

Avery County High School
2016/2017 Student Handbook and Code of Conduct



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Bell Schedules 2016 – 2017

Regular Schedule

8:15-9:51 1st Block

9:55-11:31 2nd Block

11:31-12:11 Lunch

12:15-1:51 3rd Block

1:55-3:30 4th Block

2 Hour Delay Schedule

10:15 – 11:20 1st Block

11:20 – 12:00 Lunch

12:05 – 1:10 2nd Block

1:15 – 2:20 3rd Block

2:25 – 3:30 4th Block

3 Hour Delay Schedule

11:15-11:55 Lunch

11:59-12:48 1st Block

12:52-1:41 2nd Block

1:45-2:34 3rd Block

2:38-3:30 4th Block

Scheduled Early Dismissal Schedule

8:15 – 9:01 1st Block

9:05 – 9:51 2nd Block

9:55 – 10:41 3rd Block

10:45 – 11:31 4th Block

11:31 – 12:00 Lunch

STUDENT HANDBOOK

All students are held responsible for knowing and abiding by the regulations in the student handbook.

I. SCHOOL POLICIES

ATTENDANCE

Compulsory Attendance Requirements

In accordance with G.S. 115C-378, every parent, guardian, or other person in North Carolina having charge or control of a student between the ages of 7 and 16 years shall cause the student to attend school continuously while the public school to which the student is assigned is in session. Every parent, guardian, or other person in North Carolina having charge or control of a child under age seven who is enrolled in a public school in grades Kindergarten through two shall also cause such child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned shall be in session unless the child has withdrawn from school. No person shall encourage, entice, or counsel any student to be unlawfully absent from school. The term "school" is defined to embrace all public schools and such non-public schools which have teachers and curricula that are approved by the State Board of Education.

Attendance

Regular attendance is a significant factor in educational achievement and should be encouraged in an effort to facilitate each student's optimum development. The public schools, like business and industry, must have rules and regulations concerning attendance. The purpose of this policy is to promote attendance, to help students form habits of acceptable attendance and punctuality, and to place the responsibility for school attendance on the student and his/her parents. The school supports attendance through maintaining attendance records and communicating with parents concerning any issues that may arise. The school's staff shall endeavor to cooperate fully with parents and students in matters concerning absences, tardies, and early departures. The school shall notify parents.

Power School

The Power School database is considered the legal document for calculating daily school attendance and will be used in the prosecution for non-attendance and in calculations for perfect attendance awards. In order for a student to be counted present for the school day, the student must be present at least one-half of the school's instructional day. The determination of excused or unexcused absence will be made by the homeroom (advisory) teacher or attendance clerk through a documented excuse from the parents, legal guardian, or doctor. If, on the day of the student's return to class, a teacher or clerk receives no notification from the parent regarding the reason for the absence, the teacher or clerk shall assume the absence was unexcused and code it as such in the Power School database. Counted absences shall include, but are not limited to, the following reasons: sickness, routine medical and dental visits, family trips, college visits, funerals, truancy, religious holidays, out-of-school suspension, and any personal reason.

A minimum of two days each academic year can be excused for the observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or student's parent(s) with written prior approval from the principal. The student shall have the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to the excused absence for a religious observance. On days of inclement weather when a school bus cannot run a child's road and the child is unable to attend school for that day, the absence will be considered excused and the homeroom teacher will code it as such.

As soon as a parent anticipates extended absences of two or more weeks because of a severe, prolonged, or chronic illness, the parent shall notify the principal. The principal shall make arrangements for home-bound, hospital-bound, or other appropriate instruction only upon the advice of the attending physician. (See Policy 3133 Homebound Instruction.). Parents should address all questions to the principal.

A student will be granted additional excused absences whose parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The superintendent or designee will have discretion in this matter.

A student not in attendance is counted absent.

GRADES 9-12

The Avery County Board of Education follows state law concerning daily attendance. This policy addresses per-period class attendance in grades 9-12 only. It is designed to encourage regular attendance and relates to the requirements for credit.

Attendance is an essential element in the learning process. The primary responsibility of school attendance rests with students and parents. Because high school students daily receive 90 minutes of instruction in each class, the equivalent of two instructional days

on a year-long schedule, good attendance is crucial. Based on these considerations, students missing more than fifteen (15) days in a class per semester will receive an “FF” (failure due to absences) on their report card. The student will be assigned to Summer School - OR - have the option to appeal to the Appeals Committee if they possess a C average for any class in question and have scored proficient on the final exam for that class. If an appeal goes to the appeals committee the student must be present. It should also be noted that students must attend at least 75% of the class period in order to be counted as present. Students who are not in attendance for at least 75% of the class period will be counted absent.

I. Make-up Time for Absences

A student who is absent from a course/class during more than (15) days in a class per semester will receive an “FF” on their report card hereinafter, "excessive absences". The student will be assigned to Summer School - OR - have the option to appeal to the Appeals Committee if they possess a C average for any class in question and have scored proficient on the final exam for that class.

In determining "excessive absences" no absence from a class due to the student's participation in an authorized school activity or because of in-school suspension shall be considered. Extenuating circumstances, i.e. an extended illness, should be brought to the attention of the administration, with such circumstances being dealt with at the discretion of the administration. The parent should notify the principal as soon as he/she anticipates a student's extended absence because of a severe, prolonged, or chronic illness under a physician's care. A student who has incurred excessive absences in a course and who either does not do the make-up work or does not comply with any alternative program that may have been provided by the principal shall receive a grade no higher than 59/FF in that course for the grading period (i.e. nine weeks). [If a student earns a grade lower than 59 for the nine weeks in a course the student will receive the grade earned.] Parents shall be notified in writing of the requirements for a student to successfully make up excessive absences.

Procedures for Make-Up for Tardiness or Early Departure:

1. Absences must be made up “time for time”; (i.e. a student wishing to make up one absence in one class must make up 90 minutes.
2. Time and assignments must be made up within five days of the end of the semester (prior to exams). The principal may allow additional make-up time to students with extenuating circumstances.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange to make up time and work.
4. Upon successful completion of make-up time/assignment, the student shall receive the grade earned.
5. The work assigned for make-up time will be supervised by a certified teacher or approved substitute teacher or alternate plan approved by the principal.
6. Assignments given for/during make-up time shall be appropriate for the class(es) missed.
7. The student will be required to sign in and sign out of the make-up session.

TARDINESS & EARLY DEPARTURES

• **Definition: Tardiness** is defined as arriving to class or school after the scheduled time for class or school to begin. A tardy is considered “unexcused” unless there is a valid reason for being late. Valid reasons for being late include, but are not limited to, the reasons for an excused absence as defined above as well as circumstances beyond the control of the student such as when a teacher or staff member detains a student. **Early departure** is defined as the removal of a student from school prior to the end of the instructional day without a valid reason for an excused absence as defined above.

Consequences for Tardies / Early Dismissals

- 4 tardies/early dismissals = lunch detention
- 6 tardies/early dismissals = another lunch detention
- 8 tardies/early dismissals = afternoon detention
- 12 tardies/early dismissals or more = afternoon detention (non-drivers), parking privileges revoked for a specified length of time (student drivers)

EARLY DISMISSALS

A student who needs to leave campus early (before 3:30 PM) should bring a note to the office at the beginning of their school day requesting an early dismissal. The note must be signed by the parent or guardian and state the reason, date, and time for dismissal. A telephone number where the parent or guardian can be reached must be included. School personnel will verify early dismissals by telephone. At the time the student is scheduled to leave, he/she must report to the office and be checked out.

Students who become ill at school and need to go home will be sent to the office. Office personnel will make arrangements for the student’s early dismissal.

Early dismissal from school due to weather conditions for registered drivers and their passengers: Students may be dismissed from school without warning when weather conditions become hazardous and school is to be closed early.

Early dismissal due to weather is contingent upon (1) Proper sign-out in the office; (2) Immediate departure from campus; (3) The student driver has a registered vehicle.

To comply with board policy, errands by students from school during the school day are not permitted except for emergencies. Any such dismissal, must have administrative approval.

Arrival to School in Automobiles

Students who arrive at school by private transportation are required to enter the building immediately upon arrival. Students are not to leave campus after arrival regardless of time of arrival. Off campus errands must be completed before arrival on campus. Students are not allowed to sit in parked cars or loiter in the parking lot.

Parents who bring their children to school should use the main parking lot instead of the bus entrance to insure the safety of school bus passengers. Students may not visit the parking lot during the school day without a “parking lot pass” obtained from the office.

Late Private Vehicles (those not riding a bus)

Students who arrive late to school in a private vehicle should report to the office for a tardy/admittance slip before attending any class.

STUDENT PARKING

Note: Accepting a parking space implies consent to search based upon reasonable suspicion by the school administration. Failure to abide by this policy will result in permanent loss of parking privileges.

Students granted the privilege of bringing automobiles to school must park them in designated student spaces. Students are not allowed to park in visitor spaces.

Non-transferable parking permits will be sold in the main office. The student must present a valid driver’s license and the car registration when purchasing the permit. A \$20.00 fee will be charged for each space. If the student registers more than one vehicle for the assigned space, no additional fee will be charged.

Students who leave campus early to attend Mayland Community College or go to work are expected to leave school at the end of their final class and not return, unless they have prior written consent.

Student vehicles are permitted in the front lot and ACMS lot by permit only. No student vehicles are allowed in the bus lot or behind the building without a special permit from the office. Vehicles parked without a valid permit or in an off-limits area may be ticketed or towed at the owner’s expense. Students who violate parking regulations may be fined, towed, or have parking privileges suspended or revoked. Along with this, all traffic laws must be obeyed. Parking regulations become effective immediately. See Random Drug Testing of Students, Avery County Schools Policy 4326.

Parking Lot Passes

Students who need to visit the parking lot during the school day should obtain a “parking lot pass” from the front office before entering the parking area. When the student re-enters the building, the parking lot pass must be returned to the office.

LOSE CONTROL/LOSE YOUR LICENSE

Academic progress toward graduation is required to hold a North Carolina driver's permit or license

Effective August 1, 1988, students under the age of eighteen must meet minimum academic standards in order to hold a North Carolina driver's license or learner's permit. The NC Board of Education has defined these minimum standards as passing three courses each semester. Students who do not meet the required standards will be mandated by the Department of Motor Vehicles to surrender their licenses or permits until "progress is demonstrated" by meeting the minimum standard OR a high school diploma (or its equivalent) is earned OR the student reaches the age of eighteen. Under no circumstances will a high school dropout under the age of eighteen be allowed to hold a North Carolina driver's license.

Students who live in North Carolina and attend school in Tennessee will be required to meet the North Carolina standard. The high school principal is required by law to report the names of all dropouts, GED transfers to the community college, and students who do not meet the minimum standards to the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. The DMV will, in turn, revoke the license or permit based on the information provided.

To maintain eligibility, students must continue to meet the minimum standards by passing three courses each semester. The principal does not have the authority to waive eligibility requirements.

Effective July 1, 2000 any student that is given an expulsion/suspension for more than 10 consecutive days or an assignment or an alternative educational setting for more than 10 consecutive days for one of the following reasons will have their driving license suspended for at least six months.

LICENSE AND PERMIT INFORMATION

*Restrictions/Guidelines for Limited Learner Permit (Level I)

1. Permit holder must be in possession of the permit
2. A supervising driver must be beside the permit holder in the front seat of the vehicle while in motion. No one else can be in the front seat.
3. For the first 6 months after issuance, the permit holder may drive only between 5 am—9 pm with a supervising driver.
4. After the first 6 months of issuance, the permit holder may drive at any time with a supervising driver.
5. Every person in the vehicle being driven by the permit holder must have a seat belt or child restraint system properly fastened when the vehicle is in motion.

*Restrictions/Conditions for Limited Provisional License (Level II)

1. License holder must be in the possession of the license.
2. The license driver may drive without supervision in any of the following circumstances:
 - *From 5 am-9 pm
3. *When driving to or from work
4. *When driving to or from an activity of a volunteer fire department, volunteer rescue squad, or volunteer emergency medical service if the driver is a member of the organization.
5. The license holder may drive with supervision at any time. When driving with supervision, the supervising driver must be seated beside the driver in the front seat of the vehicle when in motion. There can be other occupants in the front seat.
6. Every person occupying the vehicle being driven by the license holder must have a safety belt or child restraint system properly fastened when the vehicle is in motion.
7. The limited provisional license must be kept for at least 6 months.
8. Passengers under the age of 21 are allowed in 2 scenarios:
9. *The number of passengers allowed in a motor vehicle under the age of 21 is restricted to ONE when the driver of the vehicle is the license holder of the Level II OR
10. *If all passengers under the age of 21 are members of the driver's immediate family or members of the same household as the driver, there is no under 21 limit. If the supervising driver is in the car, this restriction does not apply. Supervising Driver is defined as a parent or guardian or the Division. A supervising driver must be a licensed driver who has been licensed to drive for at least 5 years.

BUS REGULATIONS

Riding a school bus is a privilege afforded a student. Associated with this privilege is the responsibility for safe, mature behavior. A student should not engage in any behavior that might endanger the safety of the passengers or the driver. Students should observe the same standards of behavior on the bus as in the classroom. Smoking and tobacco products are prohibited on the bus.

Students are expected to obey the instructions of the bus driver while riding the school bus. Engaging in inappropriate behavior or failing to follow the instruction of the driver may result in suspension from riding the bus on a short-term or long-term basis.

Students who arrive to school on buses are expected to enter the building immediately and remain. The parking lot is off-limits to bus passengers unless a "parking lot pass" is obtained from the office. In the afternoons, bus passengers are expected to board the bus immediately upon dismissal from class.

All changes for transportation must be accompanied by a written note signed by a parent/guardian with a phone number. Notes must be turned into the office upon arrival to school.

LATE BUSES: Students who are tardy or absent from school due to a bus problem are excused from classes missed provided the student signs in at the office upon arrival to school, AND reports to class immediately after signing-in.

CLASS PARTICIPATION/COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Students will not be allowed to sit in class and “do nothing.” Every student is expected to follow the instructions of the teacher and participate in class. Failure to work is very distracting to the teacher and other students. Parents will be contacted and disciplinary action will be taken if necessary.

HOMEWORK

Every teacher will distribute a syllabus for their class at the beginning of the semester. The syllabus will include the scope of course work, the general order of presentation, and the major projects for the semester. It will also include the best time and method (phone, e-mail, etc.) to contact the teacher. The syllabus may also include days/time the teacher is available for extra help. A timetable of specific dates is encouraged. The syllabus should be posted on each faculty member's Haiku page.

Any departmental guidelines, which exceed Avery County High School's general policies, will be included in the syllabus. This includes policies concerning late work, make-up or missed work, long-term projects, notebooks, take-home tests and class participation.

CAFETERIA PRICES & RULES

During lunch, students are to remain in the cafeteria or designated areas at all times. Breakfast and lunch prices for students:

Breakfast: \$1.25 for Full Price, Reduced- FREE, Free- FREE

Lunch: 9-12 grades \$2.40 for Full price, Reduced-40¢, and Free-FREE, Second student lunch=\$3.50

Milk and juice =.50

Ice cream=.85

Vegetables & Fruit A la carte=.75

Students should adhere to the following procedures during lunch:

- 1) Trash should be placed in trash cans.
- 2) Tables, floors, and chairs should be left clean.
- 3) Taking items without paying is stealing.
- 4) Using another person's lunch number is not allowed.
- 5) Bathrooms are located in the gym lobby-- all others are off limits at lunch.
- 6) Throwing food is strictly prohibited.

- 7) Serving lines should remain single file.
- 8) Running to or from the cafeteria is prohibited.
- 9) Outside food is prohibited due to federal guidelines and the North Carolina Competitive foods sales law.

COMPLAINTS/GRIEVANCES

The Administration of Avery County High School and the Avery County Board of Education strives to resolve concerns and complaints whenever possible. To this end, the principal and school board have provided opportunities for students and parents to express their concerns through processes established in board policies. Any parent or student who is unclear of the options for proceeding with a concern should contact the principal (Dr. R. Todd Griffin).

DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE (Students)

Appearance or clothing which is disruptive, provocative, indecent, vulgar, obscene, or which advertises illegal drugs or displays obnoxious or indecent signs, symbols or drawings, or which endangers the health or safety of the student or others is prohibited.

Clothing that is appropriate for school is general sports, casual dress, or dress clothes that are clean, decent, and worn properly. Clothing must suit the following guidelines:

1. Hats, toboggans, scarves or any other type head covering cannot be worn in the building during school hours nor can they be worn during special school sponsored programs (such as awards programs, etc) after regular school hours.
2. Shoes and shirts must be worn at all times.
3. All shirts, sweaters, blouses, tops, and dresses must cover the entire shoulder and underarm and may not expose the midriff or lower back while walking, standing or sitting. No tank tops or spaghetti straps tops are allowed. Shirts or blouses that are excessively tight, sheer (see through), or low-cut and expose cleavage may not be worn.
4. Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be mid thigh or longer. In physical education (PE) classes, the length of shorts may be a few inches shorter only if the student is wearing the standard school PE uniform and the waistband is not "rolled" to make the length shorter. PE shorts may not be worn to regular classes. After school practice clothing must meet the standards for PE with appropriate modifications for the sport involved. Track shorts are inappropriate and prohibited.
5. Pants must be secured at the waist so as not to restrict movement or expose underwear. No tear-away (snaps at side) pants may be worn. Pants with holes or torn areas above the knee that expose any skin may not be worn. "Sagging pants" are prohibited.

6. Tights, leggings, yoga pants, etc. are inappropriate and prohibited - unless covered by a long shirt/dress at least to mid thigh. Pants with writing across the bottoms will be not allowed.

7. No pajamas, pajama pants, or bedroom slippers may be worn.

8. No sexually suggestive or vulgar message logo shirts or shirts with symbols that are discriminating, fearful, or disruptive to the learning environment are to be worn. Students may not wear garments that advertise or promote alcohol, drugs, tobacco, violence, profanity or sex. Gang related “colors” or attire may not be worn.

9. No chains, studded or spiked necklaces or bracelets are to be worn.

10. No sunglasses are to be worn in the school.

For consequences for violating the school dress code **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 5), Avery County Schools.**

NOTE: The administration shall have the authority to determine when personal appearance and dress style do not meet school standards. In these instances, the administration may require the student to either change clothing or be sent home.

EMERGENCY AND FIRE DRILLS

Emergency and fire drills, as required by law, will be held at regular intervals. Such practices are important and should be approached seriously.

FLOWERS & GIFTS...

All flowers or gifts for students from florists, local businesses, or individuals will be distributed to students at the end of the day.

FINES AND FEES

All fines must be paid before a student can receive macbooks, report cards, transcripts, be eligible to attend the prom, or receive their diploma. Fines include, but are not limited to, book fees, damage to school equipment or property, library fines or lost books, failure to return athletic uniforms or equipment, etc. Students who accept items for fund raising are responsible for the return of the items or the money. Legal action may be taken if necessary to clear these accounts.

HALL PASSES

Every student is expected to be in class during the entire class period. When students are not in their classrooms, they must have a hall pass issued by their teacher. Students who need to visit

Student Services, the main office, the parking lot, etc., must FIRST report to the classroom teacher. A STUDENT'S FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO BE IN CLASS ON TIME. Emergency situations will be handled on an individual basis.

INTERNET

The use of computers and related software programs such as the internet is a privilege to be respected. Unauthorized uses of the system will not be tolerated. Any person who willfully and wrongfully uses the electronic equipment provided by Avery County High School will have their use privileges revoked and necessary punitive actions will be taken. All students should read and adhere to the Avery County Schools Acceptable Use Policy.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker. The locker assigned is not the student's private property and may be opened and inspected by school authorities at any time. Any unauthorized item found may be removed and held by the school for return to parents, guardian, or law enforcement officials (if a violation of the law is suspected). Locks are not to be put on lockers. The school is not responsible for items removed or stolen from lockers. Students are encouraged not to "jam" lockers so that they remain unlocked.

Returning students will be assigned the same locker each year, if possible. Ninth graders and new students will be issued new lockers. The locker combination should be kept confidential. The office will give locker combinations only to the student to whom the locker is assigned.

MAKING UP WORK

Work missed because of absences is to be completed upon the student's return to school. Make-up provisions vary depending upon the type of absence and class. Teachers are granted discretion in setting deadlines for make-up work within these guidelines:

It is the responsibility of the student to check with each teacher and arrange for making up missed assignments. A student will have two days after the first day and one more day for each additional excused consecutive absence to hand in the make-up work.

Prearranged Excuses - These are to be used when students know they will be absent for doctor's appointments, college visits, or other matters. Clearance with the principal may be necessary in some of these cases.

MEDIA SERVICES

The library is open for general student use before and after school. The library should be used to enrich one's education. Students are asked to help provide an environment conducive to good

research and reading. Noise must be kept to a minimum and students are expected to follow all posted rules. **Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the library.**

MEDICATIONS

Students may “self-medicate”, or parent/guardians may request school-designated personnel to do so if: (1) the student has a chronic health problem or medication is necessary to maintain health; (2) the student is subject to unusual health hazards; and/or (3) the student is recuperating from an acute illness, when, according to the physician, the medication must be given more frequently than every eight hours.

Parents/guardians requesting that the school administer physician-prescribed medications should ask the office for information as to the procedures to initiate school personnel administration of prescribed medications.

SECURITY

With a student body of several hundred, steps must be taken to protect the rights and properties of everyone. The following precautions are STRONGLY recommended:

1. Label all personal items, including coats and jackets;
2. Do not leave pocketbooks or billfolds unattended at any time (this includes locker rooms);
3. Excessive money and/or expensive personal items, such as jewelry, should not be brought to school;
4. Lockers should be kept locked -- the school cannot be responsible for items taken from lockers;
5. Money and other valuables should not be left in the locker room during gym classes.

SELLING AT ACHS

No student or club is allowed to sell any items or solicit business for any individual or group for any reason without the consent of the principal.

STUDENTS WHO REMAIN AFTER SCHOOL

Students who remain in the building after school hours must be under the supervision of a coach or faculty member. All other students are expected to leave campus immediately. Students who remain after school for athletics should report directly to the practice area and their coach. Athletes will remain under the coach’s supervision until dismissed to go home. Students who remain for tutoring, make-up work, club activities, drama, band, JROTC, etc., should report directly to the faculty sponsor and designated area. Students will remain under the supervision of the faculty sponsor until departing campus. Students found unsupervised on the campus after school hours, including ACMS students will be placed in a supervised area until a parent or

guardian arrives. Students who do not ride a bus should depart campus no later than 3:40 PM. Unsupervised students may not remain on campus (outside basketball courts, parking lot, etc.).

TEACHERS' WORKROOM AND RESTROOMS

The teachers' workroom, vending machine, refrigerator, microwave, and restrooms are off-limits to students. Students should not pass through the faculty workroom area from the library to the front office unless accompanied by a faculty member. Students remaining after school are not allowed to enter the teachers' workroom or restrooms without permission. Students are NOT to have a custodian purchase items for them from the vending machine.

VISITORS

Students are not allowed to bring friends or relatives to school to attend classes with them. Students will not be allowed to receive visitors on campus during the school day.

All visitors to the campus should report to the office immediately upon arrival to gain permission to be on the school grounds. Authorized visitors shall be issued a "Visitor's Permit." *Avery County Schools Policy Code: 4304*

II. STUDENT SERVICES

The Student Services Department at Avery County High School is designed to assist students with personal, academic, and career planning concerns. A student can schedule an appointment with a counselor by going to the Student Services Department before school or during lunch.

If students need to see their counselor during a class period, they should personally contact their classroom teacher and request permission. There is no waiting room in the Student Services Department; therefore, students are to wait for their appointment in their class. In emergency situations, the Student Services Department Administrative Assistant will notify the teacher. Except in emergency situations, students will not be involved in counseling during EOC classes.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

Students may earn Advanced Placement (AP) credits that enable them to begin college work while still in high school. Advanced Placement courses, identified with the AP symbol, prepare students to take the Advanced Placement examination in that subject. Successful completion of the AP examination can provide both high school and college credit. Many colleges give full college credit for high scores. AP courses can give students a head start on college as well as excellent preparation for the SAT and college coursework.

All students enrolled in an AP course must take the AP exam in May. The exams must be taken on the designated test day. The test dates are national test dates and cannot be altered for any reason. In the event a student misses an AP exam they have the following options:

- 1) Take the make-up exam on the national make-up day and pay a \$90.00 make-up fee.
- 2) Do not take the exam and receive an Honors credit for the course with honors weighting.

COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

Students are preregistered in the spring for the following year's courses. Careful consideration of student interests and future educational plans are used to assist students in the selection of courses and academy placement. Parents are encouraged to assist in the preregistration process. The master schedule of course offerings is designed according to student course selections, and teachers are assigned according to the preregistration numbers.

Once the scheduling process begins in early June, course selections are considered final. Space is limited in many courses, especially electives. Students are encouraged to carefully select courses since limited opportunity will be available for changes after the master schedule is completed. **SCHEDULE CHANGES** – All schedule change requests must be submitted during the schedule change days in the summer. Students taking classes at Mayland Community College must insure that schedule changes are coordinated through ACHS Student Services.

COURSE WEIGHTING

The North Carolina Board of Education has a standardized weighting system for all courses offered in North Carolina public high schools. The state course weights changed at the beginning of the 2015/2016 school year. The current course weights are as follows:

11th and 12th graders: The standard weight for academic and “standard” courses is 4 on a 4.0 scale. Honors courses are 5 on a 4.0 scale. Advanced Placement courses are 6 on a 4.0 scale. Dual Enrollment College Transfer courses are 5 on a 4.0 scale. Project Lead the Way courses are either 5 or 6 depending on the area of study. NCVPS credits will receive the assigned weight for each course.

9th and 10th graders: The standard weight for academic and “standard” courses is 4 on a 4.0 scale. Honors courses are 4.5 on a 4.0 scale. Advanced Placement courses are 5 on a 4.0 scale. Dual Enrollment College Transfer courses are 5 on a 4.0 scale. Project Lead the Way courses are either 4.5 or 5 depending on the area of study.

Exam Exemption for Classes without State Mandated Testing

- 6 total absences (unexcused/excused) in ALL classes, with A average,
- 3 total absences (unexcused/excused) in ALL classes, with B average,

- 1 total absence (unexcused/excused) in ALL classes, with C average,

GRADING STANDARDS

Grades are issued at the end of each nine-week grading period. The ACHS grading scale is: 90-100 A 80-89 B 70-79 C 60-69 D 0-59 F

Each course is eighteen weeks in duration. A final grade will be issued at the end of each semester to determine course credit. Final grades are computed as follows:

1st Nine weeks' Grade 40% 2nd Nine weeks' Grade..... 40% Exam or EOC Test Grade..... 20%

The final grade must be 60 or above in order to receive credit for the course. If the final grade is below 60, the course must be repeated for credit. Students who earn a grade of 55-59 in an academic course will be required to attend summer school for credit recovery. Student transcripts will reflect the earned letter grade for all courses.

MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dual Enrollment:

Avery High students have the opportunity to earn free college credit while they are enrolled in high school. Students wishing to obtain an Associate Degree or a four-year degree after high school graduation may earn transferable credits by making a "C" or better in general education core classes. To enroll in these classes, students must make a minimum admission score on the ACT or the Accuplacer college placement tests. These Accuplacer tests are available at the end of each semester through Mayland Community College. Transferable classes fall under the guidelines of the NC Comprehensive Articulation Agreement (CAA). The CAA is a statewide agreement governing the transfer of credits between N.C. community colleges and N.C. public universities. The following is important information to remember:

- Students must receive a "C" or higher in each course for the course to transfer.
- The receiving institution will determine whether the course will count as general education, major, or elective credit.
- While the CAA is an agreement with NC public schools only, many NC private schools and out-of- state schools chose to accept transfer credits as well.

- Students must submit a request for Mayland to send an official transcript to the college they will be attending in the fall.

Students wishing to earn a post-secondary certificate or enter the workforce after high school graduation may enroll in non-transferable college classes. These vocational classes are designed to prepare students for the workforce by allowing them to obtain necessary skills for career placement.

Dual Enrollment guidelines and policies are governed by the NC Department of Public Instruction and the NC Community College System. The above information is as accurate as possible on the date of publication but is subject to change.

Enrollment:

In order for students to be enrolled in a Mayland Community College Dual enrollment course, they must have a weighted grade point average of 3.0 and demonstrate college readiness in English, reading and Mathematics on an assessment or placement test. If an Avery High student does not perform well academically (letter grade of C or above) in a Mayland course, the student may be placed on probation from taking Mayland dual enrollment courses for one semester. Students must take ACA 115 prior to taking an on-line Mayland course.

Textbooks:

All Avery High students enrolled in Mayland Community College Dual Enrollment courses must retrieve textbooks from the Avery High School media center (see Beverly Gambill). Students should not purchase textbooks from the Mayland CC bookstore unless directed by school administration. Students must return their textbooks to the Avery High Media Center immediately after the course ends each semester. If students do not return the Mayland textbooks immediately, students will be charged the full price of the textbooks.

Dropping Mayland courses:

If an Avery High student registers for a Mayland Community College Dual Enrollment course and drops the course (WP or WF) or is dropped from the course (WA), at any time during the semester in which the student is enrolled, the Avery high student must, then be enrolled in an Avery High school course.

Avery High school course:

If an Avery High student drops a Mayland Dual Enrollment course or is dropped from this class due to academic performance, the student will owe the high school for the cost of the textbooks and/or electronic textbook code required for the class. Additionally, the drop form must be signed by the Avery High School principal.

ACHS juniors and seniors have the option to take Dual Enrollment courses through Mayland Community College. Some courses are offered at both Mayland's main campus in Spruce Pine

and the campus in Newland. Students who take courses at Mayland Community College will be allowed to leave ACHS and drive to Mayland. Once Mayland students return to ACHS, they must sign in with the attendance clerk (Debbie Burleson) and report to the designated location.

NORTH CAROLINA COURSE OF STUDY AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students are expected to meet the requirements of the Future-Ready Core Course of Study. The Future-Ready Core will provide students with a strong academic foundation and enable the students to have as many options as possible upon graduation from high school.

Core Requirements: The Future Ready Core Course of Study prepares students for entering college and the workforce. The Future-Ready Core requires a fourth math course of all students in order to meet admission requirements for colleges and community colleges as well as the demand from employers for similar academic skills. Students will be prepared for whatever option they decide to embark upon after high school. The Future Ready Core also recommends four courses in a particular concentration area, chosen by the student, to enhance student learning.

NORTH CAROLINA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Students who complete the North Carolina Board of Education's requirements for a "well-balanced, challenging high school program" will receive special recognition as North Carolina Scholars. Specific requirements are available from student services.

OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OF STUDENTS & INTERNSHIPS

Students who are enrolled in a CTE internship course or other opportunity programs will be allowed early dismissal by the Avery County Board of Education. Dropping a class without permission is considered "no attempt" (students must be attending classes on a regular basis to be considered "attempting"). Also, failure to take an EOC or VOCATS test is considered "non-attempt."

Students who have been approved for early dismissal are expected to leave campus immediately at the designated time and should not return to campus without permission from the administration. Mayland students whose classes are cancelled should report to the media center or Learning Lab.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress Reports will be generated and saved to each student's Macbook Haiku page at the end of each grading period. Once Progress Reports have been generated, an email will be sent to all students and parents.

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

Beginning with the 1998-99 school year, students entering high school must pass certain required courses, in addition to earning a minimum number of credits, to be promoted to the next grade level. Students will be promoted according to the following standards:

To be promoted to the 10th grade, a student must have earned at least six credits.

To be promoted to the 11th grade, a student must have earned at least 12 credits.

To be promoted to the 12th grade, a student must have earned a minimum of 20 credits and be able to satisfy all graduation requirements within the remaining two semesters.

Students must complete a minimum of 28 credits including all required courses, and pass all tests required by the state of North Carolina before receiving a high school diploma.

All required units of credit must be earned at Avery County High School or transferred from another high school. Elective credits may be earned at Mayland Community College or a similar institution if the courses meet the North Carolina graduation requirements.

TESTING

State End of Course Testing: Students enrolled in Math I, Biology and English II will complete State Administered End of Course Exams, which count as 20% of their final class grade.

Pre-Act: All 10th graders will take the pre-Act in the fall semester. **PSAT** is optional for sophomores.

THE ACT: All 11th grade students will take the ACT spring semester. The ACT is also a standardized multiple-choice test. The questions directly relate to knowledge you have learned in your high school courses in English, mathematics, reading, and science. ACT also provides you with a unique Interest Inventory and Student Profile Section.

North Carolina Common Finals: Students enrolled in academic course will take a state common exam at the end of the semester.

WorkKeys: All senior take the ACT WorkKeys test during the spring semester.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The Valedictorian is the student in a graduating class with the highest weighted academic average. This ranking is based on all courses taken in high school. In addition, the following requirements must be met:

1. Residence - The student must be enrolled at ACHS for the entire senior year
2. Citizenship - No In-school or Out-of-school Suspensions for the entire senior year.

The Salutatorian is the student in a graduating class with the second highest weighted academic average. The ranking and requirements are the same as for the Valedictorian. In determining the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, a transfer student's weighted courses from another school or system cannot exceed the weight of those awarded at ACHS. Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be determined at the end of the 3rd quarter during the senior year.

JUNIOR MARSHALS

Marshals for graduation will be chosen from the junior class. The top twelve juniors with the highest weighted averages will receive this honor. This ranking is based on the first five semesters in high school (based on class rank pulled after the fall semester of the junior year). In addition, students must meet the same residence and citizenship requirements as the Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Ninth grade students are eligible to participate in NCHSAA sports upon entry to high school for one semester. All students must meet county attendance policy and pass a minimum course load of 85% (ex. if a student is enrolled in four classes, they **MUST** pass three of the classes) **EVEN IF THEY NEED FEWER TO GRADUATE!**

Random Drug/Alcohol Testing (Avery County Schools Policy 4326):

The Avery Board of education strongly believes that drug and alcohol abuse can be detrimental to the physical and mental health and the academic performance of its students. Furthermore, the Board believes that high school athletes, cheerleaders, and other students participating in extracurricular activities are representatives of the school system and are often role models for other students and, therefore, have great influence on other students. It is from this rationale and out of concern for students' well-being and safety that a random drug testing program is being initiated in the Avery County school system. The goal of the random drug testing program is to help students by deterring and eliminating the use of illegal and/or controlled substances in its

schools. Please refer to **SUSPENSION OF PARTICIPANTS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS (board policy 4354)**.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE

Student accident insurance is available through a school contract. Basic student coverage is available in several options. Twenty-four hour coverage is also available. Supplemental Athletic insurance is provided at no cost to all ACHS athletes. See Jay Smith, Athletic Director, for more information.

ATHLETIC AND SPECIAL EVENTS

While at athletic events at ACHS, other schools, or in other school districts, school rules apply as if the student is on campus during school hours. The same holds true at school-sponsored dances and special events held on the campus at any other time.

CLUBS

There is a wide range of clubs offered at ACHS for the educational and enrichment experience of every student. The following is a sample list of clubs available and more information can be obtained from members of the faculty and staff:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
ART:	Michelle Bolick
BAND:	Dee Raby
BETA:	Penny Ward
BOOK CLUB:	Hollie Greene
CARPENTRY:	Nick Daniels
CHORUS:	Tara Andrews
DRAMA:	Coleman Bailey Shannon Perdue
FBLA:	Tina Hughes
FCCLA:	Martha Godwin
FFA:	Dewayne Krege Gretchen Blackburn
HOMECOMING:	Andy Miller
HOSA:	Susan Hawkins
JR. BETA:	Hollie Greene
JROTC:	Randel Matney
KEY CLUB:	Teresa Shadoin
LINK CREW:	Coleman Bailey
NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:	Shannon Perdue

**NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY:
PROM:**

Mark Parlier
Shelby Barrier,
Jennifer Hurst, Michelle
Bolick
Cheri Frye
Libby Gragg
Kim Davis
Tim Winters
Meredith Perez
Andy Miller
Nick Daniels
Dewayne Krege
Teila Terrell

**STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS:
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:
SCIENCE FAIR:
SHERIFF EXPLORERS:
SPANISH:
STUDENT GOVERNMENT:
UIC:**

YEARBOOK:

PROM GUIDELINES

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES CAREFULLY :

Students/dates will be reviewed and a decision made by a school committee made up of the school SRO (School Resource Officer), teachers, and administrators. Persons who have current/past criminal charges pending, criminal records, are on court supervision, have been suspended from school for serious offenses from Avery High or any other school this year, or are currently suspended from school ***WILL NOT*** be allowed to attend the Prom. Administrative decisions for disciplinary actions are at the administrator(s) discretion.

Please note the following : High School Dropouts (including GED):

May not attend the Prom until the year of their Graduation has passed. For example: If a student would have graduated in 2011, that person is not eligible to attend Prom until 2012. Students 19 and under must be enrolled as a student in high school or have a diploma. Students must be in high school grade levels 9, 10, 11, or 12 (this includes Home School). **No** GED's for students under that age of 19 and **NO** middle school (grades 6,7, or 8) students will be allowed as dates (this includes Home School).

Dates of Avery High students may not be over 21 years old.

Prom Rules and Regulations: (for ALL attending Prom)

1. All North Carolina School Laws/Avery High rules apply to **ALL** persons attending Prom
2. Avery County Schools are drug-free, tobacco-free, and energy drink free (of use)
3. **NO** Alcoholic beverages or controlled substances will be allowed/tolerated
4. **NO** Tobacco products or Energy drinks

5. **PROM ATTIRE(clothing)-** is *FORMAL*. A minimum of a coat and tie for gentlemen (males) is required. No baseball caps. Cowboy, Top Hats or hats that are considered part of your Formal attire are allowed. Females should dress appropriately for the fashion of Prom and should have their attired (dresses) fitted to not reveal any inappropriate body parts.
6. **Everyone attending the PROM should behave as young ladies and gentlemen (Be on your best behavior)**
7. **Couples(Avery High Student and their date) must arrive together with PROM TICKETS and be prepared to present a picture ID (this include drivers license or school ID).** Note: Tickets **may not** be *transferred* or *given* to another person or date without resubmitting a prom date application. Please turn in any unused tickets to the Prom coordinator.
8. Tickets are sold in **advance** only. No tickets will be sold the week of the Prom or at the door the night of the Prom.

ACHS “Noble Vikings” ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS PROGRAM

“Elite Vikings” The grade of “A” is awarded in all courses for each nine weeks and maintained from initial recognition until graduation.

1st nine weeks: a) T-shirt, b) Certificate, c) free admission to seasonal sporting events

2nd nine weeks: a) Wall of Fame posting, b) free admission to seasonal sporting events

3rd nine weeks: a) Name entered for \$50.00 gift card

4th nine weeks: a) Academic letter if “elite” status all 4 quarters

“Stellar” Vikings”

1st nine weeks: a) certificate, b) free admission to seasonal athletic events

2nd nine weeks: a) Wall of fame posting, b) free admission to seasonal athletic events

3rd nine weeks: a) Name entered for \$25.00 gift card

4th nine weeks: a) T-shirt (if “stellar” status all 4 quarters)

DISCIPLINE

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

Student use, possession, distribution, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, controlled substances, “look-alike” drugs, steroids, or possessing paraphernalia on any school premise or at any school function (home or away) is strictly prohibited. The Board of Education policy dictates automatic OSS, drug abuse assessment, and law enforcement involvement for all drug offenses. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 15 & 16), Avery County Schools Policy 4304.**

FAILURE TO COMPLETE DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Failure to complete disciplinary action is a serious offense. When a lunch detention, ISS, or other disciplinary measure is assigned, it is the student’s responsibility to complete that assignment. Failure to complete any disciplinary action will result in a more serious disciplinary action (usually out-of- school suspension). Students assigned to ISS must complete the assignment before returning to class. Students who leave school early while in ISS will be assigned an extra day of ISS. OSS students may not return to campus during the OSS period unless instructed to do so by administration. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 4), Avery County Schools.**

HARASSMENT

NC State Law prohibits harassment and bullying. No one should be subjected to harassment at school for any reason. Therefore, it is the policy of Avery County Schools that all employees, volunteers, parents and students will deal with all persons in ways which convey respect and consideration for individuals regardless of race, color, marital status, national origin, creed, religion, gender, age, or disability. Acts of harassment, hostility, or defamation, whether verbal, written, electronic, or physical, will not be tolerated and constitute grounds for disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from school. Sexual harassment includes all unwanted, uninvited and non-reciprocal sexual attention as well as the creation of an intimidating, hostile or offensive school or work environment. Harassment can include:

1. Sexually suggestive looks or gestures.
2. Sexual jokes, pictures, or teasing.
3. Pressure for dates or sex.
4. Sexually demeaning comments.
5. Deliberate touching, cornering, or pinching.
6. Attempts to kiss or fondle.
7. Threats, demands, or suggestions that favors will be granted in exchange for sex or tolerance of sexual advances. Harassment of any nature should be reported to a faculty or staff member. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 11), Avery County Schools.**

INAPPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to: kisses, embraces, sitting on laps, hands in wrong places, or any other activity that would not be acceptable in a nice restaurant, at your parent’s dinner table or in a courtroom before a judge.

“Any behavior that goes beyond holding hands is considered an inappropriate display of affection.” **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 7), Avery County Schools.**

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

Administrators will make in-school suspension assignments for designated offenses. Students in ISS will follow the disciplinary plan of the ISS supervisor. Students will be expected to report to the ISS area no later than 8:15A.M. and remain until 3:30 P.M.

All electronic devices including cell phones must be turned into the ISS supervisor for the entire time students are assigned to ISS. Students will be required to work on a school-wide book study during ISS if they do not have or have completed their assigned school work. If a student must use the restroom during ISS, an administrator or student services member must escort them to the restroom and back to ISS. Lunch will be served to ISS students in a separate setting. ISS students are responsible for turning in all work assigned to them during ISS before they can return to regular classes. Failure to complete assignments to teacher expectations may result in an extension of the ISS assignment. A student assigned to ISS is not counted absent from class.

Students do not have the option to choose OSS instead of ISS. Refusal to attend ISS will result in OSS. However, the student must complete the ISS assignment before returning to class. If a student misses any portion of the time they are assigned to ISS, they must make that time up the next day they are in school.

LUNCH DETENTION

Classroom teachers or administrators may assign lunch detention for designated offenses. The lunch detention assignment must be completed on the date assigned by the office. Failure to accept the assignment will result in additional disciplinary measures. Students must follow the posted rules to receive credit for the detention assignment. Failure to complete lunch detention on the assigned date will result in 1 day of ISS on the first offense, two days ISS on the second offense and OSS on each additional offense.

Students who receive more than three lunch detentions from one teacher will be considered for ISS since the lunch detentions are not changing the student’s behavior.

OBJECTS TO BE LEFT AT HOME

Items specifically mentioned in the Avery County Board of Education policies, including tobacco products, drugs, alcohol, weapons, etc., are strictly forbidden. Possession of any of these items may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the item(s).

Skateboards, skates, and rollerblades should be left at home; they are not permitted on the buses or on campus for any reason.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Administrators will make out-of-school suspension assignments for designated offenses, chronic misconduct, and major school district policy infractions.

Students assigned to OSS may not be on the school campus at any time during the suspension without administrative permission. Violation of this condition will be considered trespassing, and law enforcement officials may be notified.

Students assigned to OSS may not participate in any school activity (field trips, athletic practice or events, etc.) while assigned to OSS. Students who return to any school property while under suspension are subject to prosecution for trespassing under GS 14-159.13.

Students assigned to OSS cannot return to classes until they and their parent/guardian have met with an administrator.

See Student Code of Conduct, Avery County Schools Policy 4304.

PERIOD ISS

Period ISS assignments are used to remove disruptive students from the classroom. Students may receive three period ISS assignments during a semester. Upon a fourth period-ISS referral, two days of ISS will be assigned. Further referrals will result in ISS or OSS. Students who refuse to leave a classroom when directed by the teacher or an administrator will be subject to OSS – not period ISS.

PROFANITY

Profanity and vulgar language and gestures are strictly prohibited. This rule extends to all areas of the school -- classrooms, halls, cafeteria, field trips, etc. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 10), Avery County Schools.**

RANDOM DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING POLICY

The Avery County Board of Education strongly believes that drug and alcohol abuse can be detrimental to the physical and emotional health and the academic performance of its students. Furthermore, the Board believes that high school athletes, cheerleaders, student drivers and other students participating in extracurricular activities are representatives of the school system and are often role models for other students and, therefore, have great influence on other students. It is from this rationale and out of concern for students' well being and safety that a random student drug testing program is being initiated in the Avery County school system. The goal of the random drug testing program is to help students by deterring and eliminating the use of illegal and/or controlled substances in its schools.

SMOKING AND THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

“The Avery County Board of Education believes that smoking and other uses of tobacco products are unsanitary and injurious to a person’s health and the health of others; therefore, smoking and the use of tobacco products in buildings owned by the Board of Education is prohibited. No tobacco products usage by students will be tolerated at school sponsored-events, even if the event is outdoors: in compliance with policy 10.2.2. and Policy #7.1.3.5 - Smoking and use of Tobacco Products.”

What this means...

Smoking or the use or possession of tobacco products is not allowed on school grounds at any time. This includes parking lots and buses. Individuals are not allowed to use tobacco products or smoke on school grounds even if they are attending an outdoor, school -- sponsored activity as a spectator. Smoking or the use of tobacco products is not allowed on field trips or while participating in any school-sponsored activity. Students who remain after school for athletics, clubs, etc., are not allowed the use or possession of tobacco. Students will receive the same punishment for possession as for use. If any student is assisting another in smoking (e.g., holding a bathroom curtain closed, being a lookout), that student will also be disciplined. If someone is smoking, other students should leave the area immediately to prevent being guilty by association. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 9), Avery County Schools Policy 4304.**

TRUANCY OR SKIPPING CLASSES

Skipping classes or truancy from school is a violation of school policy. Truancy/skipping is defined as follows: unauthorized absence from one or more classes during the school day or leaving the school campus for any reason without prior permission or proper sign-out. Students who arrive at school after the first period begins and do not check-in at the office before attending a class will be considered truant from any classes missed.

For disciplinary purposes, any student who rides a bus to or from school OR any student on school property before, during, or after the school day will be considered truant from all classes missed, UNLESS verification for the absence is presented or an early dismissal has been issued. Students absent from school, with or without parental permission, for “lunch” or similar outings are considered truant.

Students are not allowed to leave school property after arrival without permission from a school administrator unless it is the end of the student’s regularly scheduled school day. Students become the responsibility of the school system upon arrival in the morning and rules for leaving campus become effective upon arrival.

Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) both should be aware that, in addition to violating student policy, such actions may be in violation of state criminal laws and may result in prosecution,

punishable by criminal fines and imprisonment, G.S. 115C-380. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 3), Avery County Schools.**

SCHOOL VIOLENCE (FIGHTING)

When an administrator at ACHS has a reasonable belief or knowledge that one of the following offenses has been committed, law enforcement officials will be notified.

Assault or Fighting:

The statute requires law enforcement notification if serious personal injury has occurred. School policy states that students who fight will be referred to law enforcement officials. A citation or juvenile petition will be issued for “disorderly conduct,” and the student(s) may have to appear in court and pay fines and court costs.

If serious injury results, the charge could be greater and may result in a student arrest. Students who fail to desist from fighting or arguing when told to do so by school district employees will be subject to increased penalties. Repeat offenders will face legal prosecution. By-standers who encourage or “cheer on” any fight or argument are also subject to discipline.

Assault on a school-district employee is treated with the same seriousness as assault on a police officer under GS 14-44. Such behavior will result in arrest and possible expulsion. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 20), Avery County Schools.**

SEXUAL ASSAULT & OFFENSES

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or any other inappropriate oral, written, or physical sexual contact constitutes sexual assault or offense. All complaints of sexual offense shall promptly and thoroughly be investigated. Violations shall be deemed to be serious disciplinary infractions and will be promptly reported to law officials as required by statute (Note: All complaints shall be kept confidential and only those individuals necessary for the investigation and disposition of the complaint will be given information).

Sexual offenses may include, but are not limited to the following; continued remarks having a sexual connotation, pressure for sexual activity, deliberate unwelcome touching, and suggestions or demands for sexual involvement by implied or overt promises or threats. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 28), Avery County Schools.**

WEAPONS

The possession of a firearm, explosive, or any other weapon in violation of the law will be immediately reported to law enforcement officials. In addition, involved student(s) will be subject to suspension from school according to current school policy. Weapons offenses will be prosecuted and the seized weapons surrendered to the courts. No pocketknives. **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 26), Avery County Schools.**

Other:

All violations of statutes (laws) of North Carolina will be reported to the appropriate officials. These include, but are not limited to, trespassing, possession of alcohol or controlled substances, rape, kidnapping, arson, initiating a false alarm, and communicating threats (no person shall threaten to injure another person or person's property. Violators are subject to ISS, OSS, or possible legal action). **See Student Code of Conduct (Rule 4), Avery County Schools.**

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Overview

The Avery County Board of Education ("Board") is committed to discipline practices that encourage the development of self-control, personal responsibility and respect for the dignity of all individuals. The Board is committed to maintaining effective discipline in order to establish positive learning environments within which students have the opportunity to receive an appropriate public education. In order for effective discipline to be maintained in each school, the Board acknowledges that cooperative relationships must be established among students, parents and school personnel. Each is expected to work positively toward this goal and to respect the individuality and the rights of all people. Parent(s)/guardian(s), students and school personnel are also expected to deal effectively with behavioral concerns. To carry out this commitment, the Board has established the following Discipline Procedures ("Procedures") and Code of Student Conduct ("Code") for all students in grades 6-12. For students in grades K-5, the Code shall serve as a guide for administrators when dealing with disciplinary issues.

School personnel shall make efforts to ensure early identification of students at risk for potential disciplinary problems. When it is recognized that a student is behaving in a manner which indicates potential disciplinary problems, school personnel shall make reasonable efforts to initiate preventive measures. Preventive interventions should attempt to identify and address the sources and cause of the potential discipline problems. Possible preventive intervention procedures may include, but are not limited to:

- conferences with parents/guardians and school personnel;
- conferences with students;
- change of schedule or teacher;
- change of instructional methods;
- change of educational setting;
- use of daily or weekly progress reports to parents/guardians;
- visit by parents/guardians in the classroom;
- referral to building assistance teams;
- referral to appropriate support personnel (i.e., counselor, school psychologist, attendance counselor, school resource officer, school social worker, juvenile services);

- referral to school-based assessment committee;
- referral to and/or consultation with community agencies; and
- referral to the Blue Ridge Academy.

School personnel shall actively seek effective, positive methods and strategies to help each student learn to behave in a manner that is conducive to effective learning and that respects the rights of others. Each school Principal shall systematically identify potential problem areas with his/her school that may contribute to discipline problems within the school. The Board encourages the administration to continue to work with appropriate community agencies in dealing with discipline problems.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

A. Definitions and Procedures

1. **Parent** – Parent is the student's parent(s), guardian(s) or individual(s) standing "in loco parentis" as appointed by a court of law.
2. **Principal** – Principal shall include designee such as Dean of Students.
3. **Parent Visitation** – A student who breaks the Code may be given the opportunity by the Principal to have one of his/her parents attend school with him/her for a day and attend class with him/her. This disciplinary action is decided solely by the Principal and will not be used when serious conduct infractions have occurred.
4. **Loss of driving privileges** – amount of time to be determined by the Principal. This punishment may be used for repeated class cuts, leaving school without permission, repeated tardies, reckless driving, truancy or other offenses that are appropriate.
5. **Restitution** – The replacement of, or payment for, property taken, damaged, or destroyed shall be sought.
6. **Search of Student Lockers** – Student lockers are school property and remain at all times under control of the schools; however, students are expected to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers. Periodic general inspections of lockers may be conducted by school authorities for any reason at any time without notice, without student consent and without a search warrant.
7. **In-School Suspension ("ISS")** – In-school suspension is used as a disciplinary procedure which allows students to remain in the school environment where their conduct and academic progress can be closely supervised by school personnel. In-school suspension also prevents the student from accumulating excessive days of absence. Any student assigned to in-school suspension will not be allowed to participate in school sponsored activities during the time of his/her in-school suspension.
8. **Immediate Removal from School** – If the Principal witnesses or is made aware of serious student misconduct and believes that

immediate removal of the student is necessary to restore order or to protect persons or school property on the school grounds, he/she may suspend the student immediately. In all cases, minimal due process (notice of the charge and an opportunity for the student to explain his/her version of what happened) must be given to the student as soon as is reasonably possible.

9. **Short-Term Suspension** – A short-term suspension is removal from school for a period of ten (10) school days or less. The Principal may invoke a short-term suspension only after investigating the misconduct, confronting the student with the charges and allowing for the student's response. A short-term suspended student shall be provided an opportunity to take any quarterly, semester or grading period examinations missed during the suspension. Once a Principal has decided to invoke a short-term suspension, he/she shall make every effort to talk by telephone with the parent and shall mail or hand deliver a timely notice to the parents and Superintendent stating the charges against the student. For more information about short-term suspension, see Board Policy 4351.
10. **Long-Term Suspension** – A long-term suspension is removal from school for more than ten (10) days. If the offense leading to the long-term suspension occurred before the final quarter of the school year, the suspension must be no longer than the remainder of the school year in which the offense was committed. If the offense occurred during the final quarter of the school year, the suspension may include a period up to the remainder of the school year and the first semester of the following year.

Following an investigation, if the Principal determines that long-term suspension is appropriate, he/she shall invoke a short-term suspension of ten (10) school days and inform the student and parent(s) that he/she is recommending to the Superintendent long-term suspension. The student and parents shall be provided a copy of the Due Process Procedures. Once a Principal has decided to invoke a long-term suspension, he/she shall make every effort to talk by telephone with the parent and shall mail or hand deliver a timely notice to the parents and Superintendent stating the charges against the student.

Disciplinary reassignment of a student to a full-time educational program that meets the academic requirements of the standard course of study established by the State Board of Education and that provides the student with the opportunity to make timely progress toward graduation and grade promotion is not a long-term

suspension requiring due process procedures. For more information regarding long-term suspension, see Board Policy 4353.

11. **365 Day Suspension** – A 365 day suspension is the disciplinary exclusion of a student from attending his/her assigned school for 365 days. The Superintendent may only impose a 365 day suspension for certain weapons. For more information regarding 365 day suspension, see Board Policy 4353.
12. **Restrictions during short-term/long-term/365 Day Suspension** – The student is not to be on any school campus in Avery County without special permission and cannot participate in or attend any school sponsored activity without written permission from the school Principal.
13. **Expulsion** – Expulsion is the indefinite exclusion of a student from school enrollment for disciplinary purposes. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board may expel a student who is 14 years of age or older for certain types of misbehavior if the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or employees. During the expulsion, the student is not entitled to be present on education property and is not considered a student of the school system. For more information regarding expulsion, see Board Policy 4353.
14. **Appeal for Long-Term and 365 Day Suspensions and Hearing Rights for Expulsion** – prior to any long term or 365 day suspension or expulsion, a student is entitled to due process including the opportunity for a hearing before an impartial hearing officer, the right to testify and present evidence (both witnessed and documentary evidence) in his/her defense and the right to be represented by an attorney. For more information regarding disciplinary due process rights, see Board Policy 4353.
15. **Assignment to the GOAL Program**: Students who are suspended out of school may be directed to the GOAL program. GOAL is a Collaborating Community Alliance sponsored by the Avery County Schools. GOAL is designed to target at-risk youth who have been suspended for one to ten days. These students are at risk for becoming involved in the juvenile court system, dropping out of school as well as developing poor personal health habits. Combining community service with completing assigned school work successfully in a structured environment may begin a change in feelings of self worth and result in positive behaviors at school and in the community. Suspended students have an opportunity to report to a participating agency to perform community service

work during school hours.

16. Assignment to the Alternate School Program (Blue Ridge Academy)

A long-term suspension could be waived at the discretion of the Principal and a student could be assigned to the alternative school program. Students in grades 6-12 who have repeated or subsequent offenses may be assigned to the Alternative School at the discretion of the Principal and school staff. Students under a term of long-term or 365 day suspension may be assigned to an alternative program or school during the term of suspension.

B. Discipline Suspensions of Students with Disabilities

When a student with disabilities violates the Code and warrants suspension from school for ten (10) school days or less in a given school year, the school may follow its normal disciplinary procedures. School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether suspension is appropriate. Circumstances considered should include area of disability, functioning level of the student, intent of the behavior and other relevant factors.

After a student with a disability has been removed from his/her current placement for ten (10) school days in the same school year, during any subsequent days of removal, the school must provide services to the extent required by law. ISS and assignment does not count in the ten (10) day total as long as the student receives his/her special education and related services, as set forth in the child's individualized education plan ("IEP"). Suspension from bus transportation is counted as any other suspension if the bus suspension results in the student not being able to get to school by other means.

1. Suspensions Greater Than Ten (10) Cumulative School Days

If the current removal is for not more than ten (10) consecutive school days, and is not determined to be a pattern of removal that constitutes a change in placement, school personnel, in consultation with at least one of the student's teachers, determine the extent to which services are needed to enable the student to continue to participate in the general curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress toward meeting the goals of the IEP.

Within ten (10) school days of any decision to change the placement of a student with a disability because of a violation of a code of conduct, the IEP team must review all relevant information in the student's file, including the student's IEP to determine: 1) if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability (a manifestation of the disability); or 2) the conduct in question was the direct result of a failure to implement the IEP.

If the behavior that gave rise to the violation of the Code is determined not to be a manifestation of the student's disability, school personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures would be applied to students without disabilities. The student must continue to receive

educational services and receive a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation to prevent recurrence.

If the behavior in question was determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, the IEP Team must conduct or review a functional behavior assessment and implement or continue a behavioral intervention plan. The student must return to the placement from which the student was removed, unless the parent and the LEA, through the IEP process, agree to a change of placement.

2. Extraordinary Circumstances

School personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the behavior is determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability, if the violation of the Code involved possession of a weapon; possession, including use or sales, of an illegal drug; or serious bodily injury. Upon the end of the removal, the student shall be returned to the placement from which he/she was removed, unless the parent and the LEA, through the IEP process, agree to a change of placement.

C. System-wide Uniform Consequences for Misconduct

The Principal or his/her designee shall investigate and deal with incidents of alleged misconduct of students whenever:

- a student discipline problem is referred;
- the alleged misconduct violates the Code; or
- the Principal determines that a situation exists which could pose a danger to persons or property or which seriously disrupts the learning environment.

The use of disciplinary consequences is based on the assumption that teachers and/or other student support personnel have utilized broad reasonable available discipline alternatives and preventive measures prior to referring the student to the Principal or that the student's behavior presents harm or a significant risk of harm to others or property or a threat to the orderly operation of the school.

School personnel may use reasonable force to control behavior or to remove a person from the scene in those situations when necessary:

- to quell a disturbance threatening injury to others;
- to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person, or within the control of, a student;
- for self-defense; and
- for the protection of persons or property.

Infractions of the Code are grouped in classes of offense. Class of offense relates

to the degree to which the behavior disrupts the orderly educational process in the school in terms of their effect on the behavior of others and the degree to which the behavior presents a potential for harm to others. For each rule a range of consequences is provided as appropriate responses depending upon the judgment as to:

- the degree to which the behavior disrupts the orderly educational process in the school;
- the degree to which the behavior presents a potential for harm to others or property;
- the degree to which the behavior harms others or property; and
- the student's unresponsiveness to reasonable available discipline alternatives and preventive measures prior to the referral to the Principal or his/her designee.

III. STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The following rules for the Avery County Schools are provided as guidance for students, parents, teachers and administrators. This cannot be an all inclusive list; however, administrators shall use their discretion in dealing with all specific behavior that violates the principles set forth in the Code. Consideration is to be given to the student's cognitive and developmental ability to appreciate the significance of his/her behavior and to assume responsibility for behavior.

This Code pertains to all students in the Avery County Schools while they are on the campus of any school in the Avery County School System, while they are participating in any activity sponsored by the Avery County Schools, while they are being transported in a vehicle owned or operated by the Avery County Schools or while they are representing the Avery County Schools in any way. In circumstances where student behavior indicates that the student's continued presence in the school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of employees or other students, a student may be suspended or expelled regardless of where the acts and conduct occur. It is expected that any subsequent infraction will build upon disciplinary actions of previous infractions. In any case where out of school suspension is utilized, a parental conference with the Principal and/or teacher(s) is required before re-entry into school. If the parent/guardian cannot or will not come to school for a conference, the student may come back to school at the Principal's discretion. Parents shall be notified concerning any Code violation. All rule infractions will be retained in the Avery County Uniform Disciplinary Database.

CLASS I

RULE 1 CLASSROOM AND EXTRACURRICULAR DISRUPTION OR DISTRACTION

The act of disruption or distraction which affects the normal education process or

interferes with any school extracurricular activity, including, but not limited to, interrupting the class, provoking other students or talking excessively.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFICE REFERRAL: Verbal warning up to two (2) days in-school suspension.

SECOND OFFICE REFERRAL: Up to five (5) days in-school suspension.

Special circumstances may warrant up to two (2) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD & SUBSEQUENT OFFICE REFERRAL(S): Up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant suspension for up to ten (10) days.

RULE 2: TRESPASSING

A. Students shall not willfully enter or remain in any school structure, conveyance or property without having been **authorized or invited**, nor refuse to depart after being directed to leave by **authorized** personnel. For example, the following are examples of prohibited trespassing:

- Loitering on campus after the close of the school day without permission;
- Appearing on campus at an unassigned school during the school day without permission of the Principal at the assigned school;
- Appearing on campus at any school while the student is suspended without the permission of the Principal.

Law enforcement may be notified based on the severity of the act.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to three (3) days in-school suspension or up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension depending on severity of the act.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days in-school or out-of-school suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

B. Students shall not be in unauthorized areas during the school day.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to one (1) day in-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to three (3) days in-school suspension or up to two (2) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days in-school suspension or up to five (5) days out of-school suspension.

RULE 3 SKIPPING (TRUANCY) SCHOOL ALL DAY OR ASSIGNED CLASSES DURING SCHOOL DAY

Students shall be on campus and in their assigned classes unless they have been authorized to be elsewhere by authorized personnel.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to three (3) days in-school suspension. (Punishment may include but is not limited to before or after school detention, lunch detention, or Saturday detention.)

SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE(S): Up to five (5) days in-school suspension.

UNEXCUSED TARDIES TO SCHOOL OR ASSIGNED CLASSES

STATEMENT: It is imperative that students realize and recognize the importance of arriving at school on time and being punctual to class on a daily basis. Habits formed in school often determine habits after school. Punctuality is a habit that should be cultivated, practiced and endorsed.

TARDY TO SCHOOL OR CLASS: (Grades K-12) It is recommended that each school be allowed to develop procedures that address students who are tardy to school for unexcused reasons. The policy/procedures developed at the school level may include but is not limited to lunch detention, before or after school detention, Saturday detention, loss of driving privileges, possible revocation of a student transfer, if applicable, suspension of extra-curricular opportunities, or in-school-suspension as a last resort. Schools shall not use out-of school suspension as punishment for being tardy to school. Other methods of dealing with students who are tardy to school should be explored by each school.

RULE 4 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH DIRECTIONS OF TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Students shall comply with all lawful directions of teachers, and substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers and any other authorized school personnel during any period in which they are subject to school authority. **At no time shall a student provide false information to a teacher or staff member.**

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to two (2) days out-of-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension based on the severity of the offense. Additional community service duties, such as picking up trash from the grounds, etc., may be assigned.

THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE(S): Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

RULE 5 INAPPROPRIATE APPEARANCE OR CLOTHING

Appearance or clothing which is disruptive, provocative, indecent, vulgar, obscene, or which advertises illegal drugs or displays obnoxious or indecent signs, symbols or drawings, or which endangers the health or safety of the student or others is prohibited.

TRACK SHORTS, TANK TOPS, "SAGGING PANTS", OPEN MIDRIFF, SPANDEX (BIKE SHORTS), SEE THROUGH SHIRTS OR BLOUSES, AND RAGGED CLOTHING ARE INAPPROPRIATE.

(Unacceptable Tank Top: T-shirt with narrow straps and large arm holes. Open Mid Riff: A garment (shirt or blouse) shorter than waist length exposing the abdomen. Inappropriate Short, Skirt or Dress Length: Shorter than mid-thigh) (Avery County Policy 4303).

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Students who arrive at school in violation of the dress code must change their clothing to meet the standards in order to remain in school; verbal warning and/or up to two (2) days in-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days in-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant up to two (2) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD & SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE(S): Up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension.

RULE 6 CHEATING

Students shall not cheat on tests/examinations, nor copy the work of another student nor assist a student who is attempting to copy his/her work, nor plagiarize work, nor complete in a dishonest or deceptive manner any type of academic assignment.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Teacher conference with administration, student and parent(s) and a grade of zero (0) for assignment.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to three (3) days in-school suspension and a grade of zero (0) for assignment.

THIRD OFFENSE: Up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension and a grade of zero (0) for assignment.

RULE 7 INAPPROPRIATE INTERPERSONAL BEHAVIOR

Inappropriate public displays of affection or indecent exposure, as determined by school personnel, are not allowed. Examples are, but are not limited to, kissing, inappropriate touching, mooning, sagging pants, etc.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Conference with student and parent(s). Up to two (2) days in school suspension. Extremely inappropriate acts may result in out-of-school suspension for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to four (4) days in-school suspension or up to two (2) days out-of school suspension. Extremely inappropriate acts or other special

circumstances may result in long-term suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension. Extremely inappropriate acts or other special circumstances may result in long-term suspension.

RULE 8 BUS MISBEHAVIOR

Students shall not engage in any type of behavior that interferes with the safe and efficient operation of the school bus and/or the safety of persons riding in the bus. **TO BE ALLOWED TO RIDE THE BUS IS A PRIVILEGE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.**

Grades K-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Conference with student and parent contact. Up to three (3) days suspension from riding the bus.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days suspension from riding the bus.

THIRD OFFENSE: Suspension from riding bus for up to ten (10) days.

SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE: Students may be suspended from riding the bus for the remainder of school year.

RULE 9 USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Students **shall not use or possess** any type of tobacco products on school property during the time school is open for the school day or for any supervised school activities, or when being transported to and from school in a school financed vehicle. (This includes school sponsored events such as dances, field trips, athletic functions, etc. while participating or being under the direct supervision of a school staff member.) This policy is in effect for any Avery County student on any campus of the Avery County Schools

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Three (3) days in-school suspension or one (1) day in-school suspension and enrollment and successful completion in a tobacco awareness program. Confiscate products.

SECOND OFFENSE: Five (5) days in-school suspension or one (1) day in school suspension and enrollment and successful completion in a tobacco awareness program. Confiscate products.

THIRD OFFENSE: Five (5) days out-of-school suspension or two (2) days out-of-school suspension and enrollment and successful completion in a tobacco awareness program. Confiscate products.

SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE: May result in long-term suspension. Confiscate

products.

CLASS II

RULE 10 INSULTING, DISRESPECTFUL, ABUSIVE, PROFANE, OBSCENE WORDS, SIGNS, GESTURES, AND OTHER ACTS

Students shall not direct insulting, abusive, profane, obscene words, signs, gestures, and other acts toward other students, visitors, school employees, and other persons.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Oral reprimand and/or up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Five (5) days in-school suspension up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.

RULE 11 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Students shall not direct unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other inappropriate oral, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature to another student. All students must be allowed to learn and work in an environment free from such harassment. Law enforcement officials may be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Oral reprimand and/or up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension or expulsion.

RULE 12 GAMBLING

Students shall not participate in any form of gambling or games of chance/skill for money and/or other items of value.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days in-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to three (3) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

CLASS III

Class III rules refer to student behaviors which are disruptive to the educational process and may have the potential for physical injury to others. In cases in which these behaviors are violations of North Carolina General Statutes, involvement of law enforcement officers will be required.

North Carolina General Statute § 115C-288, requires certain acts to be immediately reported by the Principal to law enforcement. Those acts are: assault resulting in serious personal injury, sexual assault, sexual offense, rape, kidnapping, indecent liberties with a minor, assault involving the use of a weapon, possession of a firearm in violation of the law, possession of a weapon in violation of the law, or possession of a controlled substance in violation of the law. In addition to those that are specifically spelled out in North Carolina General Statutes all larcenies, extortion as well as extortion attempts, robbery (armed or common law), hate crimes, stalking, possession of any explosive or incendiary device or arson/attempted arson should be immediately reported to law enforcement officials.

The Superintendent's office shall be notified.

RULE 13 MAKING AND/OR POSSESSING EXPLOSIVE OR INCENDIARY DEVICES

Students shall not make or possess firecrackers or pyrotechnics, explosive, incendiary, or smoke-creating devices. Law enforcement shall be notified. (Snap pop, caps, and similar devices should be included under Rule 1.)

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant out-of-school suspension for remainder of school year. Confiscate device.

SECOND OFFENSE: Confiscate device. Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension or a suspension for 365 days as required by law.

RULE 14 EXPLODING FIRECRACKERS OR IGNITING SIMILAR DEVICES

Students shall not explode firecrackers or ignite pyrotechnics, explosive, incendiary, or other smoke-creating devices. Law enforcement shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Confiscate device. Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Confiscate device. Long-term suspension.

RULE 15 POSSESSION OR USE OF MARIJUANA, NARCOTICS, STIMULANTS, DEPRESSANTS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE OR DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, AND COUNTERFEIT FORM OF SAID SUBSTANCES

Students shall not possess nor use marijuana, narcotics, stimulants, depressants, counterfeit forms of an illegal substance, alcoholic beverages or any other unauthorized or illegal substance or drug paraphernalia. Law enforcement shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Confiscate substance. Minimum five (5) days out-of-school suspension required if student is allowed to return during current school year. Maximum disciplinary action is a possible long term suspension. Active involvement in a substance abuse/chemical dependency program if student is allowed to return to school.

SECOND OFFENSE: Confiscate substance, short term suspension of up to ten (10) days and possible long-term suspension.

RULE 16 SALE, DELIVERY, OR DISTRIBUTION OF MARIJUANA, NARCOTICS, STIMULANTS, DEPRESSANTS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND ANY OTHER UNAUTHORIZED OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE, DRUG PARAPHERNALIA OR COUNTERFEIT FORM OF SAID SUBSTANCES

Students shall not sell, deliver, or distribute marijuana, narcotics, stimulants, depressants, counterfeit forms of an illegal substance, alcoholic beverages, or any other unauthorized or illegal substance or drug paraphernalia. Law enforcement officials shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

A student who sells, delivers, or distributes marijuana, narcotics, stimulants or any other unlawful or unauthorized substance, drug paraphernalia or counterfeit form of such substance will be long-term suspended. Confiscate substance.

RULE 17 MAJOR DISRUPTION OF THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT (INCITING OR PARTICIPATING IN A STUDENT DISORDER; i.e. riots, walk outs, assaults, etc.)

Students shall not lead, participate in, or encourage others to participate in major group disruptions which adversely affect the educational process. Law enforcement officials will be notified.

FIRST OFFENSE: Minimum five (5) days out-of-school suspension, up to out of-school for remainder of school year.

SECOND OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

RULE 18 PARTICIPATION IN A GANG OR GANG ACTIVITY THAT DISRUPTS THE NORMAL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Students shall not lead, participate in, or encourage others to participate in a gang or gang activity. (A "gang" is defined as a group who organizes for unlawful activities or to harass or intimidate others.) Law enforcement officials will be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Minimum five (5) days out-of-school suspension, up to out of-school for remainder of school year.

SECOND OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

RULE 19 UNJUSTIFIED ACTIVATION OF A FIRE ALARM OR MAKING A FALSE REPORT OF AN EMERGENCY

Students shall not activate any fire alarm unless authorized to do so by school employees, or unless there are reasonable grounds for the student to believe an actual emergency condition exists. At no time shall a student call in or in any other manner communicate a false report concerning a bomb, other explosive device, or any emergency situation. Law enforcement officials shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

RULE 20 FIGHTING AMONG STUDENTS

Students shall not fight or attempt to cause bodily harm to another student. If a student is a victim of a sudden, unprovoked attack or fight, he/she may defend himself/herself long enough to disengage from fighting to report it to an appropriate school official. **Students who instigate fights will be subject to the same consequences as those who are actually involved in fighting.**

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Two (2) to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.

THIRD OFFENSE: Long-term suspension

RULE 21 EXTORTION

Students shall not obtain through verbal or physical threats, coercion, or intimidation anything of value (personal property, money or information) from any other student or school employee. Law enforcement officials shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension. Special circumstances may warrant out-of-school suspension for the remainder of the school year.

SECOND OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

NOTE: FULL RESTITUTION WILL BE SOUGHT.

RULE 22 THEFT, ROBBERY, BURGLARY OR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL OR PERSONAL PRIVATE PROPERTY OR POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

Students shall respect school property and the personal property of other students, school employees, and other persons. Students shall not steal, rob, burgle, attempt to burn or convert school property and property of any other person or entity, nor cause damage to such property. Law enforcement officials may be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to five (5) days out-of-school suspension. (Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension. (Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.)

THIRD OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

NOTE: FULL RESTITUTION WILL BE SOUGHT.

RULE 23 INSULTING, DISRESPECTFUL, ABUSIVE, PROFANE, OBSCENE WORDS, SIGNS, GESTURES, AND OTHER ACTS DIRECTED AT AN ADULT

Students shall not direct insulting, abusive, profane, obscene words, signs, gestures, and other acts toward visitors, school employees, or any other adult.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension. (Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to long-term suspension.

RULE 24 VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ASSAULT OR PHYSICAL INJURY TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OR OTHER PERSONS

Students shall not cause, attempt to cause or verbally (written or oral) threaten to cause damage to property, physical or bodily injury to Principals, Assistant Principals, teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, student teachers and other school personnel or visitors. Law enforcement shall be notified if there is a serious injury or at the discretion of the Principal. (G.S. 115C-391 states: A local board of education shall remove to an alternative educational setting any student who is at least 13 who physically assaults and seriously injures a teacher or other school personnel. If no appropriate alternative

educational setting is available, then the board shall suspend for no less than 300 days but no more than 365 days any student who is at least 13 and who physically assaults and seriously injures a teacher or other school personnel.)

Grades K-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to long-term suspension.

RULE 24 VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ASSAULT OR PHYSICAL INJURY TO STUDENTS

Students shall not cause, attempt to cause or verbally (written or oral) threaten to cause damage to property, physical or bodily injury to another student. Law enforcement shall be notified if there is a serious injury or at the discretion of the Principal.

Grades K-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

(Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Up to long-term suspension.

RULE 25 HAZING

Students shall not commit any act of hazing. Hazing is defined as follows: "to annoy any student by playing abusive or ridiculous tricks upon him, to frighten, scold, beat or harass him, or to subject him to personal indignity." Any student who aides or abets hazing shall be disciplined as a principle actor. Law enforcement notification is mandatory. Conviction in criminal court results in automatic expulsion.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

(Special circumstances may warrant expulsion.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Out-of-school suspension for remainder of school year.

(Special circumstances may warrant expulsion.)

RULE 26 WEAPONS AND/OR OTHER DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Students shall not possess or conceal any weapon as defined by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-269.3, or any other instrument that could cause bodily harm or be used to threaten bodily harm. Law enforcement officials shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Confiscate weapon or device. Up to ten (10) days out-of school suspension. (Special circumstances involving an assault may warrant out-of-school suspension for the remainder of the school year.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Confiscate weapon or device. Out-of-school suspension for remainder of school year.

RULE 27 POSSESSION OF A FIREARM(S)

Students shall not bring to school or possess or conceal any firearm or weapon – "any gun, rifle, pistol, or other firearm of any kind, or any dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine or powerful explosive" on any property owned by the Avery County Public Schools. (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-269.2) Law enforcement officials shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

A. If a student brings a weapon to school; confiscate firearm or weapon. Out-of-school suspension for a minimum of 365 days (a calendar year) pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-391(d)(1), when authorized by the local board upon recommendation by the Superintendent.

B. If a student possesses a weapon at school; confiscate firearm or weapon. Out-of-school suspension for the remainder of the school year or expulsion for the student who possesses a firearm on any property owned by Avery County schools.

RULE 28 SEXUAL ASSAULT, SEXUAL OFFENSES, ETC.

Students shall not commit any sexual offense as defined by the North Carolina General Statutes. (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-27.4 & 14-27.5) Law Enforcement shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

(Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

RULE 29 OTHER NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL STATUTES AND LOCAL ORDINANCES NOT PREVIOUSLY COVERED

Students shall not violate any North Carolina Criminal Statute or local ordinances not previously covered. A student convicted of a felony or serious misdemeanor may be recommended for expulsion from the Avery County Schools. (Any plea of nolo contendere or the entry of a "prayer for judgment" shall be deemed as a conviction for the purposes of this policy.) Law enforcement officials shall be notified.

Grades 6-12

FIRST OFFENSE: Up to ten (10) days out-of-school suspension. (Special circumstances may warrant long-term suspension and or exclusion from all extracurricular activities.)

SECOND OFFENSE: Long-term suspension.

Adopted: July 10, 2012

Revised: 08/07/14

HAVE A GREAT YEAR AND EXCITING SCHOOL YEAR!!!!