



RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2019-2020 STUDENT / FAMILY HANDBOOK

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RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

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MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Andy Parizek, Principal
Steve Schrad, Assistant Principal & Activities Director

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June, 2019

Welcome to Ralston Middle School!

The entire staff at RMS welcomes you to a new and exciting year. It is our goal to make this school year the most successful and memorable in your school career.

Please take time to review this handbook as a family. The purpose of this handbook is to provide families with information on policies and procedures for Ralston Middle School. You will see a clear commitment to ensuring a safe and positive environment for learning to take place. Much of this information pertains to expectations and procedures for students. If we were to summarize the expectations at Ralston Middle School, they basically come down to **be safe, be respectful and be responsible**. Acting safe and making choices that ensure your physical and mental well-being are critical. Respect for yourself, others and property is a key expectation. If everyone is respected, the school is a much better place for learning. Responsibility for your learning, your actions, and your growth is also a key to success in middle school. With both of these in place, the sky's the limit and your middle school years will be a time of great growth and success for you. That is why the vision of Ralston Middle School is to develop safe, responsible and respectful learners today and leaders tomorrow.

Through a caring school, family, and community partnership, the goal of preparing students to become responsible and respectful individuals in a safe and challenging environment will remain a central focus of Ralston Middle School.

Have a great year!

Andy Parizek
Principal

Steve Schrad
Assistant Principal / Activities Director

School Handbooks are based on Board of Education Policies

www.ralstonschools.org / Board Of Education

Purpose State of Ralston Public Schools

A community dedicated to achieving excellence through purposeful instruction and nurturing a climate of hope.

Direction Statement

Cultivating resilient citizens prepared for the diverse demands of the future.

Ralston Public Schools Believe ...

- The educational process is a partnership involving the school, the family, the student, and the community
- Students learn best when they are actively engaged in the process
- All students can learn
- Students learn best when schools maintain high expectations for learning
- The foremost responsibility of any educational organization is the student
- The essence of education is the ability to develop lifelong learners to deal responsibly with choice in a changing world

Board of Education policies can be accessed at the school building office and on the district website - www.ralstonschools.org

Ralston Middle School

It is the vision of Ralston Middle School to develop safe, responsible and respectful learners today and leaders tomorrow.

Mass Communication with Families

To ensure effective and timely communication between our school district, staff, and school patrons, Ralston Public Schools uses a mass messaging system. This program allows our middle school to reach students and families about important events by phone, email, text, and through the RPS Mobile App. Also, it can serve as an information system to communicate student absences, school cancellations due to inclement weather, and crisis situations that may arise. Messages come in the form of a pre-recorded phone call, a text, a push alert, or an email.

Bell Schedule

Building-wide Homeroom and Lunch Schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - 30 minutes for Homeroom and 30 minutes for Lunch) -

Monday - *DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) / Read Alouds / Academic Vocabulary*

Tuesday - *Well-Managed Schools / Character Education*

Wednesday - *Planner and Grade Checks / Career Education / Academic Study Hall*

Thursday - *Math Problem of the Week / Math Facts*

Friday - *Team Building*

<i>Bell Schedule (<u>Monday and Friday</u> - 44 minute class periods)</i>	<i>Bell Schedule (<u>Tuesday and Thursday</u> - 40 minute class periods)</i>	<i>Bell Schedule (<u>Wednesday</u> - 40 minute class periods)</i>
<u>7th grade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 - 8 to 8:44 am• Period 2 - 8:48 to 9:32 am• Period 3 - 9:36 to 10:20 am• Period 4 - 10:24 to 11:08 am• Period 5 (Lunch and Homeroom) - 11:12 am to 12:12 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 7A lunch - 11:12 to 11:42 am◦ 7B lunch - 11:27 am to 11:57 am• Period 6 - 12:16 to 1 pm• Period 7 - 1:04 to 1:48 pm• Period 8 - 1:52 to 2:36 pm• Period 9 - 2:40 to 3:24 pm	<u>7th grade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 - 8 to 8:40 am• Period 2 - 8:44 to 9:24 am• <i>WIN Time - 9:28 to 9:56 am</i>• Period 3 - 10 to 10:40 am• Period 4 - 10:44 am to 11:24 am• Period 5 (Lunch and Homeroom) - 11:28 am to 12:28 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 7A lunch - 11:28 to 11:58 am◦ 7B lunch - 11:43 am to 12:13 pm• Period 6 - 12:32 to 1:12 pm• Period 7 - 1:16 to 1:56 pm• Period 8 - 2 to 2:40 pm• Period 9 - 2:44 to 3:24 pm	<u>7th grade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 - 8:32 to 9:12 am• Period 2 - 9:16 to 9:56 am• Period 3 - 10 to 10:40 am• Period 4 - 10:44 am to 11:24 am• Period 5 (Lunch and Homeroom) - 11:28 am to 12:28 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 7A lunch - 11:28 to 11:58 am◦ 7B lunch - 11:43 am to 12:13 pm• Period 6 - 12:32 to 1:12 pm• Period 7 - 1:16 to 1:56 pm• Period 8 - 2 to 2:40 pm• Period 9 - 2:44 to 3:24 pm
<u>8th grade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 - 8 to 8:44 am• Period 2 - 8:48 to 9:32 am• Period 3 - 9:36 to 10:20 am• Period 4 - 10:24 to 11:08 am• Period 5 - 11:12 to 11:56 am• Period 6 (Lunch and Homeroom) - Noon to 1 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 8A lunch - Noon to 12:30 pm◦ 8B lunch - 12:15 to 12:45 pm• Period 7 - 1:04 to 1:48 pm• Period 8 - 1:52 to 2:36 pm• Period 9 - 2:40 to 3:24 pm	<u>8th grade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 - 8 to 8:40 am• Period 2 - 8:44 to 9:24 am• <i>WIN Time - 9:28 to 9:56 am</i>• Period 3 - 10 to 10:40 am• Period 4 - 10:44 am to 11:24 am• Period 5 - 11:28 am to 12:08 pm• Period 6 (Lunch and Homeroom) - 12:12 to 1:12 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 8A lunch - 12:12 to 12:42 pm◦ 8B lunch - 12:27 to 12:57 pm• Period 7 - 1:16 to 1:56 pm• Period 8 - 2 to 2:40 pm• Period 9 - 2:44 to 3:24 pm	<u>8th grade</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period 1 - 8:32 to 9:12 am• Period 2 - 9:16 to 9:56 am• Period 3 - 10 to 10:40 am• Period 4 - 10:44 am to 11:24 am• Period 5 - 11:28 am to 12:08 pm• Period 6 (Lunch and Homeroom) - 12:12 to 1:12 pm<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ 8A lunch - 12:12 to 12:42 pm◦ 8B lunch - 12:27 to 12:57 pm• Period 7 - 1:16 to 1:56 pm• Period 8 - 2 to 2:40 pm• Period 9 - 2:44 to 3:24 pm

Homeroom/ Advisement

Advisement is a program that build meaningful relationships between students and teacher. Every student should have at least one advocate and trusted adult in the building. Your advisement teacher/ advisor will play a key role in helping you see and meet your potential by doing the following -

- Help students make friends, develop positive peer group relationships and a sense of belonging
- Provide an orientation to Ralston Middle School and the student handbook
- Teach, reinforce, and build character as a middle school student working together with our classroom community
- Help students develop a sense of academic purpose and personal commitment to educational goals
- Help students achieve academic success by developing organizational skills, time management skills, effective study habits and academic support
- Develop the skills, attitudes and behaviors that will help students function productively
- Reinforce the values of respect, responsibility, personal safety and accountability through character

The following weekly schedule will be followed by all advisement groups at Ralston Middle School (some changes may be made throughout the year due to testing, guest speakers, etc.) -

RMS Weekly Advisement Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Keep Calm and READ Monday	THINK About It Tuesday	NO WORRIES Wednesday	MARVELOUS MATH Thursday	FANTASTIC Friday
- Students bring reading material - Book Talks - Reading Interventions	- Well Managed Schools - Character Education - John Wooden Pyramid of Success	- Planner & Grades Checks - Homework & Projects - Career Education	- Students bring Math homework - Work on Math facts - Math Interventions	- Team Building Time - Inter-disciplinary Activities - Homework Reminders

Responsible and Respectful Behavior

General Information

You are expected to conduct yourself appropriately and to cooperate with the requests of all staff members. Seventh grade students arriving to Ralston Middle School before 7:53 am must report to the Upper Gym, and eighth grade students must report to the Cafeteria. Students are not permitted to other areas of the building prior to 7:53 a.m. unless they have a pass from a staff member. Students must stop in the main office to get permission before visiting with a teacher either before 7:53 am or after 3:30 pm.

Responsible and Respectful Class Behavior

Your teachers will teach you the student expectations. Teachers will communicate with you when you are not meeting the expectations for student behavior. Teachers will also notify your parent/guardian if you fail to meet classroom expectations.

Ralston Middle School
Well Managed Schools - *Classroom Social (Life) Skills*
2019-2020

Corrective Teaching Interaction

- Give Praise / Empathy
- Describe Inappropriate Behavior
- Describe Appropriate Behavior
- Give a Reason
- Practice
- Negative Consequences (Optional)

Effective Praise

- Show Approval
- Describe Behavior or Skill
- Give a Reason
- Positive Consequence (Optional)

Greeting Others

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice tone.
3. Offer a verbal greeting.

Contributing to Discussions (Joining in a Conversation)

1. Look at the people who are talking.
2. Wait for a point when no one else is talking.
3. Make a sort, appropriate comment that relates to the topic being discussed.
4. Choose words that will not be offensive or confusing to others.
5. Give other people a chance to participate.

Setting Goals

1. Decide on your overall values and lifestyle desires.
2. List the resources you need to fulfill these lifestyle options.
3. Examine the intermediate steps in accomplishing your overall outcome.
4. Establish short and long term goals that will help you accomplish the steps necessary for the desired outcome.

Listening to Others

1. Look at the person who is talking and remain quiet.
2. Wait until the person is finished talking before you speak.
3. Show that you heard the person by nodding your head and saying "Okay" or "That's Interesting".

Being Prepared for Class

1. Gather all necessary books, papers, homework and writing implements.
2. Be on time for class.
3. Present homework and assignments when the teacher asks for them.
4. Write down assignments and homework to complete.

Completing Homework

1. Find out at school what the day's homework is for each subject.
2. Remember to bring home necessary books or materials in order to complete your assignments.
3. Get started on homework promptly, or at the designated time.
4. Complete all assignments accurately and neatly.
5. Carefully store completed homework until the next school day.

Following Instructions

1. Look at the person.
2. Say "Okay" and/ or nod to show understanding.
3. Do what you've been asked right away.
4. Check back.

Making a request (Asking a Favor)

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a clear, pleasant voice tone.
3. Make your request in the form of a question by saying "Would you..." and "Please..."
4. If your request is granted, remember to say "Thank you."
5. If your request is denied, remember to accept "No" for an answer.

Staying on Task

1. Look at your task or assignment.
2. Think about the steps needed to complete the task.
3. Focus all of your attention on the task.
4. Stop working only when instructed.
5. Ignore distractions and interruptions from others.

Accepting "No" for an Answer

1. Look at the person.
2. Say "Okay," or gesture to show understanding.
3. Stay calm.
4. If you disagree, ask later.

Getting the Teacher's Attention

1. Look at the teacher.
2. Raise your hand calmly.
3. Wait to be acknowledged by the teacher.
4. Ask questions or make requests in a calm voice.

Accepting Criticism or a Consequence

1. Look at the person.
2. Say "Okay".
3. Stay calm.

Ralston Middle School
Well Managed Schools - *Classroom Social (Life) Skills*
2019-2020

Disagreeing Appropriately

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice tone.
3. Say "I understand how you feel".
4. Tell why you feel differently.
5. Give a reason.
6. Listen to the other person.

Advocating for Oneself

1. Identify a situation in which you should advocate for yourself.
2. Remember to remain calm and use a pleasant or neutral voice tone.
3. Describe your point of view or the outcome you desire.
4. Give rationales for advocating for yourself.
5. Thank the person for listening.

Making an Appropriate Complaint

1. Look at the person.
2. Phrase your complaint as an objective problem, not a personal attack.
3. Remain calm and pleasant.
4. Be assertive, but avoid repeating your complaint over and over.
5. Thank the person for his or her cooperation.

Choosing Appropriate Words to Say

1. Look at the situation and the people around you.
2. Know the meanings of words you are about to say.
3. Refrain from using words that will offend people around you or that they will not understand.
4. Decide what thoughts you want to put into words and then say the words.

Accepting Decisions of Authority

1. Look at the person.
2. Remain calm and monitor your feelings and behavior.
3. Use a pleasant or neutral tone of voice.
4. Acknowledge the decision by saying "Okay" or "Yes, I understand".
5. If you disagree, do so at a later time.
6. Refrain from arguing, pouting or becoming angry.

Using Anger-Control Strategies

1. Learn what situations cause you to lose control or make you angry.
2. Monitor the feelings you have in stressful situations.
3. Instruct yourself to breathe deeply and relax when stressful feelings begin to arise.
4. Reword angry feelings so they can be expressed appropriately and calmly to others.
5. Praise yourself for controlling emotional outbursts.

Making an Apology (Saying You're Sorry)

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a serious, sincere voice tone, but don't pout.
3. Begin by saying, "I wanted to apologize for..." or "I'm sorry for..."
4. Do not make excuses or try to rationalize your behavior.
5. Sincerely say that you will try not to repeat the same behavior in the future.
6. Thank the other person for listening.

Expressing Empathy and Understanding for Others

1. Listen closely as the other person expresses his or her feelings.
2. Express empathy by saying, "I understand..."
3. Demonstrate concern through your words and actions.
4. Reflect back the other person's words by saying, "It seems like you're saying..."
5. Offer any help or assistance you can.

Giving Compliments

1. Look at the person you are complimenting.
2. Speak with a clear, enthusiastic voice.
3. Praise the person's activity or project specifically. Tell him or her exactly what you liked about it.
4. Use words such as, "That's great," "Wonderful" or "That was awesome."
5. Give the other person time to respond to your compliment.

Showing Appreciation

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant, sincere voice.
3. Say "Thank you for..." and specifically describe what the person did that you appreciate.
4. If appropriate, give a reason for why it was so beneficial.
5. Offer future help or favors on your part.

Accepting Awards and Honors

1. Look at the presenter.
2. Shake hands.
3. Maintain a pleasant expression.
4. Use a pleasant voice tone and say, "Thank you for..." or "I feel honored."
5. Return quietly to your seat.

Accepting Compliments

1. Look at the person who is complimenting you.
2. Use a pleasant voice tone.
3. Thank the person sincerely for the compliment.
4. Say "Thanks for noticing" or "I appreciate that."
5. Avoid looking away, mumbling or denying the compliment.

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Well Managed Schools - *Classroom Social (Life) Skills*
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Going to an Assembly

1. Walk quietly in the hallway.
2. Sit in your assigned seat (or section).
3. Listen attentively.
4. Clap at an appropriate time, in an appropriate manner.
5. Wait to be dismissed.

Accepting Winning Appropriately

1. Look at the person or members of the team who lost.
2. Remain pleasant but not overly happy or celebratory.
3. Congratulate the other person or team for a good game and for trying.
4. Do not brag or boast about winning.

Accept Defeat or Loss

1. Look at the person or members of the team who won.
2. Remain calm and positive.
3. Say "Good game" or "Congratulations."
4. Reward yourself for trying your hardest.

Choosing Appropriate Friends

1. Think of the qualities and interests you would look for in a friend.
2. Look at the strengths and weaknesses of potential friends.
3. Match the characteristics of potential friends with activities and interests you would share.
4. Avoid peers who lead you to make negative choices.

Setting Appropriate Boundaries

1. Imagine a series of circles radiating out from you. Each represents a boundary.
2. Picture people you encounter in one of the circles, depending on the level of closeness with which you and another person are comfortable.
3. Disclose personal information only to those in the closest boundaries.
4. Respect the boundaries of others.

Extending an Offer or Invitation

1. Choose an appropriate time and place to extend the invitation.
2. Look at the person.
3. Use a pleasant or happy voice tone.
4. Extend the invitation.
5. Request a timely response.
6. Politely end the conversation.

Declining an Offer or Invitation Graciously

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm, pleasant voice tone.
3. Thank the person for the invitation or offer.
4. Give a reason why you cannot or do not wish to accept.
5. Offer an alternative activity or suggest another time.

Resisting Negative Peer Pressure

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm, assertive voice tone.
3. State clearly that you do not want to engage in the inappropriate activity.
4. Suggest an alternative activity. Give a reason.
5. If the person persists, continue to say "No."
6. If the peer will not accept your "No" answer, ask him or her to leave or remove yourself from the situation.

Responding to/ Reporting Inappropriate Talk

1. Stay calm.
2. Tell the other person to stop his or her behavior.
3. Leave the situation.
4. Find an adult as quickly as possible.
5. Gain the adult's attention appropriately.
6. Honestly describe everything you experienced or witnessed.
7. Answer all questions honestly.
8. Thank the adult for listening and taking action.

Reporting Other Youths' Behavior (Peer Reporting)

1. Find the appropriate adult of authority figure.
2. Look at the person.
3. Use a clear, concerned voice tone.
4. State specifically the inappropriate behavior you are reporting.
5. Give a reason for the report that shows concern for your peer.
6. Truthfully answer any questions that are asked of you.

Communicating Honestly

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a clear voice. Avoid stammering or hesitating.
3. Respond to questions factually and completely.
4. Do not leave out details or important facts.
5. Truthfully take responsibility for any inappropriate behaviors you displayed.

Guidance Counselor (Policy 6048)

There are times when we all get down on ourselves and lose confidence. There is a caring and skilled counselor at Ralston Middle School to listen. If you need guidance or just need someone to listen to a problem, a counselor is here to listen to you. This person will work closely with your entire team and get to know you better through some team and advisement activities. Counseling services are available to every student in our school. Students can stop by the counselor's office to set up a time and to get a pass. Students must check in with their teacher before meeting with the counselor. If something is urgent and the counselor is not available, do not wait. Please visit with another staff member.

The counselor can help you with many things including:

- Academic success
- Attendance
- School / grade transition
- Selection of classes
- Peer / family concerns
- Study skills

The counselor will be in the classroom periodically to do guidance activities on topics such as:

- Making new friends
- Peer pressure
- Cliques
- Bullying
- Sexual harassment
- Setting goals
- Decision making
- Tolerance
- Diversity
- Self-esteem

Grading

Ralston Middle School uses a traditional grading scale for all courses:

- A = Superior = 92-100
- B = Above Average = 84-91
- C = Average = 76-83
- D = Below Average = 67-75
- F = Failure = 0-66
- I = Incomplete
- NM = No Mark
- P = Passing

As a student working to achieve success in the classroom, it is your responsibility to -

- Stay informed and use R-KIDS - www.RalstonSchools.org and look for the R-KIDS button near the district logo [or click here](#).
- Visit with your teachers about their availability to work with you
- Remember learning takes effort both in and outside the classroom

Student Recognition

The RMS Honor Roll recognizes above average student academic performance. Students with the following semester grade point averages (GPA) will be recognized in the following categories -

- Distinguished Scholar - 4.0-3.50
- Outstanding Scholar - 3.49-3.00

No student shall be on the Distinguished Honor Rolls that has received a grade below a “B”. No student shall be on any Honor Roll that has received a grade below a “C” and/or has an incomplete for the semester. All incomplete grades must be made up no later than one week after the conclusion of a quarter.

Ralston Middle School Academic Integrity Policy

To ensure our vision of creating a community of respect, responsibility, and academic excellence, we must demonstrate a high level of personal character and academic integrity.

Academic Integrity is:

- Completing and submitting work that is entirely your own, including words, thoughts, ideas, concepts, images, and data.
- Giving credit when you use other people's words, thoughts, ideas, concepts, images, or data in your work.
- Not plagiarizing or cheating when completing your work.

What is plagiarism?

- Plagiarism is submitting the works, ideas, images, or data from another person in any of your academic writing or projects, and claiming them as your own.

Examples of plagiarism:

- Copying and pasting a passage of text unchanged from an internet or online resource without citing the source.
- Copying slides from another student's PowerPoint and including them in your project.
- Copying pictures from Google Images and inserting those into your paper or project without citing the source (photographer's credit or location where the picture was found).
- Copying word-for-word from a printed resource (encyclopedia, magazine, etc.) and claiming it as your own.
- Copying an idea or format for a story or poem and claiming it as your own.

What constitutes cheating?

- Possession of unauthorized materials (cheat sheets, notes, etc.)
- Having someone else completing your work for you.
- Copying someone else's homework, allowing someone to copy your homework, or turning in someone else's work as your own.
- Using fake or fabricated quotes, references, or data in your work.
- Copying someone else's test, quiz, exam, or sharing answers during a test, quiz, or exam with someone else.
- Using technology to retrieve/ share answers, testing materials, etc.

Examples of academic cheating:

- Writing the answers to a test on your hand.
- Having your friend or sibling write an essay for you.
- Copying your friend's math homework, or allowing a friend to copy your homework.
- Inventing statistics or data to support your conclusions on a science experiment.

Consequences for Plagiarism and/or Cheating:

- Parents will be notified of academic misconduct by either the teacher or the principal.
- Students will be required to do another similar replacement assignment or exam to demonstrate accurate evidence of learning, or they can be required to retake or re-submit the work. If retaking or re-submitting the work, the student must complete this on their own time.
- Participation in extracurricular activities may be suspended until the issue has been fully resolved to the satisfaction of the principal.
- A student's academic misconduct can be confidentially communicated to their teachers.
- Appropriate consequences will be determined by the administration.

Textbooks and Book Covers

The school district loans textbooks to you. Keep them covered, clean, and protected because you will return them at the end of the semester or school year. You are responsible for their condition and may be fined up to the full cost of the book if there is abnormal wear or damage to any books you have been loaned. You may provide your own book covers, or your team teachers will have some free books covers available.

Lab equipment, sports equipment, instruments, computers, lockers, tables, chairs, and desks are all school property, and you are responsible for items in your care. Ralston Middle School is not responsible to pay for damages when another student steals, vandalizes or breaks another student's personal property.

Lockers (Policy 5036)

Lockers are the property of the school district and students are permitted to use them without charge. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particular suspicion or reasonable cause.

The school loans lockers to each student as an area to keep coats, books, and other items that are needed for school. Students will have access to their lockers during each passing period. Lockers will be issued at the beginning of the school year. Students' possessions including, but not limited to purses, bags, and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is a violation of law or district policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found as a result of such a search may be grounds for discipline.

Each student is assigned their own locker. Students are not to share lockers for any reason.

- Lockers are school property.
- Lockers are subject to inspection at any time. This may include inspecting by police dogs.
- Use only the locker assigned to you.
- Your locker combination is your personal business - DO NOT TELL YOUR COMBINATION TO ANYONE!
- Lockers must be kept in an orderly fashion at all times.
- Kicking lockers closed is not acceptable.
- Rigging lockers to open them without using the combination leaves all items in the locker susceptible to theft - Do not preset your locker to open.
- Never leave anything unlocked in the locker rooms.
- If your locker gets stuck, tell an office secretary, teacher, counselor, or administrator.

Building and Grounds

Your parents and the taxpayers in this school district pay for our educational programs, materials, and facility. Any offender will pay for vandalism or careless use of property, and disciplinary actions will be taken by the administration. You are expected to care properly for the furniture, equipment, and building.

- Pick up your trash and the trash around you.
- Recycle paper.
- No open containers of pop or other liquid are permitted outside of the cafeteria, unless cleared as a legitimate medical condition.

Emergency Procedures

Various drills are held at regular intervals throughout the school year and are an important safety precaution. It is essential when these drills are held that everyone follows staff instructions promptly. Directions for each type of emergency will be reviewed by the teacher and posted in each classroom and within the student planner. If a student is in the hall during a Lockout, the student should return to their classroom. If a student is in the hall during a Lockdown, the student should go to the closest possible restroom.

Food Items

Food and beverage items should be consumed in the cafeteria. Exceptions would be special food days in classes or advisement. Clear water bottles may be used in a respectful and responsible manner. Sunflower seeds will not be allowed in the building at any time. The permission of gum will be at the teacher's discretion.

Lunch

Parents, students, etc. are asked not to bring/ order in lunches from outside vendors to students or groups of students unless cleared through the principal's office. Students will be able to leave the building for lunch only with their parent or guardian.

Student Appearance (Policy 5031)

Any manner of dress, hair style, make-up, or personal hygiene that -

- Constitutes a threat to the safety, health, or welfare of the student or others;
- Violates any statute;
- Interferes with the education process, or that school officials can reasonably predict will interfere with the education process; or
- Causes or may cause excessive maintenance problems in the school may be grounds for corrective or disciplinary action.

The superintendent or their designee may institute specific dress code regulations in any school consistent with board policy.

Dress Code

The school dress code is based on the principle that student dress is the responsibility of each student's parents/guardians. For this reason, we feel that many of the restrictions on dress code and grooming should originate with the parent/guardian rather than with the school administration.

The dress code should allow for individualism and meet the current trend of changing styles. However, when a style becomes extreme, the matter will be discussed with the student. Students wearing clothing that is deemed inappropriate may be sent home or have proper clothing delivered by a parent or wear clothing stored in the office for dress code violations. Students who refuse to comply will face disciplinary action.

1. Appearance which is disruptive, according to the staff, will not be allowed. Students may be referred to administration for final approval. Automatically included in this category are -
 - a. Not any clothing that is offensive or distracting to the learning environment. (Clothing with vulgar, obscene, profane, suggestive or otherwise inappropriate drawings or slogans)
 - b. No sagging pants.
 - c. No bare midriffs.
 - d. No spaghetti straps, tank tops with less than 2 inch sleeves on each arm, or strapless tops may be worn.
 - e. No pants/clothing with tears/missing fabric that reveals excessive skin.
2. Students must wear shoes or sandals at all times, no slippers.
3. Students will not be allowed to wear hats, caps, bandanas, bandanas worn as headbands, or other head coverings that are not related to an individual's religious/cultural beliefs. Those items are to be kept IN LOCKERS during the day from 7:53 am to 3:24 pm. Bandana printed items may not be worn or displayed.
4. Coats are generally not needed in school and should not be worn in class unless a teacher determines coats are needed.
 - a. What is NOT allowed? Any coat that is generally worn as an OUTSIDE coat for warmth is not allowed. Not allowed are heavy overcoats, ski jackets, rainwear, or any lined jackets.
 - b. What IS allowed? One layer cotton lining inside a windbreaker, unlined windbreaker, and pullover or zippered sweatshirts are acceptable for indoor wear.
 - c. Sweatshirts with hoods are allowed but the **hoods must be down at all times** during the school day.
5. Book bags and purses must stay in the students' lockers during the school day as well.

Cell Phone/ Electronic Items (Policy 6025)

Ralston Middle School recognizes the increased use of electronic devices in society and also recognizes their value when used properly. Our primary concern is the academic success of students since the misuse of electronic devices can interfere with student learning. We also understand the need for parents to occasionally contact their student; however, it is best to call the office and a note will be sent to the student. Students are not allowed to check their device or respond to parent contacts during class time without teacher's permission. The following rules will govern the use of electronic devices at the middle school -

1. Students must follow classroom teachers' stated expectations and guidelines. Staff may confiscate electronic devices if students fail to comply with those expectations.
2. Electronic devices may be used before and after school.
3. Students must discontinue use of any electronic device when so instructed by any staff member at any time during the school day.

Administrative Action

These items, if seen or heard in the building by a staff member, will be confiscated and turned in to the office. Parents and/or guardians could be required to come to the middle school and pick these items up each time they are taken from their student. Students will be able to use the school phones to call parents/guardians for rides after school, practices, and contests.

Telephones

We have phones in each classroom. Students may request use of a phone and teachers will determine if the request is appropriate. Office phones are to be used for emergencies only.

Media Center

All students enrolled in Ralston Middle School are entitled to borrow books from the school media center. A library ID card is not needed. During school hours, a student will be allowed to use the media center with a pass signed by a teacher. Books and periodicals taken out of the media center must be checked out at the circulation desk. Students should exercise good judgment when deciding the number of books to check out at one time. Reserved books, reference books, and encyclopedias may be checked out for one period or overnight only.

Physical Education

Physical Education is part of our curriculum. Every student is expected to participate unless excused as a part of legitimate medical condition.

Should this be the case, we expect a doctor's written excuse stating the reason and the length of time the pupil will not be participating. These excuses will be renewable at the beginning of each school year. If a student has a doctor's written excuse, they will be unable to participate in athletic practice and events during that time. Parent/guardian written excuses may not amount to more than three (3) days for the school year. For any illness or injury that limits the student's activity longer than this, a doctor's written excuse is expected.

Proper gym shoes are required. Clothing for P.E. must follow the dress code policies.

Bikes

- Park bikes in the bike racks provided.
- LOCK your bikes at all times.
- The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged bikes.
- Non-licensed (e.g., mopeds, go-carts, mini bikes, etc.) motorized vehicles are prohibited on school property.

Lost and Found

Lost and Found is located in the main office. If you have lost a textbook, a sweatshirt, or anything else; just tell the secretaries in the office and they will help you locate the lost item. Quarterly, the Lost and Found is cleaned out, and items are given to charity.

Student Activities (Policy 6028)

The school day at RMS does not necessarily end when the bell rings at the end of the day. There are several opportunities for students after school, however, students need to report to the designated areas directly after school or bring a signed note if they are staying after with a teacher. **Students not participating in an after school opportunity are expected to be off school property by 3:30 pm.** If a student is participating in any extra-curricular activity, they must be present at school for at least four periods of the school day.

The opportunities listed below are available for students staying after school. Students involved must follow the school guidelines when staying after school.

Teacher Help Computer Labs Media Center Athletics Activities KIDS Count

Ralston Middle School programs are proud of the students, coaches and sponsors who contribute to make the activities programs a positive experience for its participants. Success in extracurricular activities cannot always be measured by the wins and losses of each program, but they must also be measured by the satisfaction and educational experiences received by the participants. The activities program also provides opportunities to assist participants in growing physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The element of competition, although it exists, is controlled to the point that it does not determine the nature of the programs. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of the contest.

The coaching and activities staff and administration believe that participation in activities and athletics, both as a participant and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the student's educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the team, the student body, the community, and the students themselves. In their participation and in their conduct, they are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby providing guidance in becoming better people and better citizens.

Safety

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program that recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Player Responsibility - Listen to your Coaches/Sponsors

- Stop what you are doing and make eye contact.
- Be respectful while listening by displaying appropriate body language.
- Make a conscious effort to pay attention to detail.
- Respond to instructions immediately and in a positive manner.
- If you do not understand, raise your hand and ask questions.

Player Responsibility - Accept Coaching Instruction and Team Philosophies

- Understand that coaching is instructional. Learning the fundamentals of your sport/activity is integral in becoming the best you can be in that particular endeavor.
- If you feel frustrated, visit with your coach or sponsor at an appropriate time.
- Make only **POSITIVE** comments to your teammates - **SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER!**
- Remember your teammates are here for the same common goals!
- Respect your opponents- treat them how you would choose to be treated.
- Win with class. Lose with dignity.

Sports by season:

Fall (August – mid October)	Football, volleyball, cross country
Early Winter (end of October - December)	Boys basketball
Late Winter (December – March)	Girls basketball, wrestling
Spring (end of March – May)	Track

In order to participate in any sport, students must provide:

1. **A physical exam to be kept on file at Ralston Middle School.** Students will not be able to participate in any practices or games until this physical is received in our office. All students entering seventh grade are required to have physical exams prior to enrolling at RMS. These also serve as the athletic physical during the student's seventh grade year.
2. **A ONE TIME activity fee of \$20.00 (paid each school year).** Please make checks payable to Ralston Middle School.
3. **Signed parent permission form and RECEIPT OF RALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL 2019-2020 STUDENT HANDBOOK signature** (part of student check-in packet).
4. **Students must also have proof of health insurance.** Ralston Middle School provides NO insurance coverage. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide adequate insurance to cover any medical expenses that may be incurred while the student is participating in athletics or resulting in their participation in athletics. If a student needs health insurance, please stop in the office for informational handout provided by Student Assurance Services.

Attendance Requirements

1. Attend practices regularly. Students may miss practices for the following reasons only: 1) family 2) church 3) involvement in another school activity 4) illness (absence from school that day)
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests, the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance by phone, with a written note, or by email. Any practice that is missed without prior contact with the coach will be assumed an unexcused practice.
3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for four periods of the school day. A student who is not in attendance for the four periods is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity (*exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The principal or athletic director must approve the exception*).

4. Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will be going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.
5. Students will have situations when they meet with teachers after school to make up tests or assignments. Academics are always the first priority. In this situation, students must:
 - Bring a note/pass from the teacher to their coach **before** practice begins. Some coaches may have you change into your practice clothes before meeting with your teacher.
 - Complete assignments with teacher then return to practice.

However, if a student must serve a detention due to our RMS late work policy or for not meeting expectations for behavior in the classroom. Students must still possess a note/pass from the teacher in these situations so coaches are aware of the team member obligations with their teachers.

Equipment and Lockers

The athletic department will furnish equipment needed for each program. It will not furnish shoes or any equipment needed of a personal nature. All equipment checked out to a participant is their responsibility. Upon completion of the season, the equipment will be checked in to the coach. *If there is an item missing or damaged, the student must pay for the replacement cost.*

Students are provided a locker in the locker room to store practice clothing and equipment. *Students are to be responsible for locking all equipment and personal articles in their lockers during practice and game times.* Negligence in doing so could result in items being stolen. The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Scheduled Practice Times

Students will receive a practice and game schedule from their coaches at the start of the sports season. Practices will be held from 3:25-5 p.m. During the winter sports season, there could be 6:00-7:30 a.m. practices on a rotating basis due to the availability of the gyms. However, please refer to the practice schedule received at the beginning of the season for exact practice times. These may vary. Please arrange your student to be picked up from practices and games on time.

Cancellation/Postponement Procedure:

There may be situations when we will need to postpone or cancel games or matches due to inclement weather. The following steps will be used to communicate to parents:

- An announcement will be made over the school intercom to alert students of the cancellation/postponement.
- Students will be allowed to use classroom telephones to contact parents.
- In the event that games are cancelled or postponed, no practices will be held after school.
- The cancellation/postponement will also be posted on our RMS website.

Facilities Usage

No one is allowed to be in the building or to use the athletic facilities without a coach or sponsor supervising. Any athlete using the weight room must also be supervised by coaching staff.

Transportation Policy

Activities may be conducted at locations other than Ralston Middle School. In some instances, Ralston Middle School will not provide transportation to the activity. Ralston Middle School is not responsible when students are provided transportation by a vehicle driven by others. In these instances, the responsibility and liability of the school and school officials is limited to the period from the participant's arrival at the event site and contact with the coach, sponsor, or assigned staff member, until dismissal from the event. All other liability for the child's safety lies with the parent, or their designated drivers.

Age Specific Information to Parents of Middle School Athletes

NSAA Eligibility Rule 2.3 – “Student is ineligible if 19 years of age before August 1 of the current school year.” (Students in grades 7 or 8 may participate on a high school team if they are 15 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year). Parents need to be informed that their son/daughter, who would be ineligible if they turn 15 years of age before August 1st of their 8th grade year of school or 14 years of age before August 1st of their 7th grade school year. Please contact your school’s activities director for more information.

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants’ conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image.

The student participants’ performance and devotion to high ideals and values make their school and community proud. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district’s policies, procedures and rules.

Scope of the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school. **The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school-sponsored activities such as school dances, 8th grade end of the year celebration at Papio Fun Park, attendance at school events such as athletic contests and concerts, and other school sponsored events.**

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular or school sponsored activity.

Any Ralston student is subject to disciplinary procedures for inappropriate actions that take place at their building of attendance, any other district building and/or school related activity, or for any other action prohibited by state statute.

While we cannot itemize every action of misconduct here, the following are the main areas of conduct, which may lead to disciplinary action, in-school suspension/suspension, expulsion from school, and/or loss of extracurricular participation privileges:

- The possession, use, sale, or transmission of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
- The willful use of force, violence, threat, or insubordinate action.
- Gross disrespect for any student, school official, or employee. This includes the use of profanity or disrespectful speech or gestures toward another student or school employee.
- Stealing, willful damage, or destruction of school property or property belonging to another student or school employee.
- Continued behavior that seriously interferes with classroom instruction or other activities associated with school.
- Threatening or intimidation of other students, teachers, or anyone else connected with the school. This includes sexual, verbal, and physical harassment.

- Possession and/or use of any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon in any school building, on school grounds, in any vehicle, or at any school sponsored activity is prohibited.
- Truancy from school or failure to attend assigned classes or activities.
- Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to a school employee or to any student.

Students cannot participate in extracurricular contests, performances, practices, or attend other school activities on days of in school suspension and/or out of school suspension.

Academic Standards

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities, students must:

- Demonstrate the ability to balance academics with extracurricular participation. **A student is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances for the following academic reasons:**
 - *If they have an F grade in one of their classes*
- Office staff will do grade checks. Students are ineligible until grades have been improved and a new grade check is completed by administration.
 - *If they are ineligible, they cannot participate in athletic contests, concerts, competitions, performances, school dances or other school sponsored activities for the entire week. However, the student will continue to attend practices during this time.*
- Academic requirements do not apply to:
 - *Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or*
 - *Activities or events that are a part of the students' grade requirements.*

School Dances

A school-sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code, and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation.

General Rules of Student Conduct at Dances.

In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

- Only Ralston Middle School students may attend the dance.
- Students who have been suspended from school or from extracurricular activities may not attend.
- The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event.
- Rules for dances may restrict students from leaving the dance until the dance ends without written parental permission on a form provided.
- Students who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off of the dance floor, may be asked to leave.
- Attire must meet school dress code requirements.
- Dances are scheduled after school from 3:25-5:00 p.m.
- **Rides need to be arranged to pick up students at 5:00 p.m.**

Relationships Between Parents and Coaches/Sponsors

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone. Parents have the right to know the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches and sponsors have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Conflict Resolution

In the event you have a concern about your student's participation on our teams and/or our programs, we ask that you use the following chain of communication to deal with the concerns:

1. First, ask your student to talk with the coach or sponsor about the concerns. This is an important life skill to teach your student and a very important first step in problem solving.
2. Second, if the issues have not been resolved by the coach or sponsor and student, then the parent/legal guardian should request a meeting with the coach or sponsor outside of class time, practice time, or event time. The coach or sponsor may request that the student attend this meeting.
3. Third, if these two steps have not succeeded, then the parent/legal guardian may request a meeting with the activities director at the school. The student and coach/sponsor will also be included in this meeting.
4. Fourth, if resolution has not been achieved, the parent/legal guardian and student may request a meeting with the principal, in which the coach or sponsor, parent, student, and assistant principal will attend. We hope the concerns can be addressed at the site level.
5. Topics that will not be discussed at any of these meetings will be playing time, game strategies, playing level, starters, student selections on teams, and comparison of students' skills. We as an administration believe it is the responsibility and right of the coaches and sponsors to determine the members of the team, the time and/or role earned by each student during each game and event, and to determine the strategies used during a game or event.

“Team selection” and “playing time” decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purpose of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

- **School Representative** - Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner that reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
- **Success** - Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

Parent/Guardian Role in Communicating with Children

- Make sure your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.

- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, they will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that their philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under their leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Parent/Guardian Role in Communicating with a Coach/Sponsor

- *Communication you should expect from your child's coach includes:*
 - Philosophy of the coach
 - Expectations the coach has for your child
 - Locations and times of all practices and contests
 - Team requirements
 - Procedure should your child be injured
 - Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- *Communication coaches expect from parents:*
 - Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- *Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:*
 - The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
 - Ways to help your child improve
 - Concerns about your child's behavior
 - Injuries or health concerns. Report injuries to the coach immediately!! Tell the coach about any health concerns that may make it necessary to limit your child's participation or require assistance of trainers. Students are sometimes unwilling to tell coaches when they are injured, so please make sure the coach is told.
- *Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:*
 - Playing time
 - Team strategy
 - Play calling
 - Other student-athletes

Good Sportsmanship—Behavior Expectations of Spectators

Good sportsmanship is expected to be exhibited by all coaches, sponsors, students, parents and other spectators. The school can be punished by NSAA for a lack of good sportsmanship at NSAA sanctioned events. More importantly, activities are more enjoyable for the students when good sportsmanship is displayed.

Responsibilities of Spectators Attending Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

- Show interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the performance of both teams.
- Show proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and remaining silent when the National Anthem is played.
- Understand that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally attack others, or to be obnoxious. Maintain self-control.
- Do not “boo,” stamp feet or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.
- Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
- Know that noise makers of any kind are not proper for indoor events.
- Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
- Stay off the playing area at all times.
- Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
- Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders, and student-athletes.
- Pay attention to the half-time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
- Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
- Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.
- Refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs on the site of the contest.

Concussion Awareness (Policy 6034)

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the “most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed.”

The School District will:

1. Require all coaches and trainers to complete one of the following online courses on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury -
 - a. Heads UP Concussions in Youth Sports
 - b. Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know
 - c. Sports Safety International
 - d. ConcussionWise
 - e. ACTive™ Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches
2. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
 - a. The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
 - b. The risks posed by sustaining a concussion;
 - c. The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of their coaches; and
 - d. Acknowledgement of receipt of information by both parent/guardian and the student.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when they are reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game

after observation by a coach or a licensed healthcare professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:

1. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
2. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and
3. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

1. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,
2. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and
3. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed healthcare professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that they are a licensed healthcare professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed healthcare professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

Students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered. The school's "return to learn protocol" shall be the guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Education entitled "Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom," and accompanying materials and future supplements. Nothing in this policy or the referenced protocol shall entitle a student who has sustained a concussion to an individualized plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, although staff will refer students who have sustained a concussion for evaluation under Section 504 as appropriate.

Kids Count

Our Vision For The RMS Kids Count Program Is:

1. To implement a vibrant community driven program that will attract youth, parents, & community long after the school day ends.
2. Engage our youth in safe, drug-free activities that will support and challenge them academically and foster resilience to negative influences.
3. Nurture a lifelong commitment for community service and the arts.
4. Support parents in raising happy, healthy, and academically successful children.

Kids Count for this school year will get underway on Monday, August 19th. There is a \$20 fee per month. Activities will be held on Monday-Friday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. on days school is in session. Participating in Kids Count is a positive way for students to enjoy a variety of activities as well as make connections with other RMS students. To enroll in the Kids Count program, please contact Steve Schrad or Linda Hoffman at 402-331-4701.

School Handbooks are based on Board of Education Policies - www.RalstonSchools.org

Routine Directory Information (Policy 5017)

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Name of parent and/or guardian
- Address
- Telephone number, including the student's cell phone number
- E-mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Major field of study
- Participation in activities and sports
- Degrees and awards received
- Social media usernames or handles
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Classroom assignment and/or home room teacher
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user.

Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Upon request, the district will provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent. Any student who is 18 years of age or older should communicate to the district office if they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent.

The district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

Parent Involvement in Education Practices (Policy 5018)

The school district recognizes the importance of parental and guardian involvement in the education of their children. The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents and guardians to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents/Guardians will be provided access, as described in district procedures, to district-approved textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district upon request.

- a. A parental request to review specific approved textbooks and other district- or building-approved curricular materials (written, visual, and audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the textbooks and curriculum materials are used.
 - b. Parents may check out textbooks and may review curricular materials such as video and audio recordings within a time frame determined by the building principal to prevent disruption of the instructional process.
 - c. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion- referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide NeSA assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.
2. Parents/Guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.
 - a. Parents/guardians are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/guardian observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.
 - b. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.
3. Parents/guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to ask that their children be excused from school experiences that parents find objectionable.
 - a. Building principals may excuse a student from any single school experience at the parent's written request.
 - b. When appropriate, alternative experiences will be provided for the student by the school.
4. Parents/guardians will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.
5. Parents/guardians will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.
6. Parents/guardians will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments.
 - a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents/guardians of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.
 - b. State Assessments
 - i. The District cannot approve requests to opt out of state assessments. Approval of such requests is contrary to state law.
 - c. National Assessment of Educational Progress
 - i. As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

- ii. The District shall provide parents/guardians of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents/guardians wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least three days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.
- 7. Parents/guardians will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.
 - a. The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.
 - b. Students' participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents/guardians may restrict their child from participating in any survey.

Field Trip (Policy 6027)

The board encourages instructional staff to incorporate field trips into the curriculum. These trips should normally be conducted during the school day.

General Conditions

All trips must be pre-approved by the teacher's building principal. Out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval by the board. The superintendent and principals will develop guidelines for approval of trips and communicate those guidelines to teaching staff.

Parental Permission

Each student must submit a signed parental permission slip prior to being allowed to attend a field trip. A new permission slip must be submitted for each trip. Caregivers, as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, shall be permitted to sign parental permission slips.

Supervision

Sponsoring teachers must ensure that students are adequately supervised and chaperoned by a responsible adult at all times during field trips. Whether paid staff or volunteers, chaperones are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages of any kind at any time during any field trip. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. Any chaperone who drives students must possess a valid driver's license. Chaperones who drive students in private vehicles must possess adequate insurance coverage. Chaperones do not have any property right in or to a chaperone assignment. The school district may deny or terminate a chaperone assignment for any reason that is not unconstitutional or unlawful. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

Student Conduct

Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

Parental/Guardian Access to Student Records (Policy 5016)

The school district shall manage student records and reports as is necessary for effective administration and in compliance with the law. In general "student records" shall not include transitory communications such as email, text messages, handwritten communication between school and home, and the like, and these items will not generally be maintained by the district.

For purposes of the district's compliance with state and federal law, the district "maintains" student records which are printed and kept in the student's physical file or which school district staff have intentionally saved within the official school district digital student information system that specifically identifies the student for whom those records are maintained. The school district may also use learning management systems, which deliver and manage instructional content. The school district maintains

student records within its student information system but not in its learning management system. The official school district student information system is SIMS.

Each building principal will assign responsibilities for the preparation and maintenance of records and will ensure compliance with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and record retention schedules regarding their storage and use in the building. No “student record” or record required to be retained by the Nebraska Secretary of State’s Record Retention Schedules applicable to the district will be destroyed unless it is first saved in a retrievable, digital format. This includes only records required to be kept by the applicable Retention Schedules and “student records” as defined by state and federal law, and this policy does not prohibit the district from following its record expungement procedures for all other records.

Students or their parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, or school administrators shall have access to the school’s files or records maintained concerning themselves or their students. For purposes of this policy, “teachers” include paraeducators and volunteers who are providing educational services to a student on behalf of the School District. “School administrators” include attorneys, members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district as well as third party website operators who have contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and the district. No other person shall have access thereto nor shall the contents thereof be divulged in any manner to any unauthorized person. All disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed upon the pupil’s graduation or after the pupil’s continuous absence from the school for a period of three years, and after authorization is given by the State Records Board pursuant to state law. Upon request, the school district will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Outside agencies such as physicians, probation officers, psychologists, child guidance clinics, and other agencies concerned with child welfare who are working directly with a child may have access to information pertaining to that child with written parental consent or upon issuance of a valid court order.

The school district shall share student data, records, and information with school districts, educational service units, learning communities, and the State Department of Education to the fullest extent practicable unless otherwise prohibited by law. Each year, the school district will notify parents and guardians of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Parent/Guardian Notification of Student Surveys (Policy 5015)

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children, and has adopted this policy in consultation with parents to comply with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

1. Surveys

a. Surveys Created by a Third Party

i. This section applies to every survey:

1. that is created by a person or entity other than a district staff member or student;
2. regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified; and
3. regardless of the subject matter of the questions

ii. Parents have the right to inspect any survey created by a third party before that survey is distributed to their student.

- b. Surveys Requesting Particular Sensitive Information
 - i. Sensitive information shall include:
 - 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent(s);
 - 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - 3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
 - 4. Illegal, antisocial, self incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - 5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have 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 student or student's parent(s); or
 - 8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.
 - ii. No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that requests sensitive information.
 - iii. If a survey requesting sensitive information is funded, in whole or in part, by a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education, the school district must obtain the written consent of a student's parent(s) before the student participates in the survey.
 - iv. School officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey (created by any person or entity, including the district) containing any sensitive information.
 - v. Parents have the right to inspect any survey which requests sensitive information before that survey is distributed to their student.
 - c. Survey Inspection Requests
 - i. School officials shall inform parents of their right to inspect surveys requesting sensitive information before the surveys are distributed to any student.
 - ii. All survey inspection requests must be in writing to the building principal and delivered to the building principal prior to the date on which the survey is scheduled to be administered to the students.
 - iii. The principal shall respond to survey inspection requests without delay.
2. Invasive Physical Examinations
- a. The term "invasive physical examination" means:
 - i. any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts; or
 - ii. any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body; and
 - iii. does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.
 - b. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:
 - i. required as a condition of attendance;
 - ii. administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
 - iii. not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.
 - c. This policy does not apply to any physical examination or screening that:
 - i. is permitted or required by an applicable state law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification;

- ii. is administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.)
 - iii. is otherwise authorized by Board policy.
- 3. Collection of Personal Information from Students for Marketing
 - a. The term “personal information” means individually identifiable information including:
 - i. student’s and parent(s)’ first and last name;
 - ii. home or other physical address;
 - iii. telephone number; and/or
 - iv. social security number.
 - b. No school official or staff member shall administer or distribute to students a survey or other instrument for the purpose of collecting personal information for marketing or for selling that information.
 - c. This policy does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for the exclusive purpose of providing educational services to students, such as the following:
 - i. postsecondary education recruitment;
 - ii. military recruitment;
 - iii. tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic or achievement information about students; and/or
 - iv. student recognition programs.
 - v.
- 4. Inspection of Instructional Material
 - a. Definition
 - i. The term “instructional materials” means instructional content that is provided to a student regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet).
 - ii. The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.
 - b. Parents may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child’s education curriculum.
 - c. Curriculum inspection requests must be made to the building principal in writing.
 - d. Building principals shall respond to inspection requests within a reasonable amount of time.
- 5. Notification of Rights and Procedures
 - a. The superintendent shall notify parents of:
 - i. this policy and its availability upon request from the office of the district;
 - ii. how to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided for in this policy;
 - iii. the approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information is scheduled or expected to be scheduled; and
 - iv. how to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.
 - b. This notification shall be given to parents at least annually, at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

Investigations, Arrests, and Other Student Contact by Law Enforcement and HHS (Policy 5018)

The school district and its administrators and staff desire to maintain a positive working relationship with law enforcement officers and other representatives of governmental bodies in the discharge of their duties. However, this desire must be balanced against other equally important factors such as a

student's legal rights, ensuring that a student's time spent in school is for education, and acknowledging that the school stands *in loco parentis* to the students.

"Law enforcement officer" means police officers, county sheriffs, state patrolmen, Health and Human Service workers, Child Protective Services workers, Office of Juvenile Services workers, probation officers, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Federal Bureau of Investigations agents, or any other government investigatory workers.

"Parent" means the biological or adoptive mother or father, guardian, responsible relative, or any other person who has claimed legal or actual charge or control of the student pursuant to Nebraska law or Title 92 Nebraska Administrative Code Chapter 19.

Law enforcement officers are encouraged whenever possible to talk to a student away from the school before or after school hours so as to cause as little disruption as possible to the student's education.

Law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or they may initiate contact with the school for their own purposes. Contact between the school and law enforcement officers on matters involving students shall be made through the office of the superintendent or building principal and the law enforcement officer. All reasonable attempts should be made to avoid embarrassing the student before their teachers and peers, and to avoid disrupting the student's and school's education program. Any questioning by law enforcement officers that is permitted should be conducted in a private room or area where confidentiality can be maintained. This should be an area removed from observation by or contact with other pupils and school personnel.

School staff shall promptly notify the superintendent when a student is questioned, arrested, or removed from school grounds by law enforcement officers.

School Related Criminal Activity

This section applies to alleged or suspected criminal activity that occurs on school grounds; in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by their designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

Law enforcement officers will be allowed to contact and question students at school regarding school related criminal activity as provided below.

The building principal must be notified before a student may be questioned in school or taken from a classroom by law enforcement. The building principal should request identification of the officers, their affiliation with the identified law enforcement agency, and whether their purpose is to interview, interrogate, or take custody of the student.

The building principal will make reasonable attempts to contact a student's parent for their consent and/or presence before the student is interviewed. In the event that a parent cannot be contacted after reasonable attempts, the student will be questioned only if the law enforcement officer identifies emergency circumstances requiring immediate questioning. A building principal or designee shall be present for such questioning. The student will be brought to a private room and the contact will be made out of sight of others as much as practicable.

If the student is suspected of criminal activity, it is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer to advise a student of their rights against self-incrimination.

If at any time the district's representative believes that the questioning is being conducted in an inappropriate manner and clearly contrary to the rights of the student, then the representative shall request that the law enforcement activities cease. The building principal will also make another attempt to contact the student's parent.

The building principal shall document steps taken to notify parents, summarize the law enforcement activities, identify the actions taken by the District on behalf of the student, and any further contact with law enforcement officer.

Non-School Related Criminal Activity

Law enforcement officials may not question students at school unless parental consent is obtained or the law enforcement authorities have a warrant or court order.

Taking a Student into Custody

Law enforcement officers seeking custody of a student must contact the superintendent or building principal. The principal will request the arresting law enforcement officer to provide a copy of the arrest warrant, written parental consent, a court order, or other document giving authority to take the student into legal custody. If there is no document presented, the principal should obtain the officer's name, badge number identifying the law enforcement agency, date, time, the reason for the arrest, and the place to which the student is reportedly being taken. Whenever practicable, the arrest or release of the student should be conducted in a location and in a manner that minimizes observation by others.

When a law enforcement officer removes a student from the school, the building principal will take immediate steps to notify the parent about the student's removal and 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.

Child Abuse and Neglect

When law enforcement officers seek to investigate reports of alleged child neglect or abuse regarding a student, the building principal shall obtain a proper identification from the authorities or officials. If a student interview is conducted on school grounds, the building principal or designee and such other school personnel as appropriate shall observe the interview.

If the law enforcement officer decides to remove the student from school, school officials shall provide the law enforcement authorities with the address and telephone number of the student's parent or guardian. The principal or other school official shall, as a condition of releasing the student to the law enforcement officer, require the officer to sign a statement certifying that the child is being removed from school premises because they are believed to be the victim of child abuse and that the officer understands and will comply with the legal requirements of Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-294.

Student Records

Student records will be shared with law enforcement officers only as allowed by state and federal law.

Audio and Video Recording (Policy 5063)

Students and their parents or guardians should assume that any class in which students are enrolled may be recorded by the school district or other students for legitimate educational purposes. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used by students for personal academic purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy “recording” includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

Recordings Made by The District.

The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings without a specific purpose or for a specific purpose when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by the administration. The district will not maintain the recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved, and the recordings will only be available for review for a limited time based on the district’s then-current recording capacity. The district administrators estimate that this is approximately 10 days but may change at any time.

Classroom Recordings by Staff.

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator.

Prohibited Recordings by Students.

Unless otherwise authorized by this policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by their designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. For example, students making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patrons are permitted, but students are still subject to the district’s appropriate use and student discipline policies.

Permitted Classroom Recordings by Students.

Students may make audio or video recordings of classroom lectures or discussions:

- For their convenience after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher’s permission;
- For the benefit of another student who is absent after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher’s permission;
- If recording is necessary to accommodate the student’s disability and is required by the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Staff may revoke permission to record if the recording distracts from or disrupts the classroom environment, unless the recording is necessary to accommodate a student’s disability.

Permitted Non-classroom Recordings.

Students may make audio or video recordings otherwise prohibited by this policy outside the classroom only with the permission of a teacher or school administrator, provided that such recordings otherwise comply with any applicable state and federal laws and district policy. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Notice of Non-Discrimination (Policy 4001)

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, marital status, sex, pregnancy, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or age 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 nondiscrimination policies:

Name: Dr. Mike Rupprecht
Title: Executive Director of Human Resources and School Improvement
Address: 8545 Park Drive, Ralston, Nebraska 68127
Telephone: 402-898-3483
E-mail: mrupprecht@ralstonschools.org

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, please visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CEAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481. For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053 – Nondiscrimination.

Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism (Policy 5001)

Required Attendance

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

Mandatory Attendance Age

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply when temporary illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to re-enroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at their discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer

officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Excessive Absenteeism

When a student receives five (5) absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will follow the attached procedure for addressing barriers to the student's attendance.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism

The building administrator shall report to the county attorney of the county in which the student resides when the school has documented the efforts made that the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful and that the child has been absent more than 20 days per year.

Pregnant and Parenting Students (Policy 5008)

Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs.

- I. Accommodations Regarding Attendance and Participation
 - A. Generally - Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan will include:
 1. The provision of online courses if the student cannot regularly attend classes;
 2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
 3. The identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care if the student has not identified appropriate child care; and
 4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators, which will include, but not be limited to, the modification of attendance policies.
 - B. Students with Disabilities - For students with disabilities who have an IEP or Section 504 plan, the administrators, student's parents or guardians, and student if appropriate will

collaborate with the student's educational team to coordinate accommodations consistent with state and federal law. As permitted by law, students may be entitled to accommodations as a result of pregnancy.

II. Accommodations Regarding Lactation and Breastfeeding

A. Accommodations

1. In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public.
2. Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule will work with school administrators to create a schedule which accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.
3. The district will provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

- B. Educational Process - In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

Absence Procedures

Good school attendance and punctuality are important and closely related to success in school.

- When a student is to be absent from school, **a parent or guardian must notify the attendance secretary**. The attendance secretary is available at 7:00 a.m. To help us ensure student safety, please call 402-331-4701 before 8:30 a.m. If the school has not received a call, the school shall call the parent/guardian to verify the student's whereabouts. Parents/guardians are expected to call each day that the student is to be absent from school, unless other arrangements have been made.
- Following an absence, a student must report to the office with a note from home explaining the reason for the absence, if the parents did not previously call the attendance secretary.
- Students may not leave school at any time before dismissal without prior parental permission.
- Calls to remove a student from school due to illness during the school day must come from the nurse's office (not personal cell phone or classroom phone).
- Please arrange for absences for reasons other than illness and family emergencies as far in advance as possible. If a student is on a school-sponsored trip, the absence is considered an activity and does not count against their absent total or their perfect attendance. If the student is going with parents, it is a permissible absence, though it will count towards their number of absences for the year. In either case, students are required to get assignments in advance and complete as much as possible in advance. Students may or may not be excused from school to participate in trips sponsored by outside organizations.
- Students are expected to be in their classrooms and in their seats when the tardy bell rings.

Unexcused Absences

Students can gain the most from their education if they attend classes on a regular basis. All absences must be with the permission of parents and the proper school officials. If a student is absent without being properly excused, it can be considered a truancy. A truancy is defined as follows: After leaving home, a student does not attend school, does not attend a class, overtly refuses to attend school, or leaves school after arrival without permission of school officials.

Habitual Truancy/Notification

Habitual truancy is defined as excessive absences or tardies, which inhibit a child's ability to be successful in their education. Excessive absences are best resolved when the parents/guardians, school, physicians, and the community work together.

Parents/guardians are asked to notify and work with building administrators or assignees regarding reasons for absences and any extended or recurring illnesses or family emergencies involved. Illnesses of 3 days or more will require a doctor's note. If illness continues to be a reason for absences, a form will be given to the parents or mailed to the doctor's office to be completed by the student's physician. School authorized or sponsored activities, trips, and all suspensions and expulsions that may result in absence from classes are not counted as absences from school for truancy purposes.

A student who is absent 5 days or the hourly equivalent per quarter will be reported to the building administrator.

The building administrator is required to render all services in the school district's power to compel the student to attend school including:

- One or more meetings with the parent/guardian and child, if necessary, to report and attempt to solve the truancy problem.
Educational counseling provided by the school counselor or student assistance team.
- Educational evaluation and specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
- Investigation by review of records and documented interventions by the school social worker. If the school social worker determines further review is needed, they will meet with appropriate school personnel, the parent/guardian, and child to discuss need for interventions and/or referral to appropriate community services.

Upon accumulation of 10 recorded absences, a form letter will be sent to the parent/guardian of the child notifying them of the school attendance policy and the Nebraska Compulsory Attendance Law.

Upon accumulation of 15 recorded absences, a form letter will be sent to the parent/guardian of the child notifying them of the school attendance policy, the compulsory attendance law, and the school's requirement to notify the county attorney after 20 school absences are reported.

A student who reaches 20 absences (**regardless of whether any of the absences were excused**) will be referred to the Douglas County Attorney's Office as habitually truant as required by law (79-209).

The Ralston Board of Education authorizes the Ralston School District to render all services in its power to compel a child who has accumulated five days of unexcused absences per quarter, or the hourly equivalent, to attend some school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to remediate the child's truant behavior.

Leaving School Early

To ensure the safety of our students, we are requiring that when a student is being picked up by you, the parent/guardian, or anyone else, that proper I.D. be shown. The person picking up the student must be on the Family Information Sheet. If the person is not on the information sheet, we will not allow the student to leave the school with this individual.

Anti-Bullying Prevention and Positive Student Behavior (Policy 5054)

Definition of Bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators are authorized to use both of these definitions to determine whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

Bullying Prohibited. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.

Disciplinary Consequences. The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior.

A student who engages in bullying behavior on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or their designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events may be subject to disciplinary consequences including but not limited to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district’s day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of engaging in bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.

Bullying Based on Protected Class Status. Bullying based on protected class status is unique and may require additional investigation. The appropriate district staff member or coordinator will promptly investigate bullying complaints that violate the district’s anti-discrimination policies.

Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying. Regardless of where the bullying occurred, the district will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to the district’s student assistance team or other resources as appropriate.

Bullying Prevention and Education. Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each building shall engage in activities which educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.

Policy Review. The school district shall review this policy annually.

Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment of Students (Policy 5026)

Sex Discrimination

- A. The district prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity except when it is necessary to accomplish a specific purpose that does not impinge upon essential equality or fairness in the treatment of students or employees. Employees are required to comply with this policy as well as with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the regulations of the U.S. Department of Education as applicable to this district.
- B. Any individual who believes they are being discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other classification protected by applicable local, state, or federal laws may seek relief by filing a complaint pursuant to the board’s complaint policy or contacting the district’s Title IX coordinator.

Sexual Harassment

- A. Students should be provided with an environment that is free from unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct constituting sexual harassment. The board of education unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment of its students, even when the affected student does not complain to the faculty or the administration.
- B. Sexual harassment is a form of misconduct that wrongfully deprives students of their dignity and the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment means.
- C. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.
- D. A student who feels they have been sexually harassed should directly inform the offending student that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the student does not wish to communicate directly with the offending student, or if direct communication has been ineffective, the student should report the conduct or communication to the Title IX coordinator or to a teacher, principal or counselor with whom they feel comfortable.

Retaliation against students who make good faith reports of sexual harassment is prohibited.

Disciplinary Decisions

- A. A decision to take disciplinary action under this policy may be based on the statements of a complaining student, statements, observations of educators, or any other credible evidence.
- B. All complaints against staff members will follow the investigation, decision, and appeal process established in the district's complaint policy.
- C. Any student who sexually harasses another student will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion, depending on the severity of the misconduct, as established in the district's student discipline policy.

Student Discipline (Policy 5035)

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, 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. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or their parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal may exclude students 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 Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed 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 they are accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given 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 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 ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork including but not limited to examinations or other forms of student work showing academic progress.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

Long-Term Suspension

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

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means 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/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

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

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by their designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any 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;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes 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 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);

7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
 - a. 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, national origin, or religion;
 - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
 - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
 - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
 - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance, regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
 - f. Possession of pornography;
 - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
 - h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
 - i. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks, pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening

- and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
- k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon; and
- m. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charges.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The 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, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
 - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
 - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
 - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
 - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
 - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, 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 their findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, 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 themselves, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardians or representatives from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence 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.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;
6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

Student Conduct

Ralston Middle School will incorporate into its discipline policy a combination of the following:

- Detentions
- Parent Contact
- In-school Suspension (I.S.S.)
- Out of School Suspension (O.S.S.)

Based on the decision of the RMS staff and administration and the severity/seriousness of the incident students may be assigned the appropriate penalties above or other consequences, as necessary.

Tardy Procedures

Being on time is an important life skill that all students need to learn and model to become successful in current and future endeavors. Because we believe strongly in this life skill, we fully expect students to arrive at their classrooms on time and ready to learn. We have a general discipline continuum that will be followed for students who are chronically late to class. Remedies may include but are not limited to detention, in-school suspensions, and/or loss of privileges.

Restricted Lunch Assignment

If you are assigned to restricted lunch you are to:

- Check into the office to determine placement for your lunch detention.
- Be responsible for cleaning up your area when you are done with lunch.
- If behavior during lunch detention does not meet expectations, or if students do not take the responsibility to serve these detentions, additional detentions will be assigned.
- Be present for the assigned number of days. Absences will not count for days assigned.

In-Service Days

At the decision of the administration, students may be assigned to In-service Days or student vacation days for the following misconduct:

1. Truancies or chronic tardiness to classes.
2. Vandalism/Stealing.
3. Fighting.
4. Cheating/Missing work
5. Gross disrespect toward school officials/employees.
6. Threatening or intimidation of other students/school officials. This includes sexual, verbal, or physical harassment.
7. Behavior that seriously interferes with classroom instruction or other activities associated with school.

This time affords students an opportunity to serve discipline obligations, attend school full time, and take advantage of the educational opportunities regular school attendance affords. It also gives students an opportunity to complete work usually done at home. All school rules apply to students while attending these days. In-Service Days begin at 8:00 a.m.

In-School Suspension

At the discretion of the administration, a student may be assigned to in-school suspension if they have violated a major rule or is continually disruptive in class. Students are disciplined through isolation from the regular class atmosphere, restricted periods of silence, and strict observance of other rules. Failure to comply with the following guidelines could result in additional time assigned to in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.

Guidelines for In-School Suspension

- Students are to be responsible for bringing all needed materials.
- Students will be given a work schedule to structure their day.
- Students are to complete all assignments given to them by their teachers.
- Students may be required to complete a suspension-learning packet, which will be related to the offense for which they were assigned in-school suspension, or the student may be required to complete a think sheet.
- An in-school suspension day begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:24 p.m.

Grounds for Emergency Exclusion (Policy 6031)

Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances subject to the procedural provisions governing short term suspension found elsewhere in these policies or state law -

1. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or

2. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of themselves, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers that prompted the exclusion.

Extension of Exclusion

Pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, the principal has the authority to exclude a student from school for up to five school days on an emergency basis. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is appropriate to consider the extension of an exclusion beyond five days, such consideration shall be made according to the procedures set forth below.

Notification of Student's Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) that the principal has proposed the extension of the exclusion. If the initial notice is oral, the superintendent shall confirm it in writing.

Opportunity to Request a Hearing

The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may submit an oral request for a hearing on the proposed extension of the exclusion within two school days of receiving the initial notice. If the initial request for a hearing is oral, they shall confirm the request in writing.

Failure to Request a Hearing

If the parent(s) or guardian(s) do not request a hearing within two school days of receiving oral or written notice, the proposed extension of the exclusion shall automatically go into effect.

Appointment and Qualifications of a Hearing Examiner

If the parent(s) or guardian(s) request a hearing, the superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner upon receiving a request for a hearing. The hearing examiner may be any person who did not bring charges against the student, is not to be a witness at the hearing, and has no involvement in the charge.

Hearing Examiner's Notice to Parent(s) or Guardian(s)

The hearing examiner shall promptly give written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be held within five school days after the school district receives the initial oral or written request; provided, the hearing may be held more than five school days after receipt of the request upon a showing of good cause. No hearing will be held on less than two (2) school days' notice unless otherwise agreed to by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and school officials.

Continued Exclusion

If a hearing is requested, the principal may determine in their sole discretion that the student shall remain excluded from school until the hearing officer makes a recommendation to the superintendent.

Examination of Student's Records and Affidavits

Prior to the hearing, the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to examine and have school officials explain the student's records and any affidavits that will be used by school officials at the hearing.

Attendance at Hearing

The hearing may be attended by the hearing examiner, the principal (or designee), the student, and the student's parents or guardian(s). The student may be represented at this hearing by a representative of the family's choice.

Student's Witness(es)

The student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) may ask any person with knowledge of the events leading up to the sanction or with general knowledge of the student's character to testify on behalf of the student. If school personnel or other students are requested to testify by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), the hearing officer shall endeavor to help obtain the presence of such witnesses at the hearing.

Right to Know Issues and Nature of Testimony

The student and their parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to request in advance of the hearing the issues which the administration will propose in support of the extension, and the general nature of the testimony of any administrative or expert witnesses.

Presence of Student and Witnesses at the Hearing

The student and witnesses may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing examiner in accordance with state statutes. The student may speak in their own defense and may be questioned on such testimony, but may choose not to testify.

Sworn or Affirmed Testimony

The principal or their designee shall present evidence supporting the recommended extension of the exclusion. Witnesses will give testimony under oath of affirmation, and may be questioned.

Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendations

The hearing examiner shall prepare a report of their findings and recommendations, and forward the report to the superintendent.

Superintendent's Decision

The superintendent will review the hearing examiner's report and determine whether to extend the exclusion. They shall have the decision delivered or sent by registered or certified mail to the student, the student's parent(s), or guardian(s). If the superintendent decides to extend the exclusion, the extension will take effect immediately.

District Drug Policy

The School District of Ralston is concerned about the academic growth and the personal welfare of every person associated with the schools. The misuse of alcohol, marijuana, or other chemicals can seriously interfere with one's health. This is essentially true of teenagers since adolescence is a period of rapid change and important personality integration. The inappropriate use of alcohol and other chemicals can not only hinder academic achievement but also affect physical health and even block personal growth.

It shall be the policy of the School District of Ralston to take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, medical referral, and police referral in the handling of incidents in the school involving the possession, sale, and/or use of behavior affecting substances. These substances shall include, but are not limited to, marijuana, LSD, glue, alcohol, barbiturates, and other controlled chemical substances.

Inspection of school district property for the location of drugs, narcotics, liquor, weapons, poisons, and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable purposes for such inspection by school personnel.

Drug and Chemical Use

When a student is found using, possessing, or under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, or other illegal drugs, the following disciplinary actions will be taken -

1. The police will be contacted in all cases of possession of suspected illegal drugs and/or alcoholic beverages.
2. The student will be suspended from school for up to five days pending recommendation from their parent(s) to meet with the administration of Ralston Middle School. Additional disciplinary action may be invoked if the student participates in extracurricular activities or athletics.
3. Repeat occurrences of illegal drug or alcohol abuse will lead to expulsion proceedings.

Smoking (Policy 3016)

The use or possession of any tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Interrogation and Searches (Policy 5022)

Investigations and Arrests by Police or Other Law Enforcement Officers Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall not allow law enforcement officers access to students to conduct an investigation during school hours unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Contact between the school and law enforcement authorities on matters involving students shall be made through the office of the superintendent or principal and the law enforcement officer.

Law enforcement officers may talk to a student away from the school before or after school hours, and they should be encouraged to do so. Law enforcement officers shall be allowed to conduct an interview at the school only when the interview is conducted at the request of the school or when they can show that special circumstances exist. This determination should be made by the appropriate building principal or superintendent. Law enforcement officers should be permitted to interview students on school grounds only after providing the superintendent or appropriate building principal with a statement in writing that the law enforcement officer has reason to believe and does believe that the student is the victim of child abuse or neglect perpetrated by the child's parent(s) or some other member of the child's immediate family or household, and that the law enforcement official wishes to interview the student regarding such abuse or neglect.

Throughout this process, all attempts should be made to avoid embarrassing the student before their teachers and peers, and to avoid disrupting the student's and school's education program.

1. Law enforcement officers should be permitted to take custody of a student if they possess an arrest warrant or if they otherwise assert a lawful basis for doing so. Whenever possible, the arrest or release of the student should be conducted in the building principal's office and out of the view of other students. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a law enforcement officer for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, they

shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult regarding the release of the minor to the officer and 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. If the law enforcement officer indicates that the child is being taken into custody because the child is the victim of suspected child abuse, the principal or other school official shall, as a condition of releasing the student to the law enforcement officer, require the officer to sign the statement appended hereto certifying that the child is being removed from school premises because they are believed to be the victim of child abuse and that the officer understands and will comply with the legal requirements of NEB. REV. STAT. § 79294.

2. Law enforcement personnel shall not be allowed to roam about the school until the student is found, and shall remain in the administration office while school personnel seek the student. A district employed SRO may move about the building as needed.
3. If possible, the education program of the student should not be disrupted to allow for police questioning of the student during class time.
4. Any questioning by law enforcement officers that is permitted should be conducted in a private room or area where confidentiality can be maintained. This should be an area removed from observation by or contact with other pupils and school personnel.
5. If law enforcement officers are to be allowed to question a student under the age of 18, the principal or school official shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the child's parents before questioning begins, except in cases of suspected child abuse or child neglect involving the parent or other family member. The parents should be given the opportunity to come to the school prior to the questioning.
6. If the parents are notified and are able to attend, they should be allowed to be present at the interview. The principal or designee should be present at the interview, but should not take part in any questioning. The principal or designee should remain a neutral observer at all times.
7. School representatives may search lockers, personal belongings, and cars that students drive to school when there is reasonable cause to do so. This includes, but is not limited to, clothes, book bags, purses, books, and gym bags.
8. The district superintendent or designee may authorize the use of trained sniffer dogs for detection of illegal drugs, explosives and/or contraband at any time.
9. The district superintendent or designee may authorize the use of preliminary breath tests (or alcohol sensors) on school property.

Use of Sniffer Dogs (Policy 3045)

The board of education finds that the possession of illegal drugs and other contraband on school grounds is unlawful, is disruptive of the educational process, is harmful to students and staff, and is contrary to the interests of the school district. Accordingly, to minimize the presence of these items on school grounds, the administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs according to the protocol set forth in this policy.

Protocol for Use of Sniffer Dogs

1. The superintendent, or the building principal with the superintendent's permission, may initiate the use of specially trained sniffer dogs to conduct an inspection.
2. The administration will contact the canine provider and/or the appropriate law enforcement agency to schedule the use of a sniffer dog or dogs. The administration shall require an assurance from the provider that any sniffer dogs to be used in the school have been properly trained, and may request evidence of the training and/or certification of the dogs. In no event will the school district authorize a sniffer dog to sniff any person.

3. The superintendent or if designated by the superintendent, the building principal, and law enforcement representatives or canine provider will confer regarding the specific plan of areas to be inspected. The plan may involve any or all school building facilities, vehicles in the school parking lot, or other areas where students and staff vehicles are parked on school property during or after school hours.
4. If the inspection is scheduled for a day when school is in session, students and staff will be informed over the public address system, and will be directed to remain in their rooms until given further directions.
5. During the inspection, administrators may assign personnel to designated areas as deemed appropriate to assist in the smooth handling of the inspection.
6. After the inspection is finished, students and staff will be notified over the public address system, and will be thanked for their cooperation.
7. If the sniffer dog alerts, the alert will constitute reasonable cause for the administration to conduct a search of the property. If the sniffer dog alerts on a vehicle on school grounds, the owner will be required to unlock the vehicle doors and trunk for further inspection of the interior of the vehicle. If the owner refuses to unlock the vehicle, the matter will be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The owner will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in board policy and/or the student or staff handbook or as otherwise allowed by law. This may include discipline for the refusal to obey an administrative directive.
8. Any illegal drugs or contraband found on school grounds, whether in a desk, locker, vehicle, or any other place on school grounds, will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement authorities. A student's parents will be contacted. The individual will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in board policy and/or the student or staff handbook or as otherwise allowed by law.
9. At the conclusion of the inspection, school officials will confer with the canine provider and/or any law enforcement authorities who were involved in the inspection to review the results of the inspection. The administration may authorize any follow-up inspections or other action deemed appropriate.

Notice to students and staff

Students and staff shall be informed of the District's policy regarding the use of sniffer dogs as soon as practicable after the adoption of this policy. Thereafter, students and staff shall be informed of the policy at the beginning of the school year. By this policy and/or via the provision in the student or staff handbook, students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Firearms and Weapons (Policy 5049)

Weapons

No student may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. No visitors under the age of 18 may possess, handle, or transmit any weapon while on school grounds or at any school activity or event off school grounds except as permitted by this policy. **Definition of Weapon.** The term "weapon" means any object, device, instrument, material, or substance which is capable of causing injury in the manner it is used or intended to be used.

Firearms

No person may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy.

Definition of Firearm: The term “firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means 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, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms

The prohibition against firearms does not apply to:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the armed forces of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of this State, or Reserve Officers Training Corps or peace officers or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training; or
2. Firearms that may lawfully be possessed by a person who is receiving instruction at the school under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor;
3. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by a person for the purpose of using them, with the approval of the school, in a historical reenactment, in a hunter education program, or as part of an honor guard;
4. Firearms contained within a private vehicle **operated by a non student adult** that are not loaded **and** are encased or are in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle; or
5. A handgun carried as a concealed handgun by non student adult who holds a valid permit issued under the Concealed Handgun Permit Act in a vehicle or on their person while riding in or on a vehicle into or onto any parking area, which is open to the public and used by the school if, prior to exiting the vehicle, the handgun is locked inside the glove box, trunk, or other compartment of the vehicle, a storage box securely attached to the vehicle, or, if the vehicle is a motorcycle, a hardened compartment securely attached to the motorcycle while the vehicle is in or on such parking area, except as prohibited by federal law.

Definition of Encased: The term “encased” means enclosed in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no part of the firearm exposed.

Exceptions for Students

The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows -

1. The firearm or weapon has been brought to school grounds or to an activity or event off school grounds for some educational purpose;
2. The person bringing the firearm or weapon has requested and received the prior approval of both the instructor and the building principal to do so; and
3. All arrangements to use and store the firearm or weapon safely while it is on school premises have been agreed to and carried out.

Consequences - Firearm

Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Consequences – Weapon

State law and this policy provides that any student who violates this policy by knowingly bringing, possessing, handling or transmitting a weapon, other than a firearm, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds may be suspended on a long-term

basis, mandatorily reassigned, or expelled for the remainder of the school year in which the expulsion takes effect (if the misconduct occurs during the first semester) or the remainder of the second semester, summer school, and the first semester of the following school year (if the misconduct occurs during the second semester).

Confiscation of Firearms

Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of this policy. By statute, any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities.

Report to Law Enforcement Authorities

All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Pursuant to state and federal law, school personnel are required to report to law enforcement authorities when a student brings a firearm or weapon to school.

Visitors (Policy 3056)

The Board of Education and staff of the District welcome visits to the schools. Such visitations will be governed by those rules and regulations established by the district to provide a safe environment.

- I. In accordance with building and District safety procedures, parents/guardians, students, and others may visit schools. These visits shall be in compliance with all building and District safety guidelines. The principal or appropriate Central Office administrator authorizing the visits shall consider the following
 - A. Disruption to the educational environment;
 - B. Distraction to students and staff;
 - C. Confidentiality for students and staff;
 - D. Safety of students and staff.
- II. Parent/Guardians
 - A. Parents wishing to attend and monitor courses, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities, must obtain prior approval of the appropriate teacher, counselor, or administrator as defined by the building handbook.
 - B. Parents attending or monitoring courses with prior approval who, by their conduct or presence, interfere with the educational process or constitutes an interference with school purposes, will be asked to leave.
 - C. Parents attending building assemblies, building activities, classroom activities/parties during school hours will sign in at the office in accordance with building procedures.
 - D. Unless otherwise restricted by law or court order, parents/guardians may visit their child's class.
 - E. All visitors will report to the school office.
- III. Visitation by Students
 - A. Visits by students from other school districts or buildings must be cleared through the building principal. If approval is given, a visitor's pass will be issued.
 - B. Children below legal school age wishing to visit the school must be accompanied by their parent or guardian
 - C. Non-students (graduates, etc.) will not be allowed to visit in a building without special permission from the building principal.
- IV. Program Visitation
 - A. Persons wishing to visit schools for the purpose of viewing new programs, organizational patterns, facilities, etc. must obtain clearance from the appropriate Central Office administrator.

Health Services at School (Policy 5023)

A school nurse or health aide is available for you at all times during the school day. If a student is not feeling well during school hours, they should -

1. Tell the teacher and obtain a pass to the health office. Have your assignment notebook signed, and check into the Health office. You must have a pass to the Health Office. Please do not go to the Health Office during passing periods.
2. If the physical condition indicates that the student should leave school, the health assistant will contact the parents. Students are not to leave the building without following this procedure.
3. In case of serious accident or injury requiring immediate medical attention, First Aid measures will be administered and the Ralston Rescue Squad will be called.

Health Concerns

Keep the school nurse or health aide informed of any health concerns or changes in your health status. If you need to notify your parents about a health concern, please do so from the Health Office, not the classroom.

Parents may call the Ralston Middle School Health Office at any time with questions or concerns at 402-331-4701.

Administering Medication to Students (Policy 5024)

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

1. Prescription medication
 - a. Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication.
 - b. Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication.
 - c. The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.
2. Nonprescription medication Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication.
 - a. Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication.
 - b. The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container.
 - c. The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication.

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

The district will stock and use naloxone, when necessary in accordance with policy 3051.

Summary of Common Communicable Diseases and Contagious Conditions

Chicken Pox - By direct contact and airborne spread. Approximately 2 weeks, but may be as long as 3 weeks after exposure a susceptible person may be expected to "break out" with their first crop of blister-like eruptions. New eruptions can be expected to continue for 3-4 days. Students will be excluded from school for 10 calendar days, starting from the time of the first eruption. They may be readmitted after 7 calendar days, starting from the time of the first eruption, with a doctor's written permission. Due to the degree of severity, the student may stay out of school longer.

Students may be sensitive to their appearance even when they are no longer contagious, causing their absence to be longer than 10 calendar days. Secondary infections after apparent recovery may occur. Cellulites (skin disorder) and Bacterium (blood poisoning) are the most common kinds of secondary infections. Complications as described below with measles may also occur.

Measles (Rubella, Red or Hard Measles) - By direct contact, droplet spread and less commonly by airborne spread. Approximately 10 days after exposure a susceptible person may develop a fever. Within 2-3 days a red blotchy rash will develop, usually starting on the face and neck and becoming generalized. A dry, hacking cough will develop at the same time. This is a serious disease. Students are excluded from school until the 7th day after the initial appearance of the rash. Parents should be cautioned not to send children back to school too soon as complications such as ear infections leading to hearing loss, decreased vision acuity, pneumonia, and encephalitis are not uncommon.

Mumps - By direct contact and droplet spread. Approximately 18 days after exposure a susceptible person may develop a fever and swelling or tenderness of one or more salivary glands. Students are excluded from school for 9 calendar days from the onset of swelling; complications may occur as above plus some including reproductive organs.

Rubella - By direct contact and droplet spread may be airborne. (German or 3-day Measles) Approximately 18 days after exposure a susceptible person may suffer from a low-grade fever, headache, and feeling sluggish and cold-like symptoms. Most victims will manifest a rash. Diagnosis may be difficult if a rash is not present. Students should be excluded for 5 calendar days after the onset of rash. This disease is highly contagious, but usually mild.

Impetigo, Scabies and Ringworm - To be excluded from school upon recognition. To be readmitted when there is no longer evidence of contagion, or upon written statement from physician or phone call from doctor's office indicating that the condition is under treatment and no longer considered contagious.

Pediculosis (Head lice) - To be excluded from school when live vermin and/or nit (eggs) are present. To be readmitted morning after treatment is started. Treatment consists of lice shampoo and nit comb. Eggs must be removed prior to child returning to school. The nurse may inspect all family members and close contacts that attend school.

Pinkeye - To be excluded from school upon recognition. May return with written doctor's statement or phone call from doctor's office after prescribed treatment or when the eye is normal in appearance.

Fifth Disease - To be excluded upon recognition. May return with written doctor's statement or phone call from doctor's office. Characteristically begins on the face and classically produces an intensely red "slapped cheek" appearance. A lace-like rash may appear on the trunk and upper extremities.

Physical Examinations (Policy 5011)

All students entering seventh grade and any students new to our state need to have physical examinations **prior to the first day of school. This is a state law.**

Nebraska Immunization Requirements (NE SCHOOL LAW 79.444-01-08)

- 3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday,
- 3 doses of Polio vaccine,
- 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age.
- 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month,
- 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.
- 1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster) – this dose can be received any time after 10 or 11 years of age depending on which brand of vaccine is received. (7th grade only)

PLEASE NOTE THAT TWO DOSES OF THE CHICKENPOX VACCINE IS A NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT UNDER NEBRASKA STATE LAW REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. IN ADDITION, ALL 7TH GRADERS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE AN ADDITIONAL DOSE OF Tdap

Animals at School (Policy 3046)

Animals are not allowed in school district buildings or on school district property without the written permission of the superintendent except as provided in this policy. See Board Policy 3046 regarding Service Animals and Therapy Dogs for more information.

Audio and Video Recording (Policy 5063)

Students and their parents or guardians should assume that any class in which students are enrolled may be recorded by the school district or other students for legitimate educational purposes. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used by students for personal academic purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy "recording" includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

Recordings Made by The District. The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings without a specific purpose or for a specific purpose when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by the administration. The district will not maintain the recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved, and the recordings will only be available for review for a limited time based on the district's then-current recording capacity. The district administrators estimate that this is approximately 10 days but may change at any time.

Classroom Recordings by Staff. Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator. **Prohibited Recordings by Students.** Unless otherwise authorized by this policy or law, students are

prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by their designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. In such an instance, the students remain subject to the district's appropriate use and student discipline policies. For example, this policy does not prohibit students from making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patrons, subject to other applicable board policy. However, this policy generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

Permitted Classroom Recordings by Students. Students may make audio or video recordings of classroom lectures or discussions:

- (1) For their convenience after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (2) For the benefit of another student who is absent after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission; (3) If recording is necessary to accommodate the student's disability and is required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Staff may revoke permission to record if the recording distracts from or disrupts the classroom environment, unless the recording is necessary to accommodate a student's disability.

Permitted Non-classroom Recordings. Students may make audio or video recordings otherwise prohibited by this policy outside the classroom only with the permission of a teacher or school administrator, provided that such recordings otherwise comply with any applicable state and federal laws and district policy. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Breakfast and Lunch (Policy 5038)

Students will have the option of paying with cash or with an account number. Each student can put any amount of money into their account. Payments to lunch accounts can now be made online on the district website, as well. The student will choose their breakfast and/or lunch and enter their account number. If the meal cost more than the account has in it, the student must pay the remaining amount with cash. The cost of school breakfast is \$1.95 and lunch is \$2.95.

General Information

- You may bring or purchase your breakfast or lunch.
- Parents may wish to assure their child of a well balanced diet. If this is the case you can have your child's card coded. This code will alert the lunch help, and only a balanced meal can be purchased.
- We have an automated system for students to use in purchasing their breakfast or lunch.
- Federal School Food Service guidelines do not permit bringing food into the building for groups of students at serving time.
- Students who received free or reduced meals last year will qualify automatically the first week. However, the parents of those students must fill out a new application form and return it to the office in order to continue receiving free or reduced meals.
- All students will be given application forms and guidelines. Students will be notified if they are eligible.

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, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, 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: How to File a Complaint, 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.

Ralston Middle School Fee List (Policy 5045)

Fees Assessed:

Extracurricular Activity Fee: \$20.00

Lunch Prices: \$2.95, Reduced Lunch: \$0.40

Breakfast Prices: \$1.95 Reduced: \$0.30

Milk 8 oz: \$0.50 Orange/Apple Juice 4 oz: \$0.50

Lost/Damaged assignment notebook: \$4.00

Lost/Damaged library and/or classroom textbook: replacement cost

Lost/Damaged clothing/equipment: replacement cost

Required clothing for PE and extracurricular activities

Select vocal music group attire: Maximum \$185.

Boys- Black pants, shirt, tie, and black shoes.

Girls- Vests and shoes.

Gym Shorts and cotton T-shirt (Ralston Middle School offers RMS shorts (\$10) and RMS shirts (\$10) which are available in the office but not required.)

Towel

Rubber-soled athletic shoes

Undergarments and socks appropriate for the activity.

Optional Fees- not required

Ralston High School Activity Ticket-\$40.00

Extracurricular activities travel fee – Not to exceed \$500 per event

Extracurricular activities admission – Maximum \$5.00 per event

Physicals for 8th Grade Sports-\$50.00

Ralston Middle School Yearbook-\$20.00

8th Grade Class Picture-\$20.00

Student Picture Packages-\$15-\$25

Printed Clothing

Paperback books for personal ownership

Donations / Fundraising

Family Consumer Science for food and take-home materials used in class-\$15.00.

Industrial Technology for home materials used in class that can be taken home-\$15.00.

Art Supplies-\$15.

As approved by the Superintendent or designee.