

Bennet Elementary School Handbook for Students, Parents & Guardians 2022-2023

We are pleased to welcome all of you, both new and returning students, to Bennet Elementary School. As a student, you will have the responsibility to maintain and help build a fine tradition of scholarship, citizenship, and that particular kind of spirit and pride that we want to become a trademark of our school.

As a citizen of this school, you are expected to follow the rules that have been established for the welfare of all. Sometimes you may feel that the rules are too strict, but they are made in the best interest of each student. Following the rules will help all students to become better school citizens.

Be proud of your school! We have a wonderful facility! It is evident that it has been treated with excellent care in the past. This property belongs to District OR-1. You, as a citizen of this community are part owners of this property. It is up to you to help protect and preserve it! Let's have a great school year!

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about District OR-1, Bennet Elementary School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract." The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Ms. Linde Walter
Elementary Principal

Contents

Bennet Elementary Faculty & Staff	4
General Information	6
Activities Attendance	6
After School Arrangements	6
Alcohol, Tobacco & Drug Usage	7
Announcements/Posters	10
Asbestos Notice	10
Arson	10
Attendance, Leaving School, Excessive Absenteeism, Activity, Attendance...	10
Before and After School Recreation Program	14
Birth Certificates	14
Bullying Prevention	15
Bus Rules and Behavior	15
Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices	18
Ceremonies and Holiday Observances	19
Child Abuse/Neglect	19
Closed Campus	19
Clothing & School Supplies	19
Computer Network, Internet and Computer Use	20
Damage & Loss of School Property	24
Dating Violence	24
Discipline and School Rules, Suspension and Expulsion	24
Dress Code	28
Drills - Fire & Tornado	28
Dual Enrollment	30
Field Trips	30
Forms	30
Grades & Reporting to Parents	31
Head Lice	31
Immunizations	33
Illness & Injury at School	34
Kindergarten Enrollment	34
Lost & Found	34
Lunch/Milk/Breakfast	34
Make-Up Work	35
Medication and Asthma/Allergic Reaction Plan and Self-Medication Guidelines	36
Money	37
Multicultural Policy	38
Newsletter	38
Parent Visitations	38
Pets	38
Physical Exams	39
Preschool Program	39

Programs & Services	39
Promotion & Retention	40
Recess/Playground Rules	40
Return to Learn	41
School Day Schedule	41
School Wellness Policy	42
Smoke Free Environment	43
Student Activity Fees	43
Student Questioning/Apprehension by Legal Authorities	52
Student Searches	52
Telephone Use	53
Testing	53
Video Surveillance	54
Vandalism	54
Visitors	54
Weapons	55
School Cancellations	55
Appendix A-Federal and State Programs	56
Medication Forms	93
Computer and Network Form	94
Parent/Guardian Receipt Form	95

Bennet Elementary Faculty & Staff

Ms. Walter	Principal
Mr. Lahmon	Guidance Counselor
Ms. Norman	Elementary Principal's Secretary
Mrs. Linke	School Psychologist
Mrs. Hohensee	Preschool
Ms. Eisenhauer	Preschool
Mrs. Craig	Preschool Paraeducator
Mrs. Georges	Preschool Paraeducator
Mrs. Hartwick	PreSchool Paraeducator
Mrs. King	PreSchool Paraeducator
Mrs. Dvorak	Kindergarten
Mrs. Nitzsche	Kindergarten
Mrs. Wusk	Kindergarten
Mrs. Dowding	First Grade
Mrs. Field	First Grade
Mrs. Petska	First Grade
Mrs. Christensen	Second Grade
Ms. Suhr	Second Grade
Ms. Peterson	Second Grade
Mrs. Conn	Third Grade
Mrs. Lahmon	Third Grade
Mrs. Christensen	Third Grade
Mrs. Dowding	Fourth Grade
Mr. Maibaum	Fourth Grade
Mrs. Sullivan	Fourth Grade
Mr. McChristian	Fifth Grade
Mrs. Borg	Fifth Grade
Ms. A. Swartzendruber	Title I
Mr. Smidt	Media Coordinator
Mrs. McCrieght	Vocal Music
Mr. Furrow	Vocal Music/Inst. Music
Mr. Wemhoff	Physical Education
Mrs. Garris	Art
Mrs. Eastep	Resource
Mrs. Hinrichsen	Resource
Mrs. Whyman	Resource
Mr. Brown	Technology Coordinator
Mrs. Hanger	Tech. Teacher
Mrs. Wilson	Speech/Language Pathologist
Mrs. Buchanan	Speech/Language Pathologist
Mrs. Buddenberg	Speech/Language Pathologist
Mrs. Pohlen	Occupational Therapist
Mr. Hart	Superintendent
Mrs. Hatcher	Superintendent's Secretary
Mrs. Phillips	Clerical

Mrs. Jones	Paraeducator
Mr. Calfee	Paraeducator
Mrs. Hiatt	Paraeducator
Mrs. Krumm	Paraeducator
Mrs. Stedman	Paraeducator
Mrs. Tyndall	Paraeducator
Mrs. Watson	Paraeducator
Ms. Wood	Paraeducator
Mrs. Purvis	Sign Language Interpreter
Mr. Willeford	Head Custodian
Mrs. Kucera	Custodian
Mrs. Dush	Elementary Food Manager
Mrs. Wilson	School Nurse

General Information

Superintendent of District OR 1

Mr. Michael Hart

Members of the Board Of Education

Jaimi Calfee

Dean Busch

Brandon Desh

Clayton Maahs

Joshua Penterman

Lisa Wilen

Mission Statement

Our mission statement is one of ideals, which focuses on the role District OR1 Schools will play in the shaping of the future of our students. This is the reason our school exists and the function we perform. District OR1 has adopted the following mission statement:

“Together, we prepare our students to successfully meet the challenges of the future.”

Governing Principles

Governing principles are fundamental guidelines and desirable rules of conduct, integrity and ethical behavior which guide us to do the right thing for the right reason. They direct our personal, professional and organizational behavior. The following governing principles were selected by District OR1 Schools based upon the mission statement above:

District OR1 will:

- model and reinforce a sense of self-respect for others;
- provide equal opportunity for each student to develop to his/her potential;
- seek and integrate educationally sound innovations into the curriculum;
- seek to develop a sense of individual responsibility and integrity; and,
- provide a safe, positive learning environment

Activities Attendance:

When your child attends athletic contests or other school events, we request that they sit with their parents or another responsible adult. We also ask that they remain seated during the contests or events. This is for their safety and for the enjoyment of the other spectators. Trips across a gym floor can be distracting and dangerous.

After School Arrangements

Arrangements for one student to go home with another after school should be made by the parents prior to the visit. The school and bus drivers, if applicable, should be notified of the plans in writing or by phone before 2:30 PM. **Students will not be allowed to use the phone during the school day to make these arrangements.**

Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco:

Drug-Free Schools

This District implements regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

Education and Prevention:

This District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, this District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

Drug and Alcohol Use and Prevention:

By this handbook, each student of the District is hereby provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations.

All students are provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the District to require instruction at such grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the Board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. One of the primary objectives shall be the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students. It shall further be the policy of the District to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational, and physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the District.

It shall further be the policy of the District, through the instruction earlier herein referred to, as well as by information and consistent enforcement of the Board's policy pertaining to student conduct as it relates to the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol, that drug and alcohol abuse is wrong and is harmful both to the student and the District, and its educational programs.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs.

All students shall be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the Guidance Counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school

personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Unlawful Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol on School Premises or as a Part of Any of the School's Activities.

(In addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.) This shall include such unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the District during regular school hours or after school hours at school sponsored activities on school premises, at school-sponsored activities off school premises.

Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession of any controlled substance, possession of which is prohibited by law.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession of tobacco on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.
4. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect.
5. Use of any illicit drug.
6. Distribution of any illicit drug.
7. Use of any drug in an unlawful fashion.
8. Distribution of any drug or controlled substance when such distribution is unlawful.
9. The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol.

It shall further be the policy of the district that violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited – Standards of Conduct for Students and Employed Staff:

The manufacture, possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage or alcoholic liquor on school grounds, or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any controlled substance or drug, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant on school grounds, or during the educational function or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or during and educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing or use of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or

during an educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical may not be taken unless authorized as stated in the next section on AUTHORIZED USE.

Authorized Use:

Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he or she be given any prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug, or vitamin shall provide a signed permission by parent and/or physician. **A copy of this form is attached to the back of this handbook.**

Disciplinary Sanctions:

1. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and could be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment. Parents or legal guardians will be notified.
2. If the student is observed to be violating this policy, the student will be escorted to the Principal/Superintendent's office immediately, or if not feasible, the Principal/ Superintendent will be notified. The student's parents or legal guardian will be requested to pick up the student. If it appears there is imminent danger to other students, school personnel, or students involved, the Principal/Superintendent, or such other personnel as authorized by the Principal/Superintendent, may have the student removed by authorized medical or law enforcement personnel.
3. Parents and students shall be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions required and shall be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

Intervention:

The OR-1 School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

Administration:

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools–Parental Notice

NOTICE TO PARENTS: Pursuant to the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, if upon receipt of

information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Announcements/Posters:

Announcements and posters advertising school sponsored activities or other activities within the communities must first be submitted to the principal's office. It will be the responsibility of the principal to determine if it is appropriate to display these items.

Asbestos Notice:

The District OR1 Schools have been inspected by a qualified inspector concerning asbestos abatement. It has been determined by this inspector that the school buildings in Palmyra and Bennet contain asbestos. The Environmental Protection Agency requires schools to notify parents regarding asbestos in the schools. This notice is included as a part of our compliance with EPA regulations. Please direct questions or concerns you may have about the contents of this notice to Superintendent Rob Hanger (780-5327).

Arson:

The intentional burning of property at school is forbidden. Violation of this rule will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken, which could include suspension, expulsion, referral to authorities and/or required counseling to take place if need is determined.

Regular Attendance

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The Principals and teachers are required to maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

A. Attendance and Absences.

1. Absences – Definitions. The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.

- a. School Excused. Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a *School Excused* absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:

- (1) Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent must provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness, court, death of a family member, or suspension.
- (2) Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.

b. Not School Excused. Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:

- (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, vacations, and medical appointments.
- (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.

2. Absence Procedure. In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.

A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written or verbal parental excuse, is issued by the Principal's office.

Two school days will be allowed to make up work for each day missed, with a maximum of 10 days allowed to make up work.

2. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Students. Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has

completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools. A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview. The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in District OR-1 Public Schools or resides in the District OR-1 Public School's district and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools). A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

4. Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the superintendent or such person(s) who the superintendent designates to be the attendance officer (hereafter, "attendance officer"). The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to address the problem of excessive absenteeism. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed below under "Excessive Absenteeism" and "Reporting Excessive Absenteeism."
5. Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate one (1) unexcused absence in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:
 - a. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and

- b. One or more meetings between the school (a school attendance officer, a school administrator or his or her designee, and/or a social worker), the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
 - (i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child.
 - (ii) Educational counseling;
 - (iii) Educational evaluation;
 - (iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
 - (v) Family or individual counseling; and
 - (vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such a meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

6. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than five (5) absences per quarter, ten (10) absences per semester, or twenty (20) absences per year. This process can be initiated at any time during the school year if any absences are determined to be school unexcused. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

Before and After School Recreation Program:

Bennet Elementary offers a before and after school recreation program for students attending Bennet Elementary School. The times for the before and after school recreation program will be from 7:00 – 8:20 a.m. and 3:20 – 5:30 p.m. There will be NO drop in after school services for students. The cost of the program will be \$3.25/hr per each child. A registration and enrollment fee of \$25.00 per family will be assessed at the beginning of the school year. Adult supervisors will supervise students. Students will take part in a number of activities during the before and after school activities program and will also receive a snack during the afternoon session. If you are interested in taking part in this program, please contact the school office for more information.

Birth Certificate Requirements:

State law requires that a certified copy of a student's birth certificate be used when enrolling a new student in school. If your child is registering with Bennet Elementary School for the first time, you may obtain this document from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee for certificate applications.

Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents would include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

Bullying Prevention:

Bennet Elementary recognizes the negative impact that bullying has on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment and prohibits such behavior. Bullying is defined as any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased or contracted by the school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school sponsored activities or school sponsored athletic events.

Bullying may constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment, subject to state and federal statutes and our student discipline and due process procedures.

Suspected incidences of bullying should be reported to a staff member or the school principal. See Appendix A at the end of the handbook for the policy.

Bus/Transportation Code of Conduct:

Bus Transportation

Students are assigned to buses and bus stops. No change in either bus or stop is permitted without the Transportation Director's approval. Failure to ride the assigned bus to/from the assigned bus stop may jeopardize the safety of students and may result in disciplinary action.

- Bus transportation schedules will be drafted and provided by the Transportation Director for parents prior to the opening of school.
- All transportation schedules and bus stops are determined by the Transportation Director and school Administration.
- Students will not be dropped off at other than approved bus stops.

Requests to Ride a Different Bus

- A written request from a parent/guardian is required in order for a student to ride a different bus or get off at a different stop or deviate from riding the assigned bus.
- The request must include student name, parent/guardian, and telephone number of parent/guardian.
- Any request that cannot be verified will be denied.
- All requests must be approved by a school administrator or transportation official.
- If a student does not have a Bus Pass/Request; he/she cannot ride home on a different bus or get off at a different stop.

Transporting of school related/non-school related items on the bus.

- No materials, including guns, loaded or unloaded; flammable materials, empty or full; animals or any other objects of dangerous or objectionable nature are transported in the school bus when children are being transported.
- Balloons, helium balloons, and glass vases are prohibited.
- Bottles with water will be allowed due to health considerations.
- Cell phone use on the bus is discouraged. Use of personal electronic devices (P.E.D.'s) such as ipods, ipads, etc is acceptable. This privilege will be revoked if it becomes a nuisance or safety concern.
- Skate shoes, skate boards, or roller blades will not be allowed in the bus unless enclosed in an athletic-type canvas bag or are otherwise inaccessible.
- Band instruments will be allowed on the bus. Students are asked to work with the driver in order to board with large instruments.

PreK/Kindergarten

- A parent, guardian or person authorized by the parent of an Early Childhood Student provides safe supervision to and from the bus stop. No Early Childhood student will be left unattended at the point of delivery (Bus Stop). If no responsible party is in view, the student will not be allowed to disembark. The student will be returned to the school site where an attempt will be made to contact a responsible party.

School Bus Behavior Policy

Students who ride the bus should:

- Be on time.
- Arrive at their bus stop at least 5 minutes before the regular pickup time.
- Stand away from the road, not stand on the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for the bus.
- Observe proper conduct.
- Respect the property of others.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and then walk up to the front door. Students should not run near a moving bus.
- Board the bus in an orderly fashion.
- Use the bus stop closest to their home. Walking to a friend's house to catch a bus often causes overcrowding at a given stop.

While riding the bus students should:

- Obey instructions of the bus driver and/or bus attendant.
- Be seated immediately.
- Remain seated.
- Share seats equally.
- Be courteous.
- Respect property.

- Keep hands and head inside the bus.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Observe good conduct
- Remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop.
- Leave the bus in an orderly manner, students in the front seats first.
- Avoid loitering around the bus.

Bus Discipline

District OR-1 follows a policy of progressive discipline such as the one illustrated below. This policy is not intended to be a complete list of infractions and consequences but rather a guide for students, parents and staff.

1. Parents will be involved with the first situation that results in a written report. A record of the violation and report will be retained by the building administrator, driver and provided to parents.
2. If a second problem resulting in a written report (of any type/level) develops, the student will be suspended from riding the bus for a minimum of three (3) days.
3. If another problem develops resulting in a written report, a suspension of one (1) week will be put in effect.
4. Further, more permanent action will be determined by the district administrations if problems persist and will result in a (3) week suspension of transportation for the student. Any future problems may result in permanent removal from transportation for the remainder of the school term.

Parents and students will be notified in written form of all bus expectations at the time bus route information for the new school year is provided.

- All bus discipline is the responsibility of the individual bus driver. Any problems or questions should be referred to the driver and then, if needed, to the Director of Transportation. Drivers will also report discipline problems to the appropriate school administrator. For all behavior infractions resulting in a written report the building administrator/transportation director will report the determined consequences to the driver and parents.

Examples of Level I Offenses

- Spitting
- Excessive noise
- Horseplay/mischief
- Eating/drinking/littering on the bus
- Leaving seat/standing without permission from driver
- Use of non-water containers in any form
- Profanity, verbal abuse, harassment, obscene gestures or possession of unacceptable material

Examples of Level II/III Offenses

- Hanging out of window
- Throwing/shooting of any object
- Bullying and/or physical aggression against any person
- Profanity/threats directed toward driver/aide
- Possession/use of tobacco or any controlled substance
- Vandalism to bus (restitution will be required)

- Disobedient to driver/aide
- Riding unassigned bus or using unassigned bus stop
- Prohibited P.E.D. use
- Other offenses as reported by the driver
- Holding onto/or attempting to hold onto any portion of the exterior of the bus
- Lighting of matches, lighters, or any flammable object or substance
- Unauthorized entering or leaving bus through emergency door/tampering with bus equipment
- Possession of threat of weapons/explosives/flammables
- Possession/use of laser pens or pointers
- Other offenses as reported by driver

Severity Clause: If any incident of misconduct is deemed to be very serious and/or hazardous to the safety of any or all passengers, a Bus Rider Incident Report will be completed and submitted to the appropriate building level administrator as soon as possible. In emergency situations which threaten the health or safety of students, or when immediate removal from the bus is necessary to maintain the safety of students and proper bus conduct, the building administrator has the authority to suspend the student from the bus riding privileges for twenty-four (24) hours pending investigation of the reported incident. All attempts will be made to contact the parents as soon as possible.

Level I Incidents. The driver will inform the student that a Bus Rider Incident Report is being issued and tell the student the specific reasons for the report. The Transportation Director will meet with the student and building administrator to validate the information collected, administer the appropriate discipline and to inform parents/guardians about the situation. **Level I Incidents will be a warning and may include three (3) days suspension from the bus.**

Level II Incidents. The driver will inform the student that a Bus Rider Incident Report is being issued and tell the student the specific reasons for the report. The Transportation Director will meet with the student and building administrator to validate the information collected, administer the appropriate discipline and to inform parents/guardians about the situation. **Level II Incidents will be a final warning and may include three (3) to five (5) days suspension from the bus.**

Level III Incidents. The driver will inform the student that a Bus Rider Incident Report is being issued and tell the student the specific reasons for the report. The Transportation Director will meet with the student and building administrator to validate the information collected, administer the appropriate discipline and to inform parents/guardians about the situation. **Level III Incidents will include five (5) to ten (10) days suspension or even permanent removal from the bus.**

Student Conduct and Discipline: In addition to the School Code of Conduct, District OR-1 requires Parents/Guardians to acknowledge the **Bus Rider Behavior Contract included in this Handbook when they sign the Handbook form.** The Transportation Department developed the Bus Rider Contract with the following philosophy in mind: **“We believe all students can behave appropriately and safely while riding on a school bus. We will not tolerate any students stopping drivers from doing their job or preventing other students from having a safe and peaceful transportation experience”.** Talk to your children about safe, appropriate behavior when on board the school bus. Stress the importance of accountability for his/her actions and behavior when riding the bus. This contract applies only to transportation behavior and does not supersede the student handbook procedure for suspension or expulsion.

Parents (or guardians) and students are required to acknowledge the receipt of this form by acknowledging receipt of the student handbook. Failure to return the receipt may result in immediate suspension of riding privileges.
VIOLATIONS OF DISTRICT OR1 BUS RULES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Cell Phones, Pagers and Other Electronic Devices

Students may not use electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may use electronic devices on the school sidewalks after school hours. Students may not have electronic devices while they are in locker rooms, classrooms or restrooms or anywhere there is an expectation of privacy. During school hours' students must keep their electronic devices in backpacks. Students may not use electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle unless they have permission to do so from the vehicle's driver.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of any device or any calls made on a cell phone.

By bringing personal electronic devices to school, students consent to having that phone searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

Students who violate this policy will have their electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Ceremonies and Holiday Observances:

The school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. These include, but are not limited to, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and observance of holidays, such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter, by programs and performances. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion.

Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy.

September 17 shall be designated as Constitution Day. The district shall hold an educational program(s) for all students on the United States Constitution each September 17th. When September 17th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, then Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

Child Abuse/Neglect:

Staff members of District OR1 Schools are required by law to report any suspected or known cases of child abuse or neglect to the proper authorities.

Closed Campus:

Once students have arrived at school, they are to remain on the school grounds until the close of the school day or be considered truant and dealt with accordingly. Students may only be excused through the office to a parent/guardian or someone else designated by the parent/guardian.

Clothing & Supplies:

Make sure that clothing articles are clearly marked with student's names. To maintain the gym floor we ask that each student have a pair of tennis shoes for indoor use. Indoor shoes are stored in student cubbies. These should be marked in some manner so the shoes can be returned to the student in the event they are lost.

A school supply list is available on the district website or in the school office. None necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost school supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from the class supply list.

Computer Network, Internet and Other Computer Use Rules:

Network, E-Mail, Internet and Other Computer Use Rules:

Unacceptable Uses.

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. Personal Gain: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. Personal Matters: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters unless the User has entered into a lease agreement or other similar agreement with the School District that makes such use permissible under law.
- c. Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an email to a minor child or spouse; sending an email related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.
- d. This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- a. Campaigning: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

- b. Technology-Related Limitations: Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation:
 - 1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
 - 2. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
 - 3. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
 - 4. Users shall not engage in "hacking" to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
 - 5. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
 - 6. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
 - 7. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
 - 8. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.

- c. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
 - 1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
 - 2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
 - 3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending emails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on emails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending emails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
 - 4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
 - 5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
 - 6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.

7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.

General Rules:

The network is provided to staff and students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Access for all staff and students is a privilege and not a right.

- (i) Individual users of the district network are responsible for their behavior, actions, problems, and communications involving and over the network. Users will comply with district rules and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such rules, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, editing, or controlling the information, equipment or communications of individuals utilizing the network or the end product or result of such utilization.
- (ii) Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers for students. Network administrators may review files, information, equipment, messages and communications of staff and students to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the network system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise used or retained on the network, district servers, or in computers, will be private. No reasonable expectation of privacy shall exist in relation to network use.
- (iii) Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, any information or products obtained from the network, that files or information stored, obtained or used on the network will be private, and use of the network waives and relinquishes all such privacy rights, interests or claims to confidentiality the user may have under state or federal law.
- (iv) The district will not be liable for, and does not warrant in any way, purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

Policy and Rules for Acceptable Use of Computers and the Network: The following policy and rules for acceptable use of computers and the network, including Internet, shall apply to all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. The term "Users", as contained herein, shall apply to all such individuals. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, is hereby delegated all authority and is the ultimate person in charge of the district network and technology resources or equipment, and the same shall also be under the direct supervision of the site or building administrator where located, sometimes herein called "network administrators."

- (v) Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.
- (vi) Users shall not let other persons use their name, account, log-on password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).
- (vii) Users shall not use or try to discover another user's account or password.
- (viii) Users shall not use the computers or network for non-instructional or non-administrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).
- (ix) Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

- (x) Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.
- (xi) Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code, software or information designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of the network or any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
- (xii) Users shall not use the computer to annoy, harass, or bully others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access, accept, create or send any obscene, vulgar, lewd, tasteless, or objectionable messages, information, language, or images.
- (xiii) Users shall not damage the network or equipment, damage information belonging to others, misuse network resources, or allow others to misuse network resources. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this or any other rule shall be liable for any and all damages to the computer, network, information, files, programs or disks.
- (xiv) Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.
- (xv) Users shall not take technology equipment (hardware or software) from the school grounds or remove such from computer work areas without permission of the network or building administrator.

Etiquette and Rules for Use of Computers and the Network: All users of computers and the network are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Informal rules of behavior have evolved for the use of and communication on the network, Internet and other on-line services. Breaches can result in harsh criticism by others. These rules of behavior include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages to others.
- Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language, message, information or images.
- Do not reveal your personal account, address or phone numbers, or that of other students or colleagues.
- Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is specifically not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities. Messages which violate the rules will result in disciplinary action.
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property of others.
- Do not place unlawful information on any network system.
- Keep paragraphs and messages short and to the point. Focus on one subject per message.
- Include your signature at the bottom of email messages. Your signature footer should include your name, position, affiliation, and network or Internet address.
- Other rules may be established by the network administrators or teachers from time to time

Penalties for Violation of Rules: All of the policies, rules, and procedures for acceptable use of computers and the network are intended to make the computers and the network more reliable for users.

They are also intended to minimize the burden of administering the networks so that more time can be spent on education and enhancing services. Use of the computer and access to telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies, rules, and procedures concerning the use of computers and the network may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, loss of access, suspension and/or expulsion of students from school and loss of access, suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of administrators, teachers, or other school employees.

Staff, Student and Parent Agreements: Students and parents may be required to sign a computer and network use agreement as a condition of the student being permitted to use such equipment.

Damage and Loss of School Property:

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school.

Students who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done, replace the item or make some other appropriate form of restitution.

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students may be charged replacement or repair costs for lost or damaged books. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

Dating Violence Prevention:

The board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

The district will provide appropriate training to staff and incorporate within its educational program age-appropriate dating violence education that shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

See Appendix A for policy.

Discipline Policy & School Rules:

Corporal punishment of students is prohibited by the Board of Education. However, this policy does not prohibit protective activities whereby District OR1 School personnel act to protect self, others or property of or on District OR1 School premises.

District OR 1 Bennet Elementary School students are protected against arbitrary punishment under the

Constitution of the United States and Nebraska State law. All disciplinary actions at District OR 1 will be in accordance with Nebraska Law. In no case will a student be denied the procedural due process guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

While individual teachers maintain specific rules pertaining to their classrooms, these rules fall under **four** general school-wide rules for providing a learning environment. Those rules are as follows:

- 1. Be Respectful.**
- 2. Be Responsible.**
- 3. Be Safe.**
- 4. Be an Active Learner.**

District OR 1 Bennet Elementary has created a Behavior Matrix that lists specific expectations for behaviors throughout the school day. We believe that children need to learn in a caring and safe environment that is free from distraction and disruption. This environment is the right of every child and maintaining this environment is the responsibility of every child and staff member. We also believe that children are accountable for the results of their decisions and actions. One of our jobs as parents and school staff members is to help children to make good decisions and to respect the rights of others. These beliefs are the basis of our school-wide discipline plan – a plan which will help to enhance Bennet Elementary’s positive learning environment.

Consistency is a key element in this discipline plan. Children must know the rules, expectations and consequences and know they are consistent school-wide.

When one of the school or classroom rules is broken, the child’s name will be recorded/moved. At a time when the learning atmosphere is not interrupted, the teacher and the child will discuss the incident privately. During this time, teachers may use their discretion about loss of privileges in the classroom. Upon receiving the third teacher interaction/consequence, the child will go to the principal’s office with a form from the teacher in order to conference with the principal. The principal will have the child tell about the incidents leading to the visit, record the date of the visit for future reference and a phone call or note home.

Subsequent visits to the principal will yield the same steps as the third visit with additional visits including additional in-school suspension time. After this point in the plan, extenuating circumstances may require additional measures and each case will be considered on an individual basis. It should be noted that fighting, use of inappropriate language, insubordination and willfully endangering another person will result in an immediate visit to the principal and a phone call to the parents.

This plan is in compliance with District OR1 Board of Education policy and Nebraska State Statutes.

Other possible consequences for violation of our school rules and bus rules may also include but not be limited to:

Detention – A period of time before or after school for which a student must report as a result of infractions of the Bennet Elementary School rules. Detention may be assigned by any teacher within Bennet Elementary School and will be served with the assigning teacher at a time determined by the teacher or with the principal at a time determined by the principal. Before assigning a time for detention, parents will be notified by phone, a note, or in person, of the pending detention. Detention after school will last until 4:00 p.m. but, may be longer, at the discretion of the principal, if deemed appropriate.

Loss of Recess – Students may lose recess privileges for a period of time. They may report to their teacher or the principal’s office.

Conference – A formal conference is held between the student and one or more school officials. The conference will be recorded in the administrative log.

Parental involvement – Parent(s) or guardian(s) are notified by telephone, personal contact, letter or certified letter. A conference may be conducted between the student, parent(s), or legal guardian(s), appropriate school personnel, and any other individuals concerned. This conference will be recorded in the administrative log.

Emergency Exclusion – Exclusion of a student from attendance, if the student has a dangerous disease or the student's conduct presents a threat to the physical safety of the school community, until the circumstances justifying the exclusion have been resolved.

School/Community Service – Work required of the student at the school or within the community. This work is for the benefit of the school/community and a service provided by the students as a result of disciplinary action. School/Community Service may be assigned in conjunction with detention or In-School Suspension.

In-School Suspension – Assigned for infractions of the Bennet Elementary School rules, students will be isolated in a designated school area for a time not to exceed five (5) school days. While on In-School Suspension, students will not be counted absent and will be required to complete all classroom assignments. Students will be ineligible for all school activities during this time.

Short-Term Suspension – The exclusion of a student from Bennet Elementary School attendance and participation in all school activities for a period not to exceed (5) school days. During an out-of-school suspension, the student may receive zeros for all classes missed.

See Appendix A.

Procedures for Short Term Suspension and Long Term Suspension or Expulsion:

See page 72 in Appendix.

Alternative Programs for Expelled Students:

An alternative school, class, or educational program (hereinafter referred to as an alternative program) shall be made available to all expelled students as and to the extent required by law. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall make known to expelled students what alternative programs are available during the expulsion period. Such information shall be made known to the expelled student on or before the date the expulsion becomes effective. An expulsion becomes effective, as to a student who has been given a written notice of a recommendation to expel, on the earliest of the following dates: (1) If the student, parent, or guardian has not requested a hearing, the sixth school day following receipt of the notice with recommendation to expel, (2) If the student has requested a hearing, the date the student, parent, or guardian, receives notice of the determination of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to expel the student, or (3) Such other date as shall be mutually agreed by the student, parent, or guardian and the administration.

The approved alternative programs are: (1) community based programs, (2) home based programs, (3) specialized tutorial experiences, and (4) distance learning. The Board of Education may, from time to time, approve other alternative programs and may approve specific programs and enter into contracts for the provision of such specific alternative programs. To the extent that the alternative programs are to be provided on-site, the individuals responsible for providing such on-site alternative programs shall hold a valid Nebraska Teaching or Administrative Certificate. The extent that the alternative program is to be community based or off-site, such alternative programs shall be planned in

cooperation with and monitored or supervised by a school district staff member who holds a Nebraska Teacher or Administrative Certificate. Alternative programs may be conducted at times other than the regular school day.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall determine which alternative programs shall be made available to each specific expelled student, based on a consideration of the interests of the school district and the student's educational and behavioral objectives and needs as determined in the discretion of the Superintendents or the Superintendent's designee. If a parent or guardian refuses to participate or have their expelled child participate in the alternative programs made available, the district shall have no further obligation with regard to the provision of an alternative program. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall have established a specific date or time within which the parent or guardian shall be required to state in writing an agreement to participate in the alternative program. As a condition of participation in alternative programs which involve the payment of tuition or other similar expenses, the student, parent, or guardian may be required as a condition of such alternative programs being available, to agree in writing to pay the tuition or other similar costs for such programs.

The standards of student behavior or cooperation required of students in the regular programs of this district shall also be required of expelled students, throughout the entire time period of the alternative program. Additional standards may be established in each specific program and for each specific expelled student. If the expelled student fails to meet the required standards of student behavior or cooperation, the student may be further disciplined by the disciplinary punishment up to and including expulsion for an additional period of time beyond that being served by the expelled student. Further, if the expelled student fails to meet any of the conditions of the learning program, the district may by action of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, terminate the alternative program for the expelled student. A due process hearing substantially in compliance with the statutory provisions for suspension and expulsion of students shall be made available unless waived by the parent or legal guardian.

Upon pre-approval by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, academic credit towards graduation or advancement in grade level shall be available to students participating in alternative programs for expelled students. The academic credits to be awarded may be equal to one-half of the academic credits a student would earn for completion of a similar educational program as determined in the discretion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. Such academic credits shall not be earned unless the expelled student has successfully completed the conditions of the alternative program as determined by the teacher and the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. The superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall determine whether or to what extent such academic credits should be assigned to subject area or other specific graduation or advancement requirements. The achievement (i.e. grades) assigned for such academic credits shall not be available to the advantage of the expelled student for honor roll, class rank, or other academic honors or recognition.

Hearing Procedures:

See appendix A page 84.

Procedures for Emergency Exclusion:

A student may be excluded from the District OR1 Schools in the following circumstances by the principal, superintendent of schools or other persons as may be from time-to-time authorized by the

superintendent of schools:

1. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmittable through normal school contacts that poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community.
2. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself or others or is so extremely disruptive as to make the student's temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Such exclusion will be subject to the procedural provisions of short-term suspension, provided that, if the superintendent of schools or his designee determines that such exclusion will extend beyond five school days, the procedures set forth for long-term suspension or expulsion will be followed, and a final determination will be made by the hearing officer within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion.

An emergency exclusion will be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it, and will last no longer than necessary to avoid the dangers described in (1) and (2) above.

Notices Required:

All notices and recommendations required to be sent to a student or the student's parents or guardians under the Bennet Elementary School guidelines will be considered effectively given if personally delivered to or sent by certified or registered mail to the student or the student's parents or guardian; or when the student or his or her parent or guardian have actual knowledge of the information contained in the notice

If the situation warrants, these consequences may be invoked immediately, regardless of previous steps in the discipline policy.

Dress Code:

No article of dress will be worn which depicts profanity or suggestive inscriptions. Clothing may not advertise any form of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or anything pertaining to them. Also, any attire which has wording or pictures which are vulgar or sexual in interpretation will not be permitted in school or at school activities. See-through clothing is unacceptable. Hats, caps, other headgear or sunglasses will not be worn in the building during the school day unless a special dress-up day is proclaimed. Shoes or sandals must be worn at all times. Basically, any article of dress which causes a distraction in the school environment will not be allowed.

During warm weather, students are allowed to wear shorts of a reasonable length. Please make sure, however, that students are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions. We do have recess outside whenever possible. If a student is not dressed appropriately for the weather, they may be required to spend recess in the office. This is not a punishment. We are simply concerned with your child's well-being.

Generally, attire and grooming are left to the good judgment of students and parents/guardians. However, in the event that a student's attire is deemed unacceptable due to inappropriate or suggestive depictions:

1. The student may be asked to turn the garment inside out and not to wear it again, or be requested to wear clothing provided by the school office.
2. If the garment is worn for a second time, the parents will be notified and asked to bring other

- clothing to school for the child to change into.
3. Any other action deemed appropriate by the principal may be taken.

The principal reserves the right and has the responsibility to decide if a person's style of dress or appearance is in violation of these guidelines or if it is causing a distraction.

Drills – Fire & Tornado:

We are required by law to have at least ten fire drills each year. Teachers visit with students about the importance of these drills and proper procedures. In the event of a fire or fire drill, signal horns will sound. Students will use the following exits:

- Preschool/Music/Art: Use classroom exit or east exit
- KDG Classrooms: Use west exit.
- Mrs. Petska: Use the south exit from the room.
- Mrs. Dowding: Use south exit from first grade or main front exit.
- Second Grade Rooms: Use the west exit in the south hall.
- Third Grade Rooms: Use the west exit in the north hall.
- Computer Lab: Use the main east exit or exit off of the classroom.
- Speech Room and Media Center: Use the main east exit.
- Fourth Grade Rooms: Use west exit in north hall or exit in 5Ma.
- Fifth Grade Rooms: 5Ma-Use north exit in classroom.
5M-Use north exit.
- Resource Rooms: Use the north exit in the east hall.
- Life Skills/REC Activity Room: Use north exit in east hall.
- Office, Title I and Lunchroom: Use the main front exit.
- Gymnasium: Use south gym exit.

Students and staff members exiting the south exits and southwest hallway are to go around the south side of the building and to the parking lot south of school. Students going out the north side of the building and the northwest hallway exit are to go around the north side of the building and proceed east to the tennis courts. Students and teachers in kindergarten through second grades are to assemble in the parking *lot* south of school. Students and teachers in third through sixth grades are to assemble on the tennis courts. These will be the designated areas for each grade. If a student is separated from his/her class, he/she should leave the building using the nearest exit and meet his/her class in the designated area. It is important that students walk calmly and quietly in a single file line and that the last student out of the exit closes the door behind them.

Tornado Procedures. We are also required to have at least two tornado drills per year. The importance of these is also stressed to the students. In the event of a tornado drill or a tornado warning, classes will proceed to the following areas: Art and Music Room.

- KDG: Mrs. Wusk's Classroom
- 1st--3rd Grade: Art Room
- 4th--6th Grade: Music Room
- Specials Classes: Music Room

If there is a ***tornado watch*** in effect for our area, teachers and other staff members will be notified. No action needs to be taken at that time, but classes should be ready to move to the assigned areas if the watch is upgraded to a warning. In the event of a ***tornado warning*** or a ***tornado drill***, class bells will

sound intermittently. All students should come in from outside and go to the assigned areas immediately. Once there, they must remain quiet and listen for further instructions from staff members. Flashlights are available in all areas in case of power failure. When in the assigned areas, the students should be seated on the floor in a crouched position and protect the backs of their necks and heads. They should remain in this position until the all clear is given.

What Not to Do. Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

Emergency Conditions Bennet Elementary School has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for an Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

Dual Enrollment:

The parent, guardian, or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting dual enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school district. On the form, they shall indicate the academic courses and extracurricular activities in which the student is interested in participating.

A dual enrollment student is eligible to participate in the school district's academic and extracurricular activities in the same manner as other students enrolled in the school district to the extent allowed within NSAA regulations. The policies and administrative rules of the school district shall apply to the dual enrollment students in the same manner as the other students enrolled in the school district. These policies and administrative rules shall include, but not be limited to, athletic eligibility requirements, rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements, and payment of the fees required for participation.

Field/Activity Trips:

If the economy permits, field trips are taken from time-to-time. The purpose of these field trips is to broaden the student's educational experiences. Parents will be asked to sign a permission slip before a student can attend. Occasionally students may be asked to bring money to pay admission to an attraction. These are usually nominal amounts. Students who become discipline problems on a field trip may not be allowed to attend future field trips. Sometimes, field trips within the communities are planned. If you have ideas for field trips which pertain to the students learning, please contact your child's teacher.

Students involved in any activity away from District OR 1 (athletic contests, field trips, music events, etc.) are required to ride to and from the activity on school-provided transportation when offered. These requirements may be waived, however, under various and extreme circumstances. This may be accomplished by requesting and completing a form available in the principal's offices. This form must then be given to the Elementary Principal at least 24 hours prior to the departure time for the event. The

principal will make the final determination of the request based upon the reasons given and what is in the best interest of the individual, sponsor, group and school. Approved requests will then be forwarded to the appropriate activity sponsor.

Parents, guardians or their designee must be present when the student is released from the sponsor or when the student meets the group. If the person is unknown to the sponsor, identification must be shown and the appropriate form signed to pick up the student.

Forms:

A number of forms are required by the school. Some are required by state law, others are primarily for the purpose of updating our files. In some instances, these forms are required before registration. Please see that the following forms are returned and in your child’s file by the end of the first week of school:

Registration Form – New students and kindergartners only or changes must be noted for previously registered students.

Immunization Form – New students, kindergartners and updates for previously registered students (required before your child may enter school).

Birth Certificate – Upon initial entry into our school, must have the raised state seal.

Emergency Card – One must be completed for each student and returned to school.

Physical Form – Students entering kindergarten or moving to our school from a different state.

Computer Update Form – This form is used to help us maintain accurate mailing and other pertinent information.

Grades / Reporting to Parents / Power Grade:

Report cards are sent home four times per year. Parent-Teacher Conferences are held twice per year. We believe that communication is extremely important. Conferences are a time for parents and teachers to ask questions and receive information which will help the students progress at school and at home. There is a limited amount of time for conferences. We ask that you stay within the time allotted to you. If you have not finished with your conference, please arrange another time with the teacher so the schedule can be maintained and others do not have to wait. It is a good idea to bring a list of questions you might have to the conference. Ask your child if there is anything which needs to be discussed.

If, during the course of the school year, you have questions, please do not feel you have to wait until conference time to ask. Please call your child’s teacher. Many times, a problem can be rectified if everyone is aware of it at its earliest stages. Following is the grading scale used at Bennet Elementary.

94-100.....	A
86-93.....	B
78-85.....	C
70-77.....	D
0-69.....	F
Incomplete.....	I

If an incomplete is not made up within ten (10) school days after the grade has been issued, it becomes an F. The time limit may be waived or extended with the consent of the principal and the teacher involved for such circumstances as serious illness or a death in the family.

Power Grade Parent Access:

Parents and Guardians of students in grades K- 6 have online access to student grades through PowerSchool. If you would like to sign up for access to your student's grades, please contact the school office.

Head Lice:

Head lice are considered to be a nuisance disease and are not a major public health concern. However, in order to keep infestations to a minimum, adequate screening and treatment measures must be followed. Periodic screening will take place during the school year. The purpose of screening is to identify untreated cases as soon as possible to prevent potential spread of the disease. When an individual case is identified during the course of the school year, the entire classroom or grade of students will be screened. If parents identify head lice in their children, they should notify the school immediately so screening measures can be enacted.

The following procedure will be followed when a student is identified with Head lice at school.

- i. When a student is found to have head lice, he or she shall be excluded from school for treatment. The parent/guardian shall be notified to pick up the student. The student may return to class when the parent/guardian confirms that a treatment method has been utilized and the child has no visible live lice.
- ii. The parents/guardians will be given complete and appropriate information on the subject of treatment for head lice. This information will include components on use of an appropriate chemical treatment shampoo, emphasis on nit removal, and guidelines on environmental factors in the house in regards to lose control.
- iii. Upon return to the school, the student will report to the school office for a head check. The student will not be allowed to return to class until no live lice are found. During the first occasion of infestation a student will be allowed to return to class with nits. The child will be rechecked in 7-10 days for emergence of hatching or live lice, which if found will result in exclusion and treatment be repeated.
- iv. Treatment and return to school should take place within 2 days. If the student has not returned to school within 2 days, the school will make a telephone contact with the parent to inquire about the progress of treatment and encourage that the child returns to school as soon as possible.

Once again, these measures and actions are followed to minimize and control the spread of lice within the school. If you have any questions about these measures or how to treat head lice, please feel free to contact the school.

Immunizations:

Immunizations against the following diseases are required for every child. A summary of school immunization rules and regulations is listed in the chart below.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations For 2022-2023 School Year

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	<p>4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine</p> <p>1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age</p> <p>1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.</p> <p>4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age</p>
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday.</p> <p>3 doses of Polio vaccine</p> <p>3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age</p> <p>2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month</p> <p>2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
Students entering 7 th grade	<p>Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)</p>
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

Updated 1/25/2017

Students must show proof of immunization upon enrollment in school. **Any student who does not comply with the immunization requirements will not be permitted to continue in school. Students with medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs which do not allow immunizations may complete a waiver statement which is available in school health offices.**

Students with a signed waiver statement may be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

Illness & Injury at School:

Generally, when a student becomes sick at school, they are sent to the office. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: Temperature greater than 100.4°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by the school nurse that the child’s condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves.

Please include emergency daytime phone numbers on your child’s enrollment card so that you can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured while at school. Please also inform your school health office staff of health related information you feel is important for your student’s success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

If a student is injured, all we can do at school is to clean and bandage scrapes or apply ice packs to bruises and sprains. If the injury requires further medical attention, we will make every effort to contact you or someone on your emergency list.

Please do not send your child to school if they appear to be or are sick. Also, students need to be fever, vomiting, diarrhea free with no medication for 24 hours before they can return to school.

Kindergarten Enrollment:

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, the beginning date for enrollment into kindergarten changed from October 15 to July 31 of the school year in which the child seeks admission. Any child who attains the age of 5 on or before July 31 will be admitted to school. A child may be admitted who will reach the age of five on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (I) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year, (ii) the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current school year, or (iii) the child has demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the board that he or she is capable of carrying out the work of kindergarten. If you have a child that falls in the late enrollment window for kindergarten, please contact the elementary school office.

Lost & Found:

If an item is found which does not belong to you, it can be placed on the shelves in the main entry or brought to the office. We will try to help locate items but cannot be responsible for items which students or others lose. Please add your child’s name to coats, backpacks, etc.

Lunch/Milk/Breakfast:

Lunch Milk and Breakfast prices are as follows:

Elementary Student Hot Lunch.....	\$2.75
Adult Lunch.....	\$3.85
Recess/Cold Lunch Milk.....	\$.35
Elementary Student Breakfast.....	\$2.10
Adult Breakfast.....	\$2.50

District OR1 participates in the federally funded free/reduced hot lunch/breakfast program. If you feel your income and family size qualifies you for free or reduced lunches, please contact the school so the necessary form may be completed. If your financial situation changes significantly, please notify us as well.

Payment of Lunch/Breakfast Accounts

Our lunch accounting system is set up so that each family has a single-family account. Parents will be expected to send money to be deposited in this account similar to a bank account. Their child/children in both the elementary school and the Jr.-Sr. High School will be able to spend that money for lunches or ala carte items. Expenditures will be deducted from the balance of the family account. The accounting system records when kids eat and how much was spent. When the account gets low the school will notify parents so that they can maintain a balance in their family account. **If the family account is exhausted, students will be expected to pay for their lunches prior to consumption.**

Meals must always be provided to pre-primary and young primary (K-3) students or for any students who may be unable to take full responsibility for a meal plan.

Breakfast Schedule

Breakfast will start at 7:50 a.m. for Bennet Students who do not ride the bus. Those students who ride the bus will eat at Bennet Elementary once they are dropped off at Bennet. No elementary students will eat at Palmyra High School.

Bennet town students that do not wish to eat breakfast are requested not to arrive at school until 8:00 a.m.

Lunch Schedule

Lunch schedules are as follows:

Kindergarten -	10:55-11:20
First Grade -	11:50-12:10
Second Grade -	11:30-11:50
Third Grade -	11:40-12:00
Fourth Grade -	12:00-12:20
Fifth Grade -	12:15-12:35

Parents are always welcome to attend lunch. Please call before 9:00 a.m. or send a note with your child when you plan to attend lunch with your child. This helps us to prepare additional food, if necessary.

Make-Up Work:

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to make up work. If requested, assignment sheets will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents and/or students request assignment sheets the school should be contacted by no later than 11:00 a.m.

Written make-up work may be assigned for each day missed regardless of the type of absence. If

make-up work is not completed, students **may** receive no credit for the work required. The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments.

Medications:

According to Nebraska law schools must have written permission from parents/guardians to administer any type of medication to students. Medication is defined as any over-the-counter or prescription drug to treat medical conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, aspirin, cough drops, antibiotics and the like. Medicine must be in its original container and must be accompanied by a completed medication permission form, saying how much to take, when to take it, the name of the medication, how long the student will be taking the medication and the date. Permission forms are in the back of this handbook. Additional forms are available at the school office. Prescription medications and Long-term medications that will require administration on a regular basis must also have a Physicians authorization from completed and on file at the school office. These forms are available in the school office. If the child is taking a prescription drug, ask your pharmacist for an additional empty bottle with the prescription label on it as well. Send only the amount of medicine the child will need at school. Children are NOT allowed to transport medications to or from school for the safety of themselves and other children that could potentially get ahold of the medication(s). A written record of the administration of medication procedure must be kept for each child receiving any medication including the date; student's name; prescriber or person authorizing the administration; the medication and its dosage; the name, signature and title of the person administering the medication; and the time and method of administration and any unusual circumstances, actions or omissions. Administration of medication records shall be kept confidential.

Asthma and Allergic Reaction Protocol:

District OR 1 Bennet Elementary has adopted the following Asthma and Allergic Reaction Protocol as required by state law. The protocol is a response that trained school officials will carry out in the case of a severe asthma or allergic reaction (anaphylactic shock) by a student in school. Parents wishing to have their children exempted from receiving this protocol may sign a waiver by contacting the school office (782-3535).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS) DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an *acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary.*

A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, **AND DEATH CAN OCCUR.** Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications.

LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS: Any of these symptoms may occur:

Chest tightness

Wheezing

Severe shortness of breath

Retractions (chest or neck "sucked in")

Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color)

Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy

A hunched-over position

Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two word phrases or complete inability to speak

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reactions, the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present requires several hours of monitoring.

Skin: warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives

Abdominal: pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea

Oral/Respiratory: sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction

Cardiovascular: headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse)

Mental status: apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. CALL 911

2. Summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement emergency protocol

3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse

4. Administer medications (EpiPen and albuterol) per standing order

5. Determine cause as quickly as possible

6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.)

7. Contact parents immediately and physician as soon as possible

8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS:

Administer an IM EpiPen-Jr. for a child less than 50 pounds or an adult EpiPen for any individual over 50 pounds

Follow with nebulized albuterol (premixed) while awaiting EMS. If not better, may repeat two times back-to-back, Administer CPR, if indicated

Self-Administration of Medications.

Students may be required to take medication during the school day. Elementary students are NOT allowed to carry or self administer medications. All medications shall be administered by the school nurse, a registered Medication Aide, or other school staff member meeting the minimum competency standards for the Medication Aide Act, including emergency medications.

Money:

If money is sent to school, please make sure it is in an envelope with the student's name on it and a note with it describing what the money's for. Money for hot lunch and cold lunch milk is maintained by the office. The school secretary collects the money each morning. Please clearly mark if it is for lunch, REC, etc. Checks cannot be split into two accounts (Example: Rec and Lunch.)

Other money, such as that for book orders, field trips, etc. is handled by the classroom teacher as well.

Again, make sure that the money is in an envelope marked with the child's name and what the money's for.

Multicultural Policy:

Multicultural education is the identification, selection and infusion of specific knowledge, skills and attitudes for the purpose of:

- affirming the culture, history and contributions that shall include but not be limited to African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans;
- challenging and eliminating racism, prejudice, bigotry, discrimination and stereotyping based on race;
- valuing multiple cultural perspectives; and
- providing all students with opportunities to “see themselves” in the educational environment in positive ways and on a continuing basis.

To promote and support multicultural education within Bennet Elementary School it shall be the policy and practice of this district to create opportunities for all students to achieve academically and socially in an educational environment in which all students and staff understand and respect the racial and cultural diversity and interdependence of members of our society.

Newsletters:

Each week, an elementary newsletter will be published. These newsletters will contain helpful tips for parents, news of the elementary and announcements of upcoming events. Newsletters will be sent home via e-mail if you check this option on the enrollment form. If you choose to receive the newsletter in paper form the oldest or only child will have it in their Friday folder. Please watch for these on the last day of the school week. *The newsletter is also posted weekly on the school website.*

Parent Visitations:

Parents may visit their child's classroom at Bennet Elementary. Please make sure the teacher and principal have been contacted **in advance** of the visit and asked when you may visit. *Visits of less than an hour are better.* A student's attention and behavior is altered by visitors in the classroom. If a parent visits the classroom, we ask that siblings not attend with the parent as this is a distraction to the students in the classroom. Teachers are busy providing learning activities and will not be asked to supervise additional children. Students are not allowed to bring visiting friends or relatives to visit the classroom without previous permission from the Principal.

Before going into any classroom or visiting with any student or teacher, please report to the office. In this way, we can limit the number of interruptions to the regular school day.

Pets:

Students may be allowed to bring pets to school for show and tell WITH permission of the principal. Arrangements must be made with the principal 48 hours prior. If permitted, parents will be asked to bring the pet and take it home with them. Pets are not allowed on the bus and are not allowed to stay the entire day. Pets which are normally passive and friendly may become aggressive when surrounded by a number of people.

Physical Examination:

Evidence of a physical examination by a qualified physician is required within six months prior to the entrance of the child into any Early Childhood Special Education classes, kindergarten and the seventh grade, or in the case of transfer from out of state to any other grade. A parent or guardian who objects may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. The statement will be kept in the student's file. Waiver forms are available in the school health office.

Preschool Program:

Bennet offers an accredited preschool for 3-4 year-old children. We offer two 3 and ½ hour class sessions on Monday – Thursday, with no classes on Friday. The morning sessions run from 8:00 – 11:30 a.m and the afternoon session runs from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. If you are interested in having your 3-4-year-old children enrolled in the pre-school, please contact Bennet Elementary at 782-3535, so we may put you on our enrollment list.

Programs & Services:

District OR-1 has many programs to help students both academically and socially.

Title I – The Title I program offers additional help to those students who are having difficulty in math or reading and who meet certain qualifications. This program, at this time, is only available to first through sixth grades.

Art – Students meet once a week with the art teacher from our high school. Basic art skills, knowledge and projects are taught in these classes.

Computer – Students meet weekly with our computer teacher. Starting in third grade students receive instruction in keyboarding, which continues through the sixth grade.

Resource/Special Education – We have a resource/special education program available for those students who have learning difficulties. In order for students to receive help, they must qualify under state guidelines. Any one interested may obtain a copy of the District OR-1 Special Education Program by contacting a building administrator. We have three full-time teachers in this program and one part time.

Physical Education – Students attend P.E. classes two times per week. Basic physical skills, sportsmanship and fundamentals of games are emphasized in these classes.

Music – Students meet once a week for vocal music instruction. Students in fourth grade spend one quarter per year learning the fundamentals of playing the recorder. Fifth and sixth grade students have the opportunity to participate in band. Individuals, small and large groups meet to learn to play instruments and to practice their musical skills. The instrumental program is a voluntary program.

Library – A half time library/media specialist is in charge of the media center and teaches library skills. Skills such as internet research, reference work, understanding the Dewey Decimal System and the like are taught to the students in the upper grades. Students are able to hear stories and check out books each week, as well.

Counselor - Students may be referred to the counselor by themselves, teachers and/or parents. If you wish to see a counselor, stop by the office and make arrangements for an appointment.

School Psychologist – Our school psychologist does psychological testing and assists us in special education identification with students who have academic or social concerns.

Health Services – We are fortunate to have the services of the E.S.U. Health Van available to us each year. During the first and second semester, the nurses conduct a health screening for vision, hearing, dental defects, height and weight. The screening program also incorporates scoliosis and blood pressure checks.

Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school-screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office where their child attends at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

We also have the resources of the Lancaster County Health Department at our disposal. They are available as resources to us throughout the year.

Speech/Language – Our Speech/Language Pathologist works with students who have difficulty with speech articulation and language. In order for students to receive help, they must qualify under state guidelines.

Promotion & Retention:

The professional staff at Bennet Elementary will place students at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally.

Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff and the parents to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program. All retention discussions will need to occur with the building principal.

Recess/Playground Rules:

Recesses are provided for students. It is our philosophy that recess gives students a chance to have a break from classroom work. However, we believe it is still a learning experience for students. This is a time when students learn appropriate social behavior. They learn to share, be considerate of others, play fairly and develop friendships. There are times when students may not participate in recess activities. Examples would be to finish classroom work or to meet with faculty to discuss behavior. It should be noted that students are always supervised.

Following are rules developed to maintain safe conditions for students while playing on the playground or in the gym:

1. Teachers should send a note giving permission for students to be gone from the duty area before and after school. (Finish work, band lesson, discipline, etc.)
2. Only basic use of equipment is allowed (only go up ladders, go feet first down the slides, do not jump off the slide or slide down the support poles, etc.).
3. All students are not to be on top of the tubes and jungle gyms.
4. Do not swing around the bottom of the support poles on the slides and swing sets.
5. No ball tag.
6. Students need permission to leave the playground area. (go to the restroom, get a drink, get equipment from a cage or retrieve balls that go off of the playground.)
7. Sit on swings and swing straight. Do not jump out of the swings. Do not play Chicken or Double

swing.

8. Do not throw or kick gravel dirt or rubber mulch.
9. Do not play on the steps or slide down the rails.
10. The neighbor's properties are off limits. This includes their fences and lawns.
11. Touch football only (no tackling.)
12. Do not climb on the fence.
13. There should be no running on the bleachers.
14. Balls are not to be kicked in the gym.
15. No football games are allowed in the gym.
16. Balls, electronic games etc. brought from home, may not be used during recess or bus duty. The school will not be responsible if they are lost or damaged. No cell phones are allowed on the playground, at bus duty or in the gym.

We have to consider the safety and well being of all students on the playground and in the gym. Various disciplinary actions may take place if the above rules are not observed and followed.

Generally, by using good judgment while on the playground, students can have fun and still be safe. By following these rules, you will be helping to keep the playground and gym safe places to play.

Return to Learn:

District OR1 school staff and coaches will follow all applicable state laws and LCC School Board policies on concussions. See concussion policy.

School Day Schedule:

Although the individual classroom teachers will develop a schedule specific to their classroom and reflecting the special programs in which their students are involved, the school-wide schedule is printed here for your benefit. If you wish to contact a staff member, the best times to do so are between 8:00-8:15 a.m. or 3:30-4:00 p.m. Please refer to the following schedule if you have questions concerning the school day:

7:00 AM	Custodian on duty
7:00 AM	Before and After School Program Opens
7:40 AM	Bennet Bus students arrive
7:45 AM	Faculty supervision begins of bus duty only
8:00 AM	Faculty arrives
	Students who do not ride the bus or use the before school program arrive
8:20 AM	School day begins
8:30 AM	Tardy Bell Rings and Classes begin
10:55 AM-1:00 PM	Lunch (times vary from class to class)

3:20 PM	Dismissal
3:20 PM	Before and After School Program Begins
3:15 PM	Buses leave for PHS
4:00 PM	Bennet bus students depart on the bus
4:00 PM	Faculty departs
5:30 PM	Before and After School Program Closes

Bennet Bus students will play in the gym or outside if weather permits. When students arrive in the gym, the following procedures should be observed:

1. Students go from the buses directly to the cafeteria and wait for directions on where bus duty will be held. Once the decision for bus duty has been made and bus duty supervisors are present, the students will proceed to bus duty.

2. Students will be allowed to enter the building to get equipment or help from other teachers after they have secured permission from the teacher on duty.

3. Instruments and lunch containers should stay in the gym or on the playground until students are dismissed to their classes.

Bennet bus students will play in the gym or outside after school from 3:20-3:55 before being picked up by the buses.

End of School Day: Our regular school day ends at 3:20 p.m. Make-up work, special help, assignments after school, meetings, bus duty supervision, and other school activities begin at 3:20 p.m. It is important that students who are involved in any of these activities report to the designated area on time. All other students must clear the building as soon as possible.

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY:

A mission of Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools is to provide curriculum, instruction, and experiences in a health-promoting school environment to instill habits of lifelong learning and health. Therefore, the Board adopts the following School Wellness Policy.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the District website and/or district-wide communications. The District will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the

wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents. The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

School Meals

The District is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Smoke-Free Environment:

The use of tobacco (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) products is prohibited in all school buildings and all school vehicles. Smoking shall also be prohibited in any area where school staff, students or members of the public may be present or may be affected by smoke, including without limitation the stands and bleachers of outdoor athletic fields and near the entry of school buildings. For purposes of this policy, tobacco means any tobacco product (including electronic nicotine delivery systems, cigars, and chewing tobacco), alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect.

Student Activity Fees:

The board realizes some activities may require additional expenditures which are properly to be borne by students as a separate charge. Such charges may be waived as specified below depending upon the student's eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program. No fees, specialized or no specialized attire or equipment shall be required of students outside this policy. This policy does not apply to tuition payments by nonresident students.

Student Fee Fund:

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school.

**Appendix "1" to 2022-2023 Student Fees Policy of
District OR-1 Public Schools**

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees¹

Elementary Program (Pre-school – 5th grade)	General Description of Fee or Material	Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum)² or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	
Technology Insurance	ChromeBooks	\$35.00 Student Electronic Device Coverage in the event of loss or damages to the device.
Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field	Field trips may cost up to \$5.00 per student based on the grade specific field

¹ This listing is a part of the current Student Fees Policy and is intended to provide supplemental information. For additional specifications, refer to the Policy.

² Generally, dollar amounts are stated in terms of "maximums." The actual fee or charge may be less during the current school year.

	trips	trip and location. Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student per current school meal prices. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer Enrichment	Classes offered during the Summer during the month of June	\$75 per class.
End of year lost or damaged books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost books or ruined books are charged replacement cost, generally at a maximum of \$60.00
Yearbooks - Optional	School Book	Yearbooks are published and made available for purchase every year. Cost is generally about \$40.00.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Fifteen cents (.15) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast (Grades K-5)--\$2.10 Lunch (Grades K-5)--\$2.75 Milk (Grades K-5)--\$.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Before/After School Recreation per hour		\$3.25 per hour
Preschool per month		\$150.00 per month. Due on the 1st of every month.

Secondary Program Grades 6-12	General Description of Fee or Material	Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and running shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects, science classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles-1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes; approved protective goggles for science classes. Students pay a cost that is beyond the standard project provided by the school.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Classroom Projects, i.e, Family & Consumer Science, Industrial Technology	Project Cost	Students pay a cost that is beyond the standard project provided by the school.

Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at a rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Fifteen cents (.15) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast (Grades 6-12)--\$2.35 Lunch (Grades 6-12)--\$2.85 Milk (Grades 6-12)--\$.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	None—Any postsecondary education costs are to be paid directly by students to the college.
End of year lost or damaged books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost books or ruined books are charged replacement cost, generally at a maximum of \$60.00
Yearbooks - Optional	School Book	Yearbooks are published and made available for purchase every year. Cost is generally about \$35
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	Costs of college entrance tests or prep courses, such as ACT preparation tutoring, PSAT test, and ACT test, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	Drivers education class is offered through a private company. Signup information is distributed during the school year.
Locker usage	Use of school padlock	\$5.00 fee if damaged or not returned at the end of the year.

Technology Insurance	ChromeBooks	\$35.00 Student Electronic Device Coverage in the event of loss or damages to the device.
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Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Athletic Programs		
1. Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$5.00 per event maximum. Students may purchase an Activity Ticket for \$30.00 per year. For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20.00 per event.
2. Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic Physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to the student's physician or clinic.

3. Equipment and Attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity. Uniform items are checked out to students. If lost or damaged students will be assessed fees in the amount of replacement cost.	Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks and undershirts), practice attire, including shorts, shirts, socks and shoes suitable for the activity, and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include: personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, swim goggles, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:	
		Basketball	No additional costs
		Football	Mouthpiece
		Golf	Golf bag & clubs
		Speech	Dress attire; copies of research
		Track	No additional costs
		Volleyball	Volleyball knee pads
		Wrestling	Wrestling headgear
	Cheerleading and Flag Team Squads	Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories	
4. Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling.	
5. Locker use	Padlock for locker	\$5.00 fee if damaged or not returned at the end of the year.	
6. Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student's expense.	
7. Athletic Clubs	Letterman's club and other clubs supporting the athletic program	Currently no dues are required. Annual dues not to exceed \$25.00 per club.	

8. Marching Band and Musical Groups	Equipment and attire.	Students will be responsible for the same costs as are set out for the athletic program. Students will be responsible for supplying their own musical instruments and accessories and for their own uniforms. Uniforms for the marching band will be supplied by the school; students may be required to pay a refundable band uniform rental fee of up to \$50.00. For High School Band Students a \$10.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested. For Junior High Band Students, a \$10.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested. For High School Vocal students a \$10.00 choir robe cleaning fee is requested.
Vocal Music Group	Coordinating group attire	Students will pay for outfits selected by the group. Cost will be based on selection at a maximum of \$130.00
Clubs/Organizations		
Future Farmers (FFA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Future Career/Community Leaders (FCCLA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
National Honor Society	State & national dues, meals and activities	Currently no dues are required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Swing Choir	Attire	Students are responsible for purchasing outfits and accessories. Not to exceed \$150.00.
All Girls Swing Choir	Attire	Students are responsible for purchasing outfits and accessories.
Student Council	State & national dues, meals and activities	Currently no dues are required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Dance Team	Uniforms	Uniforms range up to \$250.00. Camp attendance is optional.
Cheerleading	Uniforms	Uniforms range up to \$600.00. Camp attendance is optional.
Social & Recognition Activities		
1. School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$10.00 per play or activity
2. School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	Up to \$10.00 per event

3. Class dues		Currently no dues are assessed. Each of the six secondary classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$75.00 annually for rental and decoration of dance facilities, punch and snacks at social activities, memorials and recognition plaques, flowers, and cards, and similar class activities. The payment of such an assessment shall be strictly voluntary, but students who do not pay may be denied admission to extracurricular activities supported by the class dues.
4. Picture Packets	Optional - Pictures are still taken for use in the school yearbook.	Students purchase packets as desired and pay directly to the photo company.
5. Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation Activities	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the rental of graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, one mother's flower, class gift, yearbook picture page, and class composite picture. A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities. Expenses for above mentioned items will be paid out of the "Class Activity" account until funds are depleted. After this fund is empty, students will be responsible for all optional graduation activity costs.
6. Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	For the extracurricular and options trip - Seniors' Day Out to Lincoln and Omaha, students will be assessed a \$10.00 fee and will be responsible for meals. Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum costs of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not

		supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.
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Student Fee Waiver:

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunches are eligible to have expenses of certain fees, specialized equipment, specialized attire and project materials waived as provided by district policy. All information provided in connection with this application will be kept confidential. This waiver does not carry over from year-to-year and must be completed annually. Student Fee Waiver Applications are available in the Principal’s Office at both schools.

Additional Specification of Fees Which May Be Charged and Materials Which May be Required Pursuant to the Student Fee Policy:

Student Questioning/Apprehension by Legal Authorities:

Students may be questioned in private and with full confidentiality by a police officer or sheriff’s department personnel at school only in the presence of the principal or a designated staff member. This opportunity applies to all peace officers in pursuit of their duties as members of a recognized enforcement office. The parents or guardian of the student questioned will be informed of the substance of the interview as soon as possible by Bennet Elementary personnel or Legal Authorities.

If a principal or his designee releases a minor student to a police officer, the principal or the principal’s designee will take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian or responsible relative of the minor, except when the minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or the principal’s designee will provide the police officer with the address and telephone number of the minor’s parent or guardian.

The principal of a school or the principal’s designee shall notify the appropriate law enforcement authorities as soon as possible after learning of a known or suspected violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code.

Student Searches:

Student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules shall apply to searches of students and of a student’s personal property and to the seizure of items in a student’s possession or control:

- School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.

- Random searches of student lockers, desks, and other similar school property provided for use by students may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.
- Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on students based on reasonable suspicion.
- Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on a random basis for students participating in extracurricular activities, provided that: a) the student gave consent for testing in advance (attendance at or participation in the extracurricular activity may be withheld in the absence of consent), b) the testing actually be random, c) that the testing procedures limit any intrusion on student privacy, and provide for an appropriate level of confidentiality and accuracy, and d) that the response to positive tests take into consideration student safety and compliance with laws related to reporting and releasing students to law enforcement.
- School officials may search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file.

Searches of the District's computer system may be conducted at the discretion of the administration at any time.

Telephone Use:

Office phones are for school business only. School business includes calling parents when sick, procuring speakers for classes or organizations, obtaining information at the direction of an instructor, calling home for items the student has forgotten if the item is deemed absolutely necessary by school personnel, or in the case of an emergency.

School officials shall have the authority to deviate from the above guidelines should situations arise that are not covered in the regulations.

Students will not be allowed to use the phone to make after school plans to go home with another student or to have another student come home with them.

If you call for a student, we will ask to take a message. We prefer not calling students from class for telephone calls, but will give them a message and allow them to return your call during recess or lunch. If it is an emergency, please let us know and we will get the message to the student immediately or call the student to the office to speak to you.

Testing:

We administer Measurements of Academic Progress (MAPS) to students in kindergarten through sixth grades. These are achievement tests which measure what knowledge the students have gained. These tests are used to plan educational programs for individual students and for entire classes.

Parents/Guardians will receive a sheet describing the results of their student's test. If you have questions about the test, contact your child's teacher, or principal.

Students in grades 3-6 will also take part in State Mandated NSCAS Assessments during the spring.

Video Surveillance:

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Recording of Others:

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent or authorization of either (1) the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted or (2) the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Vandalism:

Any person found willfully damaging or defacing property belonging to the school district shall be held responsible for the replacement or repair of that property and all costs shall be paid by the offender. Bennet Elementary will also refer the student to the principal or his designee for disciplinary action. If the principal or his designee determines that the student willfully or maliciously destroyed school property, the student may be referred to juvenile authorities.

Visitors:

All visitors must report to the office, upon entering the east entrance, to sign in, in order to receive a visitor's pass. Please sign in/out at the office upon entering/exiting the school. Visitations during the first week of school and the last week of school will require extraordinary reasons or permission from administrators.

Student visitors from other schools are discouraged. Although we would welcome them at lunchtime, visitors in the classroom tend to cause undue distractions and disruptions. If you would like to discuss a special student visitor with the principal, please feel free to call.

Weapons:

The possession of a dangerous weapon or the use of an object to inflict bodily injury to another is strictly prohibited. Offenses involving weapons are punishable by an automatic expulsion from school for up to a full school year.

See Article 11.

Weather and School Cancellations:

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations. **Parents and Patrons will also be alerted via phone call by our automated calling system. Please make sure that you are a part of the calling database in order to receive calls via this system. Contact school if you are not sure or have changed your phone numbers since last year.**

Decision to Close Schools:

A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed. In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be canceled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Announcements about other Nebraska school closings are included in Lincoln radio and television broadcasts. Students and parents will want to pay special attention to which public school district is being closed.

After School Starts:

Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases, as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.**

Parental Decisions

Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. The absence will be treated like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

State and Federal Programs

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination:

Students, parents, employees, volunteers, school patrons, applicants for student admission or employment, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Palmyra High School, and all others who interact with Palmyra High School are hereby notified that Palmyra District OR1 does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Michael Hart, Superintendent, Palmyra District OR1, 425 F Street, Palmyra, NE 68418-0130, (402) 780-5327.

For Further information on notice of non-discrimination, you may contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114-3302, or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, TDD (800) 437-0833.

Section 2 Designation of Coordinator(s):

Any person having inquiries concerning this district's compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: High School Principal, Palmyra High School, P. O. Box 130, Palmyra, NE 68418, (402) 780-5327.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	High School Principal
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

Section 3 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy:

A. Elimination of Discrimination.

The policy of District OR-1 Public Schools is to not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, in admission or access to, or treatment with regard to employment or with regard to its programs and activities.

District OR-1 Public Schools and its staff shall comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. The Board of District OR-1 Public Schools intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination and directs its staff to take all actions necessary to meet this objective.

The Superintendent shall be the Coordinator for anti-discrimination laws (including Title VI, Title IX; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)) and complaints or concerns involving discrimination or compliance with those laws should be addressed to said Coordinator.

B. Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Employees and Students.

1. **Purpose:** District OR-1 Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students based on ability and performance in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers or other persons is prohibited. In addition, [Name] Public Schools will try to protect employees or students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

- a. In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, constitutes harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.
- b. Age harassment has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.
- c. Sexual harassment has been defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may exist when:

- (a) Supervisors or managers make submission to such conduct either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment (including hiring, compensation, promotion, or retention);

- (b) Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used by supervisors or managers as a basis for employment related decisions such as promotion, performance evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc.
- (c) The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

2. **Procedures:**

- a. Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision.
- b. If the report is not satisfactorily resolved within ten calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of [Name] Public Schools.
- c. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.
- d. The person to whom the complaint is made is to thoroughly investigate the complaint and work with the person filing the complaint to seek an appropriate resolution so the discrimination or harassment can be remedied and put to an end.
- e. Complaints of discrimination or harassment will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem.
- f. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, etc., may be taken.
- g. Under no circumstances will a supervisor or a teacher or the Board threaten or retaliate against a person for alleging discrimination or harassment.

Section 4 Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to qualifying students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

- 1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
- 2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.

3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities, which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent).
11. File a local grievance.

Section 5 Notification of Rights Under FERPA:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.
Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official

committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Kathleen Styles, Office of the Chief Privacy Officer
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone listing, and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;
2. School and dates of attendance;
3. Student's current grade;
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
5. Student's date of birth and place of birth;
6. Student's extra-curricular participation;
7. Student's achievement awards or honors;
8. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Student's photograph; and
10. School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in [Name] Public Schools.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. Please contact the Superintendent's office to indicate your refusal to have your child's information designated as directory information.

The District may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

Section 6 Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information:

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Palmyra High School to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that Palmyra High School not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. Palmyra High School will comply with any such request.

Section 7 Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications:

Parents/guardians have the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Palmyra High School will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Palmyra High School will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

Section 8 Student Privacy Protection Policy:

It is the policy of Palmyra High School to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties: Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials: Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period

of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term “instructional materials” for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and places as will not interfere with the educator’s intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings. The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: “Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.”

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students: The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. “Personal information” for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent’s first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term “personal information,” for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information: While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have

the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy: The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events: The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a

legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Section 9 Parental Involvement Policies:

A. General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools:

District OR 1 School welcomes parental involvement in the education of their children. We recognize that parental involvement increases student success. It is Palmyra High School’s policy to foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate and in their primary language, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Policies and regulations are established to protect the emotional, physical and social well-being of all students.

1. Parental involvement is a part of the ongoing and timely planning, review and improvement of district and building programs.
2. Parents are encouraged to support the implementation of district policies and regulations.
3. Parents are encouraged to monitor their student’s progress by reviewing quarterly report cards and attending parent-teacher conferences.
4. Textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials used in the district are available for review by parents upon request.
5. Parents are provided access to records of students according to law and school policy.
6. Parents are encouraged to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher or counselor and administrator. Parents’ continued attendance at such activities will be based on the students’ well-being.
7. Testing occurs in this school district as determined to be appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement.
8. Parents submitting written requests to have their student excused from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences will be granted that request when possible and educationally appropriate. Requests should be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience and should be accompanied by a written explanation for the request. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent request.
9. Participation in surveys of students occurs in this district when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Parents will be notified prior to the administration

of surveys in accordance with district policy. Timely written parental requests to remove students from such surveys will be granted in accordance with district policy and law. In some cases, parental permission must be given before the survey is administered.

10. Parents are invited to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their children's education with board members, administrators and staff.
11. School district staff and parents will participate in an annual evaluation and revision, if needed, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.

B. Title I Parental Involvement Policy:

District OR 1 has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of District OR 1 to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I laws. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Expectations for Parental Involvement: It is the expectation of District OR 1 that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

1. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.
2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.
5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.
6. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

Policy Involvement: Each school served under the Title I program shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, childcare, or home visits.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the District operates a school-wide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the District.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement: As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall: (1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (i) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (ii) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (iii) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

Building Capacity for Involvement: To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District: (1) shall provide assistance to participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their

children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

(10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

Accessibility: In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy, the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy: This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

Section 10 Homeless Students Policy:

A. General Policy Statement

The District shall ensure that homeless children and youths shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

B. Definitions

“School of Origin” shall mean the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool. School of origin shall also include any designated receiving school for the next grade level for all feeder schools when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

“Homeless children and youths” shall mean any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in (1-3).

“Unaccompanied youth” shall mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

C. School Stability

1. School Selection: Each school shall presume that keeping a homeless child or youth enrolled in the child’s or youth’s school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.
To overcome the presumption that a child or youth should remain in his/her school of origin, the school shall consider student-centered factors including: the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.
2. Enrollment: Once the school is selected in accordance with the child’s or youth’s best interest, that child or youth shall be immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment including, but not limited to, previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency or has missed any application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
3. Transportation: If the child or youth continues to attend his or her school of origin, transportation shall be provided promptly even if there is a dispute pending regarding which school is in the child’s or youth’s best interest to attend. Transportation will continue to be provided to and from the school of origin for the remainder of any academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.

D. Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records,

birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. Such that all records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enrolls in a new school or school district;
2. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information; and
3. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

E. Services

The Local Education Agency Liaison shall identify an appropriate staff person to be the Local Educational Liaison (LEL) for all homeless children and youth attending school in the District. The LEL responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified through outreach and coordination activities including coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education Homeless Education Liaison, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
2. Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
3. Ensure homeless families and homeless children and youths are referred to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and any other appropriate services;
4. Ensure that homeless children and youths:
 - a. Are enrolled in school which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities;
 - b. Have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;
 - c. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus support.
 - d. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LEL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
5. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights and available transportation services of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youths and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.
6. Ensure the dispute resolution process identified below is carried out in accordance with the law and district policy.

F. Dispute Resolution

1. The dispute procedure must be available for disputes over eligibility, as well as school selection or enrollment.
2. In the event of a dispute regarding where a child or youth should enroll, the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal such decision. Said writing shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and also include the LEL contact information. The LEL shall carry out the dispute resolution process within 30 calendar days from the date of said writing pursuant to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.02.
3. Appeals: Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school district after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the Commissioner within thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision by following the process in 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.03 and 19-005.03C.

Section 11 Pregnant and Parenting Students

This District recognizes that pregnant and parenting students have the right and responsibility to attend school. This attendance right and responsibility applies to students regardless of their marital or parental status. Further, the district will educate pregnant and parenting students and will provide reasonable accommodations to support and encourage all pregnant and parenting students to obtain their high school diploma. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities.

Attendance and Leave of Absences

Pregnant and parenting students will be permitted to attend to their own health care, their child's medical care, or other pregnancy- or parenting- related appointments with the benefit of having any such absences or tardiness excused. A student will be permitted to take a leave of absence for pregnancy, childbirth, and any other pre- and post-natal related medical needs, along with recovery therefrom for the duration that is deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed health care provider. At the conclusion of the leave of absence, a student will be immediately enrolled in the district at the same grade and status as when the leave began. Pregnant and parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and thereafter unless the district deems such participation poses a substantial risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant and parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed healthcare provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification is required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed healthcare provider.

Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant and parenting students with excused absences or tardiness shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for any other medical reasons.

Pregnant and parenting students will be provided with assignments, classwork and any additional support needed to ensure that the student can keep up with class requirements when absent for pregnancy or parenting-related absences.

Alternative Means to Complete Course Work

The district will provide at least one alternate method, in addition to traditional classroom instruction, to keep pregnant and parenting students in school. Such accommodation(s) may include accessing coursework online, home-based independent study, or at-home tutoring. Alternative methods of instruction or other alternative programs for pregnant and parenting students are voluntary for the student who may elect whether to engage in an alternative method of instruction or the traditional methods of instruction available to their peers. Pregnant and parenting students shall be allowed to attend their regular classrooms and complete regular coursework.

Lactation

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food safe refrigerator to store breast milk safely.

Child Care

If in-school child care is not provided, a list of qualified licensed child care providers will be provided upon request to pregnant or parenting students. Such list will be updated annually and include providers that participate in the quality rating and improvement system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step three rating pursuant to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act. Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or limit any referral for a student or a student's child to an early head start program or any other available community resources.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Pregnant and parenting students have the right to have their health and personal information kept confidential in accordance with law. School staff will make every effort to keep personal information and health records confidential and in compliance with Nebraska and federal law.

Information about students' pregnancies and related conditions will not appear in their cumulative records and will not be used when they are being considered for educational or job opportunities, awards or scholarships.

Other Accommodations

Pregnant and parenting students may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school. Accommodation requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Such accommodations may include but are not limited to: additional frequency allowed for bathroom breaks, additional time allowed in between class periods, a larger desk or additional work space, and adjustments to requirements for physical education as needed. Students seeking additional reasonable accommodation should make such requests to the building principal.

Bullying and Harassment

Pregnant and parenting students have the same rights as other students to be free from discrimination, bullying, and harassment. Such school policies are incorporated herein and apply to all students.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- 2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Article 11 Student Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

Student Conduct and Discipline Policies: The common goal of students, parents, faculty and administration of District OR 1 School is to maintain a school atmosphere conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, Bennet Elementary

School will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies.

VIOLATIONS OF DISTRICTOR1'S RULES AND POLICIES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Part 1 Forms of School Discipline

Short Term Suspension:

Students may be excluded by the Principal or his designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the District OR-1 Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short term suspensions:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. In addition, such short term suspension will be made only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. Prior to commencement of the short term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.

Long Term Suspension:

Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days on (long term suspension) the conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion:

1. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the

student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate. In lieu of other authorized educational programs to which the student may be assigned, such school, class, or program may be offered as a community centered classroom and may include experiences for the student as an observer or aide in governmental functions, as an on the job trainee, and as a participant in specialized tutorial experiences or individually prescribed educational and counseling programs. Such programs shall include an individualized learning program to enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. At the conclusion of the designated period: (1) if the student has satisfactorily participated in the school, class, or program to which such student has been assigned the student shall be reinstated and permitted to return to the school of former attendance or to attend other programs offered by the district, and action to expunge the record of the expulsion action may be taken at the discretion of the Superintendent or his or her designee, or (2) if the student's conduct has been unsatisfactory, the expulsion action shall be enforced. The determination of whether the students' participation and conduct has been satisfactory or not shall be made by Principal or the Principal's designee.

4. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

Other Forms of Student Discipline: Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in school suspensions during the day. When in-school suspensions, after school assignments, or other

disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures and a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

Part 2 Student Conduct:

Students have an opportunity to learn by sharing some of the responsibility for creating a good learning environment. To help maintain a quality instructional environment for all students attending District OR-1 all students are expected to refrain from the following conduct.

Grounds for Short Term Suspension, Long Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:

Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment. The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons or to otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks.
7. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant.

Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

8. Public indecency or sexual conduct.
9. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.
10. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
11. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
12. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
14. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, disability, national origin, or religion.
15. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
16. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.
17. A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
 - a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if

caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or

- b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm. The term “dangerous weapon” includes any personal safety or security device (such as Tasers, mace and pepper spray). If a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device on school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student’s locker, in the main office or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.
18. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. “Firearm” means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: “The term ‘firearm’ means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device.” The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

- a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
- b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
- c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such a plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
- d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.
- e. For personal safety or security devices, the student abides by the requirements set forth above.

19. Student Appearance Policy:

Students at District OR 1 are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone

or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related;
- b. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants);
- c. Clothing or jewelry that advertises beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
- d. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horseplay”;
- e. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves;
- f. Clothing or jewelry, which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries double meanings.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law.

The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent.

In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school’s guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal’s office.

Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel. If clothes cannot be brought to school, the student will be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes.

Continual violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions under the Student Code of Conduct above. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in discipline, up to expulsion.

20. Harassment and Bullying Policy:

It is the policy of Palmyra High School that “bullying” type behavior is not to be permitted. These guidelines are established to respond specifically to bullying behavior. Students and parents are advised that other response measures are also in place and set forth on Page 56 of this handbook for behavior which is discriminatory or harassing on unlawful grounds (e.g., sexual harassment, harassment of students with disabilities, race harassment, etc.).

(i) Step One: The first time school personnel becomes aware of a possible harassment or bullying situation, the accused student will be informed that such a complaint has been filed. At that time a warning will be given regarding this kind of behavior. The consequences for this kind of behavior in the future will be clearly outlined for the student.

If, in the school’s opinion, the first occurrence of harassment behavior is severe,

the school may move immediately to any of the four steps in the harassment policy. In other words, the policy may or may not be used sequentially. Moreover, at any stage the student may be disciplined under the student code by actions, which may include expulsion, in the event the conduct is also a violation of other provisions of the student code.

(ii) Step Two: The second time school personnel becomes aware of a harassment incident, the student's parents will be notified. A conference will be requested at that time. If it is determined that the student has harassed another student, consequences will be assigned. A student may stay on the second step as long as school authorities feel the consequences are effectively correcting the harassment behaviors. If it is determined that there is no basis for the harassment accusation, no consequences will be assigned. If the school determines that a student is intentionally making a false accusation against another student, an appropriate response will be made.

(iii) Step Three: If the school authorities determine that the student continues to harass another student or the student fails to agree to not harass in the future, the school may assign the student to the Harassment Program level set forth below which the school authorities determine to be appropriate.

(iv) Step Four: If a student fails to respond positively to the corrective measures of the Harassment Program, the student will be suspended from school for a minimum of five school days, up to expulsion. School authorities will determine the action necessary to insure a safe learning environment for all students.

Harassment and Bullying Program Levels:

Purpose: All students have the right to attend Palmyra High School free from verbal and physical harassment and bullying. The purpose of the Harassment and Bullying Program is to protect students and staff from those who fail or refuse to comply with school guidelines regarding the treatment of others.

1. Level I: The guidelines for a Level I placement are listed below.

- a. The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b. The student will report to the office no later than 8:00 a.m. each morning.
- c. The student will eat on campus at an assigned table or area.
- d. The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day, and remain until dismissed. This will allow all other students to leave the school grounds in safety.

2. Level II: The guidelines for this level are listed below.

- a. The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b. The student will report to the office no later than 8:00 a.m. the morning.
- c. The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d. The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day, and remain until dismissed.
- e. The student will remain in class at the end of each period. The student will be under direct teacher supervision during passing time. The teacher will dismiss the student at the end of the passing period. The student will then have three minutes to get to his/her next class.

3. Level III: This is a long term assignment. The guidelines are listed below.

- a. All items listed in Level II will be used, except the length of the assignment will be no less than six weeks, and may remain in effect until the end of the school year and continue into the next, if determined to be appropriate.
- b. The length of the assignment will be no less than six weeks, and may remain in effect until the end of the school year.

21. Public Displays of Affection:

Public Displays of affection will not be tolerated on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes: hugging, kissing or any other types of affection that would be considered inappropriate or an undue distraction to others. Students will face the following consequences if this type of behavior occurs.

- a. 1st Offense: Student will be confronted and directed to cease.
- b. 2nd Offense: Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.
- c. 3rd Offense: Students will be suspended from school for a minimum of 1 day, and parents and student will need to meet with Administrator (s) and counselor.
- d. If this type of behavior continues, the student could face long term suspension or expulsion.

22. Specific Rule Items:

The following conduct may result in disciplinary action, which in the repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion.

- a. Students are not given locker passes, restroom passes or telephone passes to leave a classroom or study hall unless special circumstances arise.
- b. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass/assignment book with them.
- c. Gum, candy, seeds, etc. are not allowed in the school building or classrooms.
- d. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes study halls.
- e. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
- f. Students are not to operate the mini blinds or the windows.
- g. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
- h. Students are to be in their seats and ready for class on the tardy bell.
- i. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Art, P.E., and computers courses will have other safety or cleanup rules that will be explained to you by that teacher which must be followed.
- j. Students are to stand back from the entry steps and doors in the mornings before school and at noon before the bell so that others may pass in and out of the entry doors.
- k. Snow handling is prohibited.

23. Dating Violence Prevention

The board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long term.

The district will provide appropriate training to staff and incorporate within its educational program age appropriate dating violence education that shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

24. Staff Conduct With Students

The Board expects all staff members, including teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators, and others to maintain the highest professional, moral, and ethical standards in their conduct with students. For the purposes of this policy, staff members also include school volunteers.

The interactions and relationships between staff members and students should be based upon mutual respect and trust; an understanding of the appropriate boundaries between adults and students in and outside of the educational setting; and consistency with the educational mission of the schools.

Staff members are expected to be sensitive to the appearance of impropriety in their conduct with students. Staff members are encouraged to discuss issues with their building administrator or supervisor whenever they are unsure whether particular conduct may constitute a violation of this policy.

Unacceptable Conduct:

Examples of unacceptable conduct by staff members include but are not limited to the following:

- Any type of sexual or inappropriate physical contact with students or any other conduct that might be considered harassment under the Board's policy on Harassment By Employees;
- Singling out a particular student or students for personal attention and friendship beyond the normal teacher student relationship;
- Associating with students in any situation or activity that includes the presence of drugs or that could be considered sexually suggestive;
- For non-guidance/counseling staff, encouraging students to confide their personal or family problems and/or relationships. If a student initiates such discussions, staff members are expected to be supportive but to refer the student to appropriate guidance/counseling staff. In either case, staff involvement should be limited to a direct connection to the student's school performance;
- Sending students on personal errands.
- Sexual banter, allusions, jokes, or innuendos with students;
- Asking a student to keep a secret;
- Disclosing personal, sexual, family, employment concerns, or other private matters to one or more students;
- Addressing students with terms of endearment, pet names, or otherwise in an overly familiar manner; and

- Being alone with individual students by closing a room door except when dealing with issues of health by appropriate personnel;
- Inviting or allowing students to visit the staff member's home;
- Maintaining personal contact with a student outside of school by phone, email, Instant Messenger or Internet chat rooms, social networking websites, or letters (beyond homework or other legitimate school business);
- Exchanging personal gifts (beyond the customary student teacher gifts); and/or
- Socializing or spending time with students (including but not limited to activities such as going out for meals or movies, shopping, traveling, and recreational activities) outside of school sponsored events or except as participants in organized community activities.
- Students and/or their parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to notify the principal if they believe a teacher or other staff member may be engaging in conduct that violates this policy.
- Staff members are required to notify promptly the principal or superintendent if they become aware of a situation that may constitute a violation of this policy.
- Staff violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.
- Violations involving sexual or other abuse will also result in referral to the Department of Health and Human Services and/or law enforcement in accordance with the Board's policy on Child Abuse Reporting.
- This policy shall be included in future employee, student and volunteer handbooks.

25. Network, Emails, Internet and Other Computer Use Rules:

(a) General Rules:

(i) The network is provided to staff and students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Parental permission is required for student use. Access for all staff and students is a privilege and not a right.

(ii) Individual users of the district network are responsible for their behavior, actions, problems, and communications involving and over the network. Users will comply with district rules and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such rules, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, editing, or controlling the information, equipment or communications of individuals utilizing the network or the end product or result of such utilization.

(iii) Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers for students. Network administrators may review files, information, equipment, messages and communications of staff and students to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the network system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise used or retained on the network, district servers, or in computers, will be private. No reasonable expectation of privacy shall exist in relation to network use.

(iv) Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, any information or products obtained from the network, that files or information stored, obtained or used on the network will be private, and use of the network waives and relinquishes all such privacy rights, interests or claims to confidentiality the user may have under state or federal law.

(v) The district will not be liable for, and does not warrant in any way, purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

(b) Policy and Rules for Acceptable Use of Computers and the Network: The following policy and rules for acceptable use of computers and the network, including Internet, shall apply to

all district administrators, faculty, staff and students. The term "Users", as contained herein, shall apply to all such individuals.

(i) Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, programs or disks. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this rule shall be liable for any and all damages to the computer, information, files, programs or disks.

(ii) Users shall not let other persons use their name, account, logon password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).

(iii) Users shall not use or try to discover another user's account or password.

(iv) Users shall not use the computers or network for non instructional or nonadministrative purposes (e.g., games or activities for personal profit).

(v) Users shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.

(vi) Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.

(vii) Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code, software or information designed to self replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of the network or any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name. (viii) Users shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access, accept, create or send any obscene, vulgar, lewd, tasteless, or objectionable messages, information, language, or images.

(ix) Users shall not damage the network or equipment, damage information belonging to others, misuse network resources, or allow others to misuse network resources. In addition to any other disciplinary action or legal action that may occur, any user violating this or any other rule shall be liable for any and all damages to the computer, network, information, files, programs or disks.

(x) Users shall not tamper with computers, networks, printers, or other associated equipment except as directed by the teacher or network administrator.

(xi) Users shall not take technology equipment (hardware or software) from the school grounds or remove such from computer work areas without written permission of the network administrator.

(c) Etiquette and Rules for Use of Computers and the Network: All users of computers and the network are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Informal rules of behavior have evolved for the use of and communication on the network, Internet and other online services. Breaches can result in harsh criticism by others. These rules of behavior include (but are not limited to) the following:

(i) Be polite. Do not become abusive in your messages to others.

(ii) Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language, message, information or images.

(iii) Do not reveal your personal account, address or phone numbers, or that of other students or colleagues.

(iv) Note that electronic mail (email) is specifically not guaranteed to be private. People who operate the system do have access to mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities. Messages, which violate the rules, will result in disciplinary action.

(v) All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property of others.

(vi) Do not place unlawful information on any network system.

(vii) Keep paragraphs and messages short and to the point. Focus on one subject per message.

(viii) Include your signature at the bottom of email messages. Your signature footer should include your name, position, affiliation, and network or Internet address.

(x) The network administrators or teachers may establish other rules from time to time.

(d) Penalties for Violation of Rules: All of the policies, rules, and procedures for acceptable use of computers and the network are intended to make the computers and the network more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administering the networks so that more time can be spent on education and enhancing services.

Use of the computer and access to telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies, rules, and procedures concerning the use of computers and the network may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, loss of access, suspension and/or expulsion of students from school and loss of access, suspension, termination, nonrenewal or cancellation of the contract of administrators, teachers, or other school employees.

(e) Staff, Student and Parent Agreements: Students and parents may be required to sign a computer and network use agreement as a condition of the student being permitted to use such equipment.

Part 3 Reporting Student Law Violations:

(1) Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement, the police and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible. Conduct to be reported for law enforcement referral includes conduct that may constitute a felony, conduct which may constitute a threat to the safety or well-being of students or others in school programs and activities, and conduct that the legal system is better equipped to address than school officials. Conduct that does not need to be reported for law enforcement referral includes typical adolescent behavior that can be addressed by school administrators without the involvement of law enforcement. In making the decision of whether to report, consideration should be given to the student's maturity, mental capacity, and behavioral disorders, where applicable. When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.

The foregoing reporting standards shall be reviewed annually by the school board on or before August 1 of each year, be annually reviewed in collaboration with the County Attorney each year, be distributed to each student and his or her parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year, or at the time of enrollment if during the school year, and shall be posted in conspicuous places in each school during the school year.

(2) When a Principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the Principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the

release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the Principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.

Part 4 Due Process Procedure

Procedures for Long Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment: The following procedures shall be followed with regard to any long term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. The Principal shall prepare a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his or her designee.
2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the student may be suspended by the Principal until the date the long term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the Superintendent.
3. The Principal or his or her designee shall serve by registered or certified mail or by personal service the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long term suspension or expulsion. Said notice shall include the following
 - (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student as submitted by the Principal or assistant Principal.
 - (b) The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty which the Principal, or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
 - (c) A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
 - (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
 - (e) A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
 - (f) A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Principal or his or her designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. In the event that the Principal has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the

Principal, or his or her designee shall automatically go into effect.

6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing but the punishment imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.

7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

8. In the event that a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer. Hearing Procedure:

1. Hearing Officer. The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.

2. Administrative Representative. The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.

3. Notice of Hearing. If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.

4. Continuance. Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.

5. Access to Records. The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records and affidavits and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the District OR1 Board of Education at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.

6. Hearing Procedure. The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. Legal counsel may represent the student or the student's parents or guardian or both. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or

representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian, or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing, the student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross examination nor will any conclusion be drawn therefrom. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, student's parents or guardian or their legal representative.

8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.

9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendation may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing and based upon such report and the facts shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.

11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the determination of the Superintendent of schools shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student, the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the determination of the Superintendent shall take immediate effect.

12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.

13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than three members shall, within ten school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall

be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations, which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

14. Final Decision of Board of Education. The final decision of board shall be delivered to the student and parents or legal guardian of the student by personally delivering the same or by mailing the same by certified or registered mail.

Special Education Policies

District OR 1 Public Schools adopts this special education policy with the intent that the policy maintains the District's compliance with all applicable laws affecting special education services and programs. The Superintendent or designees shall develop regulations or procedures to implement these policies. Employees and contractors of the District are expected to comply with these policies and all regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy in all respects.

The District will abide by all state and federal laws relating to special education. The District's special education policy and regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy are to be interpreted so as to be in compliance with such laws. In the event of changes in law, the school administration shall be authorized to implement modifications of practice to comply with such changes (whether the changes impose more or less stringent procedural or substantive requirements) until such time as amended policies are adopted by the Board of Education. References herein to 92 NAC 51 citations are made to Rule 51 as in effect on the date of the adoption of these policies. In the event of renumbering or other revisions to Rule 51, the policy shall be interpreted and implemented consistent with such renumbering or revisions.

1. Free Appropriate Public Education

A free appropriate public education shall be made available to all children with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled, from date of verification through the school year in which the child is no longer eligible or the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age, whichever occurs earlier. An Individualized Education Plan ("IEP") will be created for each such child that will enable the student to make progress appropriate in light of the student's unique circumstances.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.01 through 004.03A and 007.07C2 through 007.07C6

2. Full Educational Opportunity Goal

The District shall take steps to ensure that its children with verified disabilities have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to children without disabilities in the areas

served by the District, including art, music, industrial arts, family consumer science education, and vocational education.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11A

3. Child Find

All children from birth to age twenty-one (21) with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the state or attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, who are in need of special education and related services, will be identified, located and evaluated. A practical method shall be developed and implemented by the administration to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services. The District will implement multiple methods to provide parents, guardians, and community members with information regarding how to refer a child for an evaluation and the identification process and will publish an annual notice of any significant activity that is designed to identify, locate, or evaluate children to publicly notify parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates. The District's child find process will be consistent with Federal and Nebraska regulations.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01 through 006.01A2

4. Pre-Referral Interventions

For a school age student, a general education student assistance team (SAT) or a comparable problem solving team shall be used prior to referral for multidisciplinary team evaluation. The SAT or comparable problem solving team shall utilize and document problem solving and intervention strategies to assist the teacher in the provision of general education. If the student assistance team or comparable problem solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation shall be completed. A referral shall include information from the SAT or comparable problem solving team, meeting the requirements of 92 NAC 51-006.01B and a listing of the members of the SAT or comparable problem solving team.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01B

5. Disability Verification and Eligibility

Eligibility for services will be determined by a multidisciplinary team based on the results of a comprehensive evaluation. The multidisciplinary team will identify whether a child is eligible for special education services based on the disability categories identified by Nebraska and Federal regulations. The multidisciplinary team will rule out the determinant factor is due to a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math or due to lack of English proficiency. The team will prepare a written report documenting all evaluation findings in accordance with Federal and Nebraska requirements that will be provided to the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate. When a child is not eligible for services, the multidisciplinary team will determine if general education interventions or strategies are needed.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.03; 92 NAC 51-006.04B through 006.04N;

6. Individualized Education Program (IEP)

An individualized education program, or an individualized family service plan, is to be developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007 by teams that will include all roles identified within Federal and Nebraska rules. Any draft of an IEP that is developed will not be considered final until it is reviewed and revised based on the team, including the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate, input, and consensus. The district will make reasonable efforts to obtain informed consent from the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate for special education

placement on the IEP form before services are initiated. Revocation of consent for services must be documented by the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate in writing.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-007

7. Least Restrictive Environment

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are to be educated with children who are not disabled. Placement for a student with a disability will be based upon a completed IEP developed by a group of persons, including the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate, knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment will occur only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily (the “Least Restrictive Environment Rules”). The District will ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities, particularly those in disproportionate groups, for special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-008.01 through 008.011

8. Procedural Safeguards

Children with disabilities and their parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates shall be afforded the required procedural safeguards. Parents, guardians, and appointed surrogates will be given a copy of their procedural safeguards annually or upon initial referral or parental (parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate) request for evaluation; upon request by a parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate; upon receipt by the school district or approved cooperative of the first occurrence of the filing of a complaint under 92 NAC 51-009.11 and the first occurrence of filing a special education due process case under 92 NAC 55; and in accordance with the discipline procedures in 92 NAC 51-016.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.01 through 009.07; 009.10 through 009.12; 009.14, 006.07

9. Evaluation and Identification Procedures

School personnel may remove a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension, for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days and for additional removals of not more than ten (10) consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement. If a student with a disability violates a code of student conduct, the school district will ensure that school personnel appropriately consider unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement, as defined in Federal and Nebraska rules, is appropriate for the student. Change of placement decisions related to disciplinary removals will be consistent with Federal and Nebraska regulations. For disciplinary changes in placement that would exceed ten (10) consecutive school days, if the behavior that gave rise to the violation of the school code is determined not to be a manifestation of the child’s disability, school personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures that would be applied to children without disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-016

10. Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information

Children with disabilities shall be evaluated, identified, and reevaluated by a team of multidisciplinary qualified professionals in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006. The MDT of a child suspected of having a specific learning disability shall include the additional requirements in accordance with 92 NAC

51-006.04K. The District will make reasonable efforts to obtain written permission for evaluation in accordance with Federal and Nebraska rules. Revocation for consent for evaluation must be documented by the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate in writing.

The documented results of the evaluation will be provided to parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate and included in student files. All evaluation components will be at district expense. The District will utilize a variety of assessment instruments to ensure district teams have access to appropriate measures to complete evaluations. The district will follow any publisher guidelines for assessments and will not use outdated or culturally inappropriate tools.

The District will respond to a request for an Independent Educational Evaluation without unnecessary delay. The parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate will be given written notice of the District's decision to either move forward with the Independent Educational Evaluation or to initiate a hearing to determine the appropriateness of the evaluation. If the District agrees to move forward with the evaluation, locations of any evaluator shall be within a reasonable distance of the District. A reasonable distance means within 100 miles of the school building the child attends and within Nebraska. In the event this geographic area restriction would prevent a parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate from obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation, the location of the evaluator may be outside the specified geographic area but must be within Nebraska. The District will provide the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate with a list of qualified agencies/evaluators within the geographic area. The evaluators are to have their rates approved by the Nebraska Department of Education to be authorized to conduct the evaluation.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006

11. **Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information**

A system of safeguards will be implemented to protect the confidentiality of student records and information in accordance with law.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-003.16, 003.20, 009.03 through 009.03M3

12. **Transition of Children from Part C to Preschool Programs**

Children participating in early intervention programs under Part C of the IDEA (early intervention services) will be appropriately evaluated, identified, and have services under Part B of the IDEA by age 3 in a manner consistent with 92 NAC 52-008. Children receiving early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA may continue to receive Part C services, upon parental consent, until the August 31st following the child's third birthday. The District will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 52-008

13. **Children in Nonpublic Schools**

To the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities in the District who are enrolled by their parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the District, provision will be made for the participation of those children in the programs assisted or carried out under Part B of the IDEA (services for school-aged children) by providing them with special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-012.08 and 015

14. **Personnel Standards and Personnel Development**

Personnel providing special education or related services to children with disabilities shall be appropriately and adequately prepared and trained in accordance with IDEA requirements and the District will take measurable steps to recruit, hire, train and retain personnel meeting the requirements of IDEA to provide such services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-010

15. Participation in and Reporting of State and District Wide Assessments

All children with disabilities shall be included in all general state and district wide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 612(a)(16)(A) of the IDEA with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs. The District will make available to the Nebraska Department of Education the information necessary to carry out its duties relating to the reporting of children with disabilities participation in assessments.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.05

16. Suspension and Expulsion Rates

The District will examine data, including data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, LEP status, and disability category, to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.06E

17. Access to Instructional Materials

As part of any print instructional materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of print instructional materials, the District will enter into a written contract with the publisher of the print instructional materials to:

1. Require the publisher to prepare and, on or before delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Material Access Center, electronic files containing the contents of the print instructional materials using the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, or
2. Purchase instructional materials from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in specialized formats.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.15

18. Over-Identification and Disproportionality

Procedures shall be in place to ensure that testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the evaluation and placement of children with disabilities will be selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory. Such materials or procedures shall be provided and administered in the child's native language or mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so, and no single procedure shall be the sole criterion for determining an appropriate educational program for a child. All District special education provisions will be equitably available to all children regardless of race, ethnicity, language, location, transience, income level, and access to medical care.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.02C

19. Prohibition on Mandatory Medication

Children shall not be required to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation to determine whether a child has a disability or the nature and extent of special education and related services the child needs, or receiving special education services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11D; 21 U.S.C. §812(c)

20. Transportation

Transportation will be provided for children with disabilities who are eligible for transportation and residents of the school district as required by law to access academic, related services, and nonacademic services and activities as determined by the child's IEP. Except when a parent is transporting only his or her child, the District shall require that the driver and vehicle meet the standards required by 92 NAC 91 and 92.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-014.01 through 014.02

21. Surrogates

A surrogate will be appointed, and other action taken to ensure the rights of children with a disability as required by law. The surrogate may represent the child in all matters related to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of a child and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.10

22. Early Intervention Services – Consent

When a parent refuses to provide consent under 92 NAC 52, a meeting will be held or offered to explain to the parents how their failure to consent affects the ability of their child to receive services under 92 NAC 52.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 52



District OR-1

Palmyra Junior-Senior High School--Bennet Elementary

402-780-5327 www.districtor1.org

Michael Hart
Superintendent

Heath Johnson
Secondary Principal

Linde Walter
Elementary Principal

Aaron Hoeft
Activities Director

Administration of Medication to Students

Parent/Guardian Request for Administration of Medication by School Personnel

It is the policy of District OR1 Public Schools to administer to students only medication(s) provided by parents/guardians. This medicine should be sent in the original container labeled with the student's name and the correct dosage to be administered. Medications that are expired will not be given to students. All medications must be transported to and from school by the parent/guardian, not the student. In addition, the school and/or its personnel will NOT be held liable if the student has a reaction or any ill effects from the medication.

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Medication: _____

Amount to be given: _____

Time to be given: _____

Starting date: _____ Ending date: _____

Special instructions: _____

Parent/Guardian Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature

District OR-1

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS STUDENT’S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Palmyra District OR-1 community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Palmyra District OR-1 Public Schools asks that you as a student user sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Palmyra District OR-1, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Palmyra District OR-1 and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Palmyra District OR-1, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Palmyra District OR-1 responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

PARENT’S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Palmyra District OR-1 community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, we ask that you as a parent/guardian sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by Palmyra District OR-1. As parent or guardian of the student named below, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Palmyra District OR-1 responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

I agree not to hold the Palmyra District OR-1, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Palmyra District OR-1 responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

Your son/daughter is to return this form to the office by **Friday, August 19th**.

This form will be retained on file by authorized faculty designee for duration of applicable computer/network/Internet use.

Parent/Guardian Receipt Form

After reading this handbook, please complete this form, detach it and return it to the school **no later than Friday, August 19th**.

We have read and reviewed this handbook and the transportation code of conduct included with our child(ren) and understand its contents

Student (s) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date