and awards. The permanent record shall be maintained for at least 60 years after the student graduated, withdrew, or transferred.

**Temporary record** may include: family background; intelligence and aptitude scores; psychological reports; achievement test results; state testing scores; honors and awards; disciplinary information, specifically including information regarding an expulsion, suspension, or punishment for misconduct involving drugs, weapons, or bodily harm to another; special education files; verified reports of information from non-educational persons; verified information of clear relevance to the student's education; and information pertaining to release of this record. The district will maintain the student's temporary record for at least 5 years after the student transferred, graduated, or permanently withdrew.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age certain rights with respect to the student's school records. *These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.* They are:

1. The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 business days of the day the district receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.

3. The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.
5. The right to prohibit the release of directory information. (ie. Photos, Awards, Activity Celebrations)
6. The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student's information without your prior written consent.
7. The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.
8. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failure by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

### **Homeless Child's Right to Education**

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined at law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

1. continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

***Please contact the Middle School office for information regarding the McKinney-Vento Program and the appropriate contact person.***

### **Equal Opportunity and Sex Equity**

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religious beliefs, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex or sexual orientation, be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact the superintendent.

### **Integrated Pest Management**

A state law, which went into effect August 1, 2000, requires implementation of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to pest control in schools. A major part of IPM is to minimize exposure to pesticides in the school environment. The District has implemented policies and procedures to assure that.



The law requires the least aggressive method of pest control when it comes to the use of chemicals. Non-threatening pests are not automatically confronted with pesticides. Monitoring, baiting, and removal of the source of attraction to the pest are the first response actions.

Chemical treatment for pests will only occur when other methods have failed, and the pests remain a threat. Chemical treatment will only take place after hours and only in areas where needed. Typical areas for treatment are maintenance areas, kitchens, and restrooms where food and water attract the pests. If required, treatment would be with EPA approved chemicals. All monitoring, baiting, and treatment is recorded in a log book, which is kept in the office of each building.

The law also requires notification to parents and staff members, if chemical treatment will take place. Parents may request to be notified if there would be chemical treatment of school buildings or grounds. Forms are available at the office of each building or on the District's web page: [geneseoschools.org](http://geneseoschools.org).

If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the Integrated Pest Management Policy in the Geneseo School District, please call the Unit Office at (309) 945-0450.

### **Sex Offender Notification Law**

State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

1. To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
2. To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
3. To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board.

Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property, including the three reasons above, he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children.

A violation of this law is a Class 4 felony.