

ST. STEPHENS INDIAN SCHOOL

STUDENT AND
PARENT HANDBOOK
2025-2026



ST. STEPHENS INDIAN SCHOOL
128 Mission Rd, St Stephens, WY 82524
Phone: (307) 856-4147

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St. Stephens Indian School

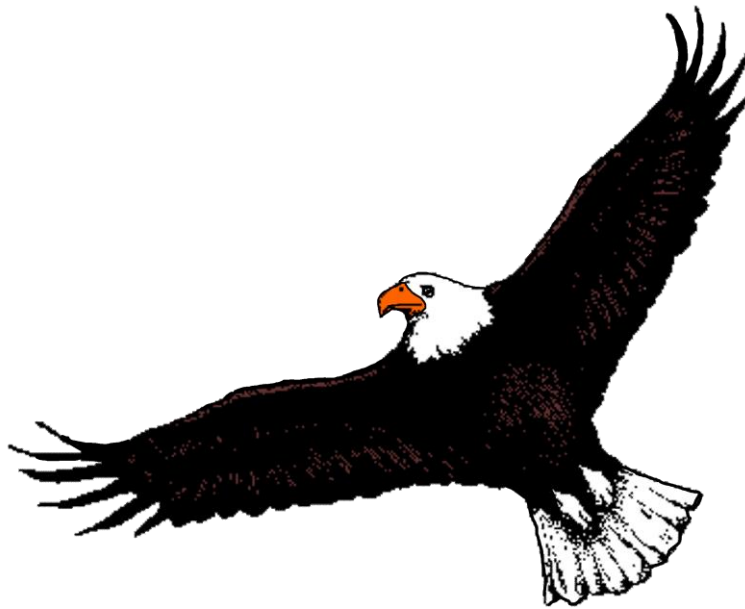
Home of the Eagles

128 Mission Road/Box 345, St. Stephens, Wyoming 82524

307.856.4147

K-8 Office - Ext. 210 K-8 Fax - 307.856.3742

HS Office - Ext. 199 HS Fax - 307.856.6770



SSIS School Board

Chairman- Ben Ridgley

Vice Chair- Sandra C'Bearing

Secretary- Frances Blackburn

Treasurer- Elsie Charging Crow

Member- Marion Oldman



Administration

Position	Name
Superintendent/Principal	Kimberly Summers
Principal/Assistant Principal	
Dean	Chris Ormond
School Counselor	Charlotte Longenecker
Social Worker	Taryn Jim
Curriculum Specialist	
Business Specialist	Kelli King
Facilities Supervisor	Craig Haase
Nutrition Supervisor	Jaymie Christianson
Transportation Supervisor	Robert Whitehair
Registrar	Ramona Van
IT	Terri Longenecker
ES/MS Secretary	Brooklyn Beavers
HS Secretary	Nancy Pehrson
HR Business Tech	Mona Gonzales
Clerk	Molly Summers
Clerk	TBD
Security	
High School Custodians	Christopher Mortimer/Donnie Watt
Elementary Custodians	Wayne Addison/Raymond C'Hair
Nutrition	Kandi Salazar
Nutrition	Wanda Clah
Nutrition	TBD
Transportation	Chris Ormond
Transportation	Jason Lucas
Transportation	Matt House

Instructional Staff

Position	Name
Kindergarten	Christina Cashen
First Grade	Lori Ute
Second Grade	Wilbur Cobbs
Third Grade	Catera Gilmore
Fourth Grade	Brooklyn Beavers
Fifth Grade	MS Teacher Rotation
MS ELA and S. Studies	Kristine Gorrondona
MS Science	Emily Summers
MS Math	Monte Failoni
Culture and Language	Winter Ridgley
HS Science/Math	Matt House
HS Math	Monte Failoni
HS Credit Recovery	Charlotte Longenecker
HS Social Studies	Kevin Neuroth
HS English / Social Studies	Josie Mortimer
HS English	
HS Health and PE	
HS Arapaho Language and Culture/Art	Mike Redman
Special Education Lead	Sherri Elbert
Special Education	Pauline Poulin
Special Education	Christina Cashen
SpEd Tech	TBD
Ed Tech	Wilbur Cobbs
Ed Tech	TBD
Security Guard	TBD

All teaching staff at St. Stephens Indian School are highly qualified in their subject area. Any exceptions to this will result in parent/guardian notification.

WELCOME NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS!

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

We welcome you and your students to a new school year. This handbook is for your information. We believe that this handbook outlines educational policies that are applicable and sensitive to the needs of St. Stephens Indian School students.

Opportunities for our students to experience success and a sense of belonging are abundant. Yet, each student and their families must make a commitment to excellence. This commitment must involve the willingness to establish good attendance and work ethics.

Please read this handbook and discuss it with your student(s). We value any suggestions you have for improvement of this handbook, and we are confident that this academic year will be productive and valuable.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you in the upcoming school year.

Kimberly Summers- Principal/Superintendent

Chris Ormond- Dean of Students



PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY.

STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS

YOU MUST SIGN AND RETURN THE LAST PAGE.

Daily Schedule

Students must arrive at school no earlier than 7:30am, there is no staff available to monitor for safety before that time. Please be sure that your child is at school on time and ready to learn. Absences and tardies have a negative impact on learning.

For security reasons, we ask that students ride the bus home or be picked up no later than 3:35pm unless they are staying for practice or after school programs with permission. Students will not be allowed to return into the schools until the next morning. Students should make sure that they have everything they need from their locker or rooms before leaving the school building.

K-12 School Day Monday-Thursday 7:55am-3:35pm.

K-12 School Day Fridays 7:55am-12:35pm

Breakfast: 7:30-7:55

K-5 Lunch: 10:50-11:20

6-8 Lunch: 11:25-11:55

9-12 Lunch: 12:00-12:30

MISSION STATEMENT

“To walk with dignity, knowledge, and wisdom.”

VISION STATEMENT

All students will be provided a safe, success-oriented, culturally responsive educational environment which will develop responsible, respectful, productive, and well-adjusted individuals in an ever-changing world.



PHILOSOPHY

We, at St. Stephens Indian School, believe in the simple philosophy of life that has sustained the Indian people through the centuries: to walk with dignity, knowledge, and wisdom; to live in harmony with the Earth and everything on it; to acknowledge, with thanks, the Great Spirit. We believe that St. Stephens Indian School exists first and foremost for teaching and learning. Our students will be taught the skills needed to live and be leaders in modern society, within a curriculum framework, which includes the art, language, and beliefs of American Indian culture and heritage. We believe that all students can learn when provided with a positive, success-oriented, and safe environment.

STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT IN THE LEARNING PROCESS.

INTRODUCTION:

The goal of St. Stephens Indian School is to provide a challenging and supportive learning environment for all students and to create well-adjusted individuals for any and all post-secondary endeavors. This is best accomplished in a safe and orderly environment for students and staff. It is our hope that St. Stephens staff, parents, students, and community members will work together toward this goal. In order to support a positive climate, we have prepared this handbook as a source of reference for school rules, regulations, and other general information. If you have any questions or need further information that is not included in this handbook, please feel free to call the school or come in and visit with the Administrators. This handbook has been prepared as a guide for you, as a student of St. Stephens Indian School, to become acquainted with school policies and procedures. The rules and guidelines in this handbook apply to any student who is on school premises, in a school related vehicle, at a school sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place directly interferes with the operations, discipline, or general welfare of the school. Although it is not possible to cover every situation in detail, this handbook will help guide you in

many decisions you make. In the absence of specific instructions, you should comply with the spirit of good citizenship and, when in doubt, consult with your parents, teachers, and/or principal.

School Improvement Goals

NATIVE LANGUAGE PROGRAM:

By June 2026, at least 95% of all SSIS students (K-12) will participate in the Native Language Assessment from September 2025 to June 2026.

ENGAGING INSTRUCTION:

By May 2026, at least 85% of SSIS teachers will demonstrate teacher clarity and success criteria strategies as measured by weekly classroom walkthrough data indicating the 5 Essential Practices of Clarity for Learning (which will allow all students to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to make successful progress in school and beyond) from September 2025 to May 2026.

ENGAGING INSTRUCTION:

By May 2026, at least 85% of all SSIS students (K-12) will meet individual growth measures in math as indicated by i-Ready Math Diagnostic data comparisons from September 2025, January 2026 and May 2026.

ENGAGING INSTRUCTION:

By May 2026, at least 85% of all SSIS students (K-12) will meet individual growth measures in reading as indicated by i-Ready Reading Diagnostic data comparisons from September 2025, January 2026 and May 2026

ATTENDANCE:

In an effort to decrease loss of instructional time, the overall SSIS 2025-26 school year attendance average will increase from 80% (SY 2024-25) to at least 83% as measured by monthly average calculations from September 2025 to May 2026.

GRADUATION:

By the end of each school year, the SSIS average adjusted cohort graduation rate will be at least 95% as measured by the monitored progress and success of each year first time freshman students. Each cohort will be monitored for success consecutively over 4-year time spans.

School Admission

1. Application for admission will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students will only be allowed to begin school following formal acceptance.
2. No students will be considered for admission after the first month of the school year. Students who have been suspended/expelled will not be considered for enrollment until the suspension/expulsion period ends.
3. Students with the following areas of concern may be denied admission:
 - Students with more than 10 absences during their last semester of enrollment in school.
 - Students with a history of discipline incidents including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion.
3. Students accepted by St. Stephens who have behavior/attendance concerns at a previous school may be put on a behavior/attendance contract. Students who violate this handbook in any regard will be placed on a contract, with further violations potentially affecting future enrollment at St. Stephens Indian School. These contracts will be developed by the building principal or designee.
4. All student records must be received by St. Stephens Indian School before any application will be processed.
5. Students transferring to St. Stephens will be assigned to classes and grade levels based on evaluation of records and/or a required school-selected examination in one or more areas to determine proper grade placement in reading, writing, mathematics, government, history, literature, and/or science.
6. All incoming freshmen will be required to attend the freshman academy.

Change of Address/Phone Number

Please file an updated communication sheet with the clerical staff (available at the main office) if there are any changes to your student's home phone or parent/guardian contact information. Updating this as soon as possible helps ensure that each parent/guardian receives important mailings and communications in the event of an emergency.

All student records must have the most current and accurate parent/guardian contact information at all times. The school must be notified of an address/contact change before the student returns to school the next day. Due to severe safety concerns, failure to provide up-to-date contact information may result in notification of the Northern Arapaho Department of

Family Services, the Wind River Police Department, and the BIE as required by mandatory reporting.

Parent Participation

Parent and community member participation is vital to the success of our children and young adults. Parents and community members are encouraged to be a part of their student's education. There are opportunities for you to be active at the school in the following capacities:

- Always provide up-to-date contact information to the school
- Chaperone class/field trips
- Attend parent/teacher conferences
- Volunteer in the classroom (parent volunteers may be subject to background checks)
- Join the St. Stephens Indian School Parent Advisory Group

Please make an appointment to discuss other matters of concern with teachers/counselors/administration.

Family Education Rights & Privacy Act

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) provides for: (1) the “right to know” - parents and students have a right to access information that a public school has collected on them, and the right to know how that information is used, (2) the “right to privacy” - parents and students have the right to restrict the release of personally identifiable information maintained by public schools to third parties. All parents/guardians and students, 18 years of age or older, have the right to examine official school records, files, and data that directly relate to the student. FERPA prohibits the release of educational records to a third party without parental or eligible student consent.

The BIE has authorized the SSIS Administration to:

1. Forward educational records on request to a school in which a student of this school seeks or intends to enroll,
2. Send “personally identifiable” information to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if such knowledge is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or other individuals, and
3. Request each person or party requesting access to a student's record to abide by the Federal regulations concerning the disclosure of information to a third party.

The school will make available, upon request, certain “directory information” which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy, if disclosed. Among organizations and vendors who may request this information are military institutions/academies, trade and technical

schools, and photographers. Directory information may include a student's name, address, and date of birth, major field of study, participation in activities, height, weight, and athletic participation, dates of attendance, date of graduation, awards received, and directory picture and/or pictures of the student participating in school events. If for some reason a parent or a student who has reached the age of majority does not want their son/daughter's name included on directory information lists, we ask that they notify the high school office in writing.

Students with Special Considerations

Age of Majority: The high school recognizes the rights of a person who reaches the age of majority (18 years old). However, the building administration maintains the authority to establish rules and regulations for all pupils, no matter their age. Furthermore, it is administrative procedure to notify parents whenever a student invokes their right to be treated as an adult.

Married/Pregnant Students: Married and pregnant students are encouraged to continue their education. We ask that students notify the principal when they become married. Furthermore, a young or expectant mother is encouraged to continue her education through regular school attendance if her health permits. However, if in the judgment of the school officials and her physician, she is not advised to be in regular school classes or activities, homebound instruction may be provided. Students may return to classes at the earliest time consistent with the physician's recommendations.

Progress Reports, Report Cards, and Parent-Teacher Conferences Progress Reports may be sent home upon parents'/guardians' request or by the discretion of the teacher. These reports may include a summary of student achievement, attendance, behavior, and any other important details involving your student's education. Any additional information may be requested by parents/guardians.

St. Stephens Elementary School runs on a four-quarter basis with report cards being prepared at the middle and sent at the end of each quarter. St. Stephens High School runs on a two-semester basis with report cards being prepared at the middle and end of each semester.

Credit is earned only at the end of each term (K-8: quarter, HS: semester).

Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to attend parent-teacher conferences and open houses to support your students. Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled every fall and spring, after the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters. Parents may be asked or requested to meet with school personnel at other times. There will also be an open house before the first week of school. Dates and times of these conferences and open houses are on the district calendar and will also be communicated through school and district announcements.

Student Travel/Field Trips

Students are expected to meet educational expectations to be eligible for participation in school travel/field trips. A student who has repeatedly had a discipline problem or has been involved in any serious disciplinary action may be considered ineligible to participate in these trips. An alternative educational opportunity will be provided. The school principal has the final authority at the building level to decide which students are allowed to participate in school/field trips. In addition, participation in extracurricular trips will be contingent upon activity eligibility outlined later in this handbook. Students not in attendance or in ISS the day of a school/field trip will not be eligible to travel with the school.

Chaperoning Student Travel

When traveling student groups include more than one gender, a male and female chaperone will accompany them. Chaperones may be teachers, sponsors, adult teacher aids, and/or parents. Meals and lodging are to be paid by the club or organization taking the trip. BIE background checks must be completed prior to the trip.

School Safety and Emergency Procedures

St. Stephens School has plans and procedures for emergency situations including fire, tornado, and intruder alert. Administration, teachers, and students review these procedures each year. If a threatening situation arises in which students and staff may be in danger, protective actions will be put in place. St. Stephens students and staff will review and practice emergency drills and procedures monthly. Student Responsibilities are to: follow all teacher/staff instructions until they receive further instructions from emergency personnel or school administration. In the event that students are to be released to parents as the result of an emergency, the subsequent procedures will be followed as closely as possible at the campus (or if applicable at an off-campus site).

- 1. Students are to be released only to parents, guardians or pre-designated emergency persons.**
- 2. A member of the school staff or designee will meet parents/guardians and provide instructions.**
- 3. Parents/guardians will be directed to the predetermined reception and check out area.**
- 4. The adult will be asked to show identification.**
- 5. The parent/guardian will sign out the child on the student list.**

If circumstances dictate that a judgment be made to release a student to someone other than the parent/guardian, a phone number and address will be requested, in addition to an ID, so the parent/guardian may be informed to whom and where their child was released.

School Closings: Severe Weather, Civil Disasters

If it becomes necessary to dismiss school because of severe weather or a civil disaster, parents and the community will be notified through NASIS all call, the school website, and the school's Facebook page. The administration asks parents to limit calls to the school in emergency situations. Telephone lines need to remain open to allow the school to communicate with emergency services and ensure the safety of all students. It is important that school personnel be able to contact the parents of each child or someone who knows the child in case of an emergency situation. Telephone numbers and addresses must be kept up to date, and an emergency contact should be filed with the school.

Health and Wellness Policy

Optimal learning requires good emotional and physical health. The purposes of school health services are to strengthen the educational process by improving the health and well-being of students and staff. St. Stephens Indian School employs a registered nurse. The nurse has three primary roles:

- (1) **Health Care Provider** – performs physical assessment and gives supportive care of illness and injuries, administers medication, performs health screenings, ensures immunization compliance, and writes individualized health plans for students with specific health conditions.
- (2) **Promoter of a Healthy and Safe School Environment** - implements measures to minimize the spread of contagious illness and reports potentially hazardous situations to administration; and
- (3) **Health Educator** - serves as a health information resource for students and staff, promotes healthy lifestyle habits for students and staff, and teaches health related lessons in classrooms.

Pediculosis (Head Lice): The educational process for students will not be disrupted due to active head lice infestation. Current CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines recommend that no students be excluded from school due to head lice and/or nits. If head lice or nits are found to be present, a letter will be sent home with the student to notify parents/guardians of the finding and to encourage treatments and checks for the entire family. The letter shall include several different forms of treatment options available and serve to notify the family that the student will be rechecked by the nurse within one week of treatment and/or 10 days of follow up treatment. If, after two treatment cycles with over-the-counter products, an active infestation still exists, a recommendation to the student's primary care physician may be warranted to check for resistance.

Health Screenings

a) Vision and Hearing: Screenings will be conducted annually on all kindergarten students, new incoming students, and students whom the teachers request a screening on due to educational concerns. This includes students in the Special Education Program. If any deficiencies are noted at the time of screening, letters will be mailed home to notify the parent/guardian of the concern and to advise follow up with an appropriate doctor.

b) Dental: Optional screenings are done annually for students in primary grade levels who have a signed consent form. Sealants will be placed on healthy teeth at the discretion of the dental hygienist at the time of screening. If an office visit beyond regular screening is recommended, a letter will be mailed to the student's home to notify the parents/guardians.

Student Illness

Students who are ill will be evaluated by the school nurse. While least disruptive measures will be tried first in an attempt to minimize lost class time, if a student is found to have a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, any other type of contagious symptom(s), or cannot otherwise participate fully in class due to illness, the parent/guardian on file will be called to check the student out of school. If a child is ill at home, they should not be sent to school to prevent further contagion among the student body. Those students who have nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever should remain home until symptom-free, without the aid of medications, for 24 hours before returning to school.

Student Immunization Records

It is expected that students have an up-to-date immunization record on file at school to keep in compliance with Wyoming Department of Health rules and regulations. This file will contain the type and date of immunizations given, as well as any waivers/exemptions applicable to that student. In general, the following immunizations are required to be on file for Kindergarten-Sixth graders unless a waiver or exemption has been filed:

a) 5 valid doses of DTap (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis)

b) 3-4 valid doses of IPV (inactivated poliovirus)

c) 2 valid doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)

d) 3 valid doses of Hepatitis B vaccine

e) Completed series of Hib vaccine (hemophilus influenza type b)

f) 2 valid doses of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or documented history of disease

Please check with your student's primary care physician for current vaccine schedules or "catch-up" schedules for vaccinations. Doses are not considered "valid" if they are given outside of the recommended age or date range for that specific vaccine. Seventh-twelfth graders will need the above listed vaccines in addition to:

a) One booster of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)

Students who do not have current immunization records or valid waivers/exemptions on file within 30 days of entry into school may be excluded from instruction. Letters will be sent home detailing which vaccines are missing from your student's file. If there is no response to further attempts made at contact, the student's enrollment may be terminated. Those students who are on a "catch-up" schedule for immunizations and require more than 30 calendar days to complete the necessary vaccine series shall be permitted to attend school during this time frame as long as written verification is received from a healthcare professional stating the medical necessity of the time frame as well as proof that vaccines are given in accordance with this time frame.

Exemptions

a) Medical: Any student, for whom it is medically contraindicated to receive a specific immunization or immunizations, shall not be required to have those vaccines on file. However, written evidence from a physician as well as a signed and notarized Wyoming Department of Health Medical Exemption Form will be required from that student.

b) Religious: Any student, based on evidence of a truly held and genuine religious or cultural belief, may file a signed and notarized Wyoming Department of Health Religious Exemption Form, in order to be exempted from required immunizations.

c) In the event of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak (as determined by State or County Health Officer), those students who are not fully immunized against the specific disease occurring shall not be permitted at school for a time frame that is stipulated by a State or County Health Officer.

Medication Administration

a) Prescription Medications: Those students who need prescription medication during school hours will be required to have an authorization form signed by their physician and their parent/guardian that states the student's name, medication name, dose, route, frequency, and strength. Medications must remain in their original pharmacy packaging (i.e., no plastic baggies, sealed envelopes, etc.). The pharmacy label may be used in place of physician signed authorization. If the medication is an inhaler or an Epi-Pen that the student will carry with them during the day for self-administration when needed, the authorization form must state that the medication will be carried by the student and be signed by their physician. Otherwise, all medications will be kept in a secured area in the nurse's office. Scheduled medications (antibiotics, narcotics, amphetamines, etc.) will not be allowed to be carried by any student and will be kept in the nurse's office for dosage administration. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to deliver medications to the nurse as well as to pick them up at the end of the dosing period or the end of the school year, whichever comes first. Any medications which have not been picked up by the last day of school or by the expiration date on the bottle will be properly disposed of.

b) Over-The-Counter Medications: OTC medications (Tylenol, Motrin, Tums, Benadryl, cough drops, etc.) will only be given to students who have an authorization form signed by a

parent/guardian on file and only in the event that the nurse indicates that a medication will likely alleviate the student's symptoms so that they may return to class. In the event that the nurse's assessment warrants an OTC medication, the appropriate medication will be given according to manufacturer guidelines, unless the student has a signed doctor's note that says differently. When at all possible, students should be given medications prior to leaving home.

c) All Other Medications: Medications that are not regulated by the FDA (i.e. homeopathic remedies, oils, vitamins, etc.) will not be administered by the school nurse. These medications should be administered at home to minimize interruptions to class time.

d) It is the student's responsibility to come to the nurse's office for scheduled medication administrations. All medication authorizations must be renewed every school year or if dosing instructions have changed.

Counseling Services

St. Stephens Indian School employs one full-time school counselor and a Social-Emotional Learning Advisor. The counselor delivers a comprehensive program that encourages the academic, college/career, and personal/social development of all students. The main goal of the counseling department is to maximize individual student achievement. Services provided by the school counseling department include: individual student planning, individual and group counseling, consultation with staff members and parents, community referrals, and classroom guidance presentations. The counselor maintains confidentiality except in the following situations: disclosure of abuse, abandonment, neglect; disclosure about intent to harm self or others; to comply with a court order or subpoena; or disclosure of the commission of a crime. Counselors may be contacted in the office between classes, before or after school, or at lunchtime. Parents/Guardians may contact the school counselors with any questions or concerns:

Charlotte Longenecker - School Counselor – charlotte.longenecker@bie.edu

Taryn Jim - Social-Emotional Learning Advisor – taryn.jim@bie.edu

Title VI, Section 504, Americans with Disabilities Act

The St. Stephens Indian School Board complies with the regulations of Title VI, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). In accordance with these provisions, no student, or other person, will be discriminated against on the basis of age, race, sex, non-disqualifying disability, religion, national origin, or other protected characteristics in any school sponsored curricular program offering. For students with disabilities, reasonable accommodations, including adaptive aids and devices, can be provided upon request to allow students, parents, and others to attend and/or participate in school programs and school sponsored events. Requests for accommodations should be made in advance by calling the building principal. Any grievances

filed in relation to this policy should follow proper appeal procedures. Any person that believes that they have been discriminated against has the right to file a formal complaint, which may be made in writing to the Superintendent. The complaint will be investigated, and a written response provided within 10 working days. Under no circumstances will the school threaten or retaliate against anyone who raises or files a complaint. Parents/Guardians may contact the Special Education Dept. with any questions/concerns. Taryn Jim – taryn.jim@bie.edu

Lost and Found

Unclaimed items found on school grounds should be turned into the building office. Students in search of lost articles can check at the office to see if the articles have been turned in. At the end of each semester, lost articles will be thrown away or donated.

Transportation of Students

Transportation is provided for all St. Stephens students in accordance with the general policies of the school. Students utilizing school transportation will be required to observe the transportation guidelines and expectations, at all times. Due to the issue regarding liability insurance, only students who are enrolled at St. Stephens are permitted to ride school buses.

Staff members will not pick up students who miss the bus.

General guidelines and expectations for students are listed below. These guidelines are in effect whenever students are riding school transportation: bus, suburban, school vehicle, etc. and includes trips to/from school, field trips, activities, athletics, etc.

- 1. All school rules are in effect and students shall always follow the instructions of the driver.**
- 2. Students are to be on time to their designated pick-up areas.**
- 3. To keep the bus/vehicle safe: no excessive noise, avoid rowdiness, keep hands to self and inside bus/vehicle, remain in seats until vehicle stops, and no foul language.**
- 4. To keep the bus/vehicle clean: no food or drink should be consumed.**
- 5. Tobacco, drugs, and alcohol are prohibited.**

The driver is responsible for the bus/vehicle and the safety of the students on it; students should comply promptly and respectfully with the requests of the driver. Inability to follow the rules will result in the loss of the privilege of riding the bus/vehicle. The driver may assign seats to an individual or to all students riding the bus/vehicle. Furthermore, the driver has the authority and responsibility to discipline students he/she is transporting. School transportation privileges may be revoked for violation of the rules and for conduct that may jeopardize the safe operation of the bus/vehicle.

K-8 Parent Drop Off/Pick Up Policy

We ask all parents/guardians to drop off and pick up students at the front entry of their school building. The flagpole circle is for bus drop off/pick up only.

HS Student Vehicle Use and Parking

Permits are required for students who drive personal vehicles to school and park on school grounds. Vehicles must be registered with the high school principal; a permit will be issued for no fee. The permit will be displayed in or on the vehicle as evidence that the vehicle is permitted to be driven and parked on school grounds. Proof of a valid driver's license, registration, and proper insurance will be required with parent/guardian permission for use of the vehicle before the permit will be issued. Students must always park in their designated parking area. Vehicle searches can be conducted by school officials on school grounds if reasonable suspicion arises that there are controlled substances, weapons, or other prohibited items in the vehicle. During school hours, students may not drive or enter their vehicles without authorization from the building principal.

- If a student drives to school without a school permit, we will notify parents.

- If the student continues to drive to school without a permit, we will notify BIA/law enforcement.

Violation of Driving/Parking Regulations

Careless, reckless, and exhibition driving will not be tolerated. Students who drive recklessly, carelessly, or have repeated safety violations may be assigned consequences that include in-school suspension, suspension of driving privileges, and if related to violations of the student code of conduct, suspension from school. Further, students may also be referred to local law enforcement. Repeated failure to park in designated areas or parking on school grounds without approval/authorization may result in the vehicle being towed at the owner's expense.

Closed Campus

St. Stephens Indian School is a Closed Campus and offers all the services necessary for the entire school day. Parents have the right to expect students to be at school for the allotted time period each day. Once students arrive at school, they must stay in the school building except when

authorized by the principal/designee or accompanied by a staff member. Lunch is provided on campus and students are not allowed to leave the campus for lunch.

No food delivery will be accepted.

Any student who has a legitimate reason to leave campus must first gain authorization from the building principal/designee, provide authorization (preferably in writing) from parent/guardian, and sign out with the office. If any student fails to gain permission before leaving campus, they will be considered truant. If a student uses a private vehicle during school hours to leave campus and/or takes another student(s) without authorization, their driving privileges may be suspended. If any of the students taken off school grounds without authorization are minors, calls will be made to parents of the students and law enforcement will be notified. A principal/designee shall permit a student to leave the school grounds in the following cases:

- **In the custody of the child's parent/guardian.**
- **In the custody of a person who the school has written and verified authorization from the parent/guardian in NASIS.**
- **In the custody of a law enforcement officer.**
- **In the custody of an EMS.**

School Visitors

For the safety of our school, all exterior doors are locked. Absences and tardies have a negative impact on learning. Visitors must check in at the main office and receive a pass. Parents are highly encouraged to visit the school to discuss matters of concern or to observe your child's class. Infants, preschool, or school-age children from other schools are not permitted to "visit" or attend classes at St. Stephens. Parents/Guardians of students are allowed to bring treats for their students' birthdays; however, arrangements must be made with the building principal.

Attendance Policy/Regulations

The St. Stephens Indian School Board of Trustees recognizes that regular attendance at school is vitally important to each student and that it can directly affect academic progress. Frequent absence from the regular classroom learning experience disrupts the continuity of the

instructional process. The Board further believes that regular attendance is the responsibility of the student and his/her parents/guardians, and parents should consider school a priority.

The Administration urges parents/guardians to support your students' education through consistent attendance. As a means of instilling values of responsibility and personal accountability, a student who is habitually absent shall experience the natural consequences of their absences, along with the consequences set forth in this handbook by the St. Stephens School Board members and administrators. Through the cooperative efforts of parents/guardians, students, and the school, it is hoped that each student will develop attendance habits and attitudes that will be valuable in their professional and personal life. Tribal law requires attendance in school through age 18. Parents are encouraged to notify the school office before classes begin on the morning their student is absent. And, unless there are extenuating circumstances, parents/guardians must **provide documentation no later than the end of business on the date their student returns following an absence, to record the absence as excused.**

Arrival and Dismissal Time

Monday-Thursday, student arrival time begins at 7:35 a.m. and dismissal time is 3:35 p.m. On half-days, students will be released at 12:35 p.m. On Fridays, the school is from 7:35 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. for early release.

Recording Attendance

Attendance records will be maintained begin on the first day of school. Attendance is recorded at the elementary school once each day. If a student arrives after their designated lunch time or leaves prior to lunch, they will be marked absent for the whole day. Students arriving prior to lunch (and attending the remainder of the day) or leaving after lunch (if they attended all morning) will be marked present for the whole day. Attendance is recorded at the high school during every period. Teachers mark students as either present, tardy, or absent. If a student leaves campus without authorization, they will be marked "truant."

Attendance Definitions

Excused Absences: must be validated by parent or guardian in writing or verified over the phone. To be excused, verification must be done no later than the end of the day on the first day that the student returns following an absence. An exception may be made if there are extenuating circumstances preventing parents/guardians from completing verification. The following are acceptable reasons for absences to be excused:

- **Medical/Dental Appointments (verification of appointment is required)**
- **Short Term Illness/Sickness (verification by parent/guardian is required)**
- **Frequent illness or illness lasting longer than 2 days must be verified by a doctor**
- **Legal Appointments mandated by judge or court (legal verification is required)**

- **Bereavement (verification by parent/guardian is required)**

Assignments and assessments missed when students are excused may or may not be made up – these policies will be left up to individual teachers with the general rule that students will have one day to make up work missed for each day of their absence.

Unexcused Absences are any absence not meeting the criteria listed above for excused absences. Students arriving more than 30 minutes late for class, without permission from parent/guardian or authorization from school personnel, are considered truant and will be counted as unexcused.

Tardies: A student is considered tardy when they are not in the appropriate classroom when class begins (K-8) or when the tardy bell rings (HS). A student's tardiness is unexcused when he/she is late for any class without prior staff approval. Teachers may refer students to the office for disciplinary consideration for unexcused tardies to their class, and the principal may assign additional consequences, i.e. lunch detention, ISS, or other alternatives should there be a pattern of continual problem with student punctuality to class.

Policies: Any student who **acquires twelve (12) unexcused absences** (full day absences) in a term may be dropped from the school rolls and may be asked to leave school until the beginning of the next school year. Students may not receive credit for any classes during that term or may be considered for retention. **On the third, sixth, and tenth unexcused absence, a letter informing the parents/guardians of the absence and a reminder of the attendance rule will be mailed out. When the student reaches the tenth unexcused absence, a written contract will be signed by the student.** As required by BIE, included with these letters will be a statement concerning pending **notification of truancy to local officials and BIE. In addition, phone calls concerning, and letters of excessive absenteeism will be made/sent to the Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services, the Wind River Police Department, and the BIE as required by mandatory reporting.** After the tenth unexcused absence, the student may be removed from school until the next school year; a letter will be sent to the parents/guardians informing them of the procedure followed. Any student who acquires ten (10) unexcused absences (full day absences) in a row will be dropped from the school rolls and may not receive credit for that term.

Any student who acquires fifteen (15) full day absences (excused or unexcused) in a term may be dropped from the school rolls at the end of the fifteenth full day and may be asked to leave school until the beginning of the next school year. Students may not receive credit for any classes during that term. Any student who acquires a total of twenty (20) total cumulative absences (high school only) in a term may be dropped from the school rolls and may not receive credit for that term. Cumulative absences are based on total time missed. For example, if a student misses periods 1 and 2 on Monday and periods 1 and 2 on Tuesday, it adds up to 1 full day missed. Once a student reaches 20 total days, based on time missed, they may be dropped and may not receive credit for that term. Letters will be sent home when students reach 5, 10, and 15 total days missed, based on time. After 15 cumulative absences, students will be placed on an attendance contract. As required by BIE, included with these letters will be a statement concerning pending notification of truancy to local official and BIE. In addition, phone calls concerning, and letters

of excessive absenteeism will be made/sent to the Northern Arapaho Department of Family Services, the Wind River Police Department, and the BIE as required by mandatory reporting.

Three (3) tardies will count as one (1) absence (K-8 only). Absences due to school approved activities or school suspension shall not be counted in the attendance policy. The principal may excuse an absence due to unusual and unanticipated events, however, the student shall be responsible for completing all missed assignments when he/she is absent or complete alternative assignments provided by the teacher(s).

****Any Student may be placed on an Individualized Attendance Behavior Plan****

Special Attendance Considerations

Non-Compulsory Student Absences: Any student who by order of their physician is confined at home or in the hospital for more than one week will be eligible for homebound instruction. Homebound instruction must be approved by the administration. Homebound instruction is recorded as regular attendance.

Pre-Arranged Absences: Students who anticipate an absence for school activities or other reasons (family trips, college visits, etc.) are encouraged to see teachers in advance for assignments and or alternative assignments. Pre-arranged absences will still count towards total allowable absences as defined above.

Electronics Policy

St. Stephens Indian School will provide all students with technical instruction that will aid with the improvement of technological literacy and competence. The school will operate a safe, respectful, and academically sound technology program for all students. Before being allowed to use school sponsored technology, students and parents/guardians are required to agree to and sign a user agreement that is included in their enrollment packet. Failure of a student to abide by the contract will result in disciplinary action being taken. Students will follow the rules of appropriate use when operating any computers, iPads, tablets, Chromebooks, cell phones, or any other electronic devices. Appropriate use includes academic activities as supervised by an instructor. Students will not share their passwords nor permit anyone else to use their user ID to access any school computer or network. Students will not operate any electronic devices for anything deemed inappropriate or offensive by the faculty or administration.

Cell Phone Policy

St. Stephens Indian School recognizes that cellular phones and/or electronic communication devices can be used to exploit personal information, compromise the integrity of the classroom, disrupt educational programs and activities, promote and escalate false rumors, promote academic dishonesty, aid in the commission of illegal behavior and criminal activity, invade and disrupt the personal privacy of students, impede the work of emergency personnel in emergency situations, and promote other unsafe and disruptive behavior which discourages the educational process.

K-8 Policy: Cell phones are strictly prohibited. If students bring cell phones to school, they will be confiscated by the school principal or their designee. If it is necessary for a student to bring a phone on certain days, they will check in their phones with the secretary at the beginning of the day and pick them up when they leave the school.

HS Policy: Cell phone use is strictly prohibited in the school during the school day. Student use or possession of electronic communication devices is prohibited during any class time. Cell phones will be checked into the front office every day for safe keeping. Any student refusing to turn over their cell phone at the security check will face school disciplinary consequences for insubordination.

ISS: If a student is in ISS, they will be required to check in their phone with the secretary prior to reporting to ISS.

No Liability: The school will not be responsible for the loss, damage, or theft of any cellular phone or electronic communication device brought to school or on school property.

Using communication devices for illegal or unethical activity and/or refusing to turn device when in possession of or using on school grounds: The information on any two-way communication device confiscated on school grounds may be reviewed by school administration and/or designee (SRO) when there is suspicion that the device may have been used for illegal or unethical activity, or threatening (bullying, intimidation) of others. Failure to turn over the cell phone and/or memory card when requested may result in suspension from school. If a student uses a device to record (video or audio) any act of violence, threatening or intimidating behavior, and/or communication/interaction against another student or staff, and releases it to any other(s) via the internet or through any other telecommunications system; they may be suspended, referred to law enforcement for prosecution and/or recommended for expulsion. This applies to incidents off school grounds as well when the incident is in any way an extension of events or interaction that took place at school, on school grounds, or at any school activity.

Lockers

Students may be assigned lockers. Students are personally responsible for all contents in their assigned lockers. Students are not to share their lockers with any other students and locker combinations must not be given to other students for security purposes. The principal may impose disciplinary consequences for failure to abide by the locker policy. Lockers are property of the school. The school is authorized to open lockers and to examine the contents, including personal belongings of students, when there is reasonable cause to do so.

The school will NOT be liable for the cost of a lock. Reasonable cause may include the belief that the contents of a locker threaten the safety, health, or welfare of students; include suspected stolen property; or include items which are specifically prohibited by law, school regulation, or board policy.

Backpack Policy/Water Bottles

Backpacks will be provided by the school for regular day to day attendance. Backpacks will always be subject to search. Backpacks and all luggage will be checked before all school trips.

All Water Bottles that are brought to school will need to be empty in order to enter the building, students may then fill up their personal water bottles at any of our water fountains.

Metal Detectors

Metal Detectors will be in use on a regular basis for entrance into any of our buildings. Metal detectors are installed and used to prevent any object from entering the building that is prohibited. Whether that be drug paraphernalia or weapons or anything else that could be used to harm. Our goal is a safe building for all who enter.

Reading/Math Interventions

All students in grades K-12 will participate in reading interventions (students in grades K-8 will participate in math interventions) on a daily basis. These interventions will be flexible, ability-based, and data-driven in nature. The programs utilized for these interventions will align with the core curriculum programs and the Common Core State Standards.

Academics

Grading: St. Stephens Indian School operates on a 4-point grading scale; 4.0-A, 3.0-B, 2.0-C, 1.0-D. Grade point averages are computed using this scale. This is done by dividing the accumulated points by the number of graded courses taken. Grades of “S” and “U” are not recorded for grade point averages.

Grades K-4 will utilize a “Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory” grading scale.

Grades 5-12

A = 90%-100% S = Satisfactory – 60% or higher

B = 80%-89% U = Unsatisfactory – 59% or lower

C = 70%-79% IC = Incomplete – Student must finish

D = 60%-69% course work

F = 59% and lower

Every effort will be made to provide the necessary support to ensure student achievement. However, we expect students’ school work to be their BEST EFFORT, NEATLY DONE and TURNED IN ON TIME.

8th Grade Advancement: Students who have passing grades in their core classes (math, science, English, social studies) will GUARANTEE advancement to high school. Students will be invited to attend the 8th Grade Trip only if they demonstrate good grades throughout the school year.

High School Credit Requirements: A total of 24 credits are required for graduation – of these 24 credits, students must earn credit in the following areas.

Language Arts	4 Credits
Mathematics (must include Algebra 1 or 2 and Geometry)	4 Credits
Science (must include Physical Science and Biology)	3 Credits
Social Studies (World History/Geography, US History, and American Gov't)	3 Credits
Native American Studies	2 Credits
Foreign Language (Arapaho Language or Other)	1 Credit
Career/Technical Education	2 Credits
Physical Education	1 Credit
Fine Arts	1 Credit
Health	0.5 Credits
Electives	2.5 Credits

These high school credit requirements allow our students to qualify for the Hathaway Scholarship (at the minimum level). Students who wish to qualify for greater amounts of the Hathaway Scholarship would need additional Science and Fine Arts, Foreign Language, or Career/Technical Education credits. Students should visit the Career & College Readiness Counselor for more Hathaway information.

Grade Placement, Promotion and Retention

K-8: St. Stephens Elementary School will promote students only at the end of the school year. Children who enter from systems where semiannual admission and promotion are used, those who have finished half a grade when admitted will be placed in the same grade, but if it later appears they should be placed in the succeeding grade, a change may be affected. A child may be retained if he/she has not reached a standard of achievement which would allow him to progress satisfactorily to the next level. If necessary, retention will be encouraged before a child leaves the primary grades.

9-12: St. Stephens Indian High School promotes students only at the end of a term. The administration of the school, in consultation with the appropriate personnel, will determine admission, grade level, and/or course placement for any incoming/transfer students. The school

may require a school-selected examination in one or more content areas to determine proper grade placement.

Freshman (9th Grade) ----- 0.0 - 5.5 credits

Sophomore (10th Grade) ----- 6.0 - 11.5 credits

Junior (11th Grade) ----- 12.0 - 17.5 credits

Senior (12th Grade) ----- 18.0 and more credits

Testing and Student Evaluation

Students are evaluated in a variety of ways throughout the school year. The most common method for evaluating student progress is through classroom assignments and tests. These evaluation tools are aligned to the Common Core State Standards that were created by teachers, community members, and administrators from across the state.

The school administers i-Ready Diagnostic Assessments in reading and math to all students in grades K-12 to determine appropriate placement. These assessments also provide the school with data that can be utilized in school improvement activities.

Further, the school administers the Bureau of Indian Education Assessment in the spring. This test is a summative assessment that indicates student proficiency in Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies and Science. Data from this assessment can also be utilized for school improvement.

The high school also administers the ACT (The American College Test), which is a college Readiness assessment, to all students in grades 11 and 12. The ACT assesses students' skills in Reading, English, Math, Science, and Writing and determines students' readiness for college.

The State of Wyoming provides this assessment once per year, free of charge. Students are encouraged to take this assessment multiple times, however, they may be required to pay the assessment fee. High school students may qualify or request to take other optional assessments throughout the year. Some of these tests are: WorkKeys (a workplace readiness assessment), ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery), and ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces). For more information on these assessments and to see if your student qualifies, please contact the School Counselor. Upon completion of these assessments or at the request of parents/guardians, scores will be shared with parents/guardians.

Transcripts

Transcripts of grades earned and standardized test scores are kept in permanent records, all of which are housed in the administrative office. Transcripts are available to students and parents/guardians upon request. Furthermore, transcripts may be sent to other schools or employing agencies upon request by the student and educational or employing agencies. After graduation, an official transcript will be sent home with their diploma.

Correspondence Courses, Online Courses, and Off-Campus Credit

St. Stephens High School will accept credits of correspondence, online, and/or other pre-approved off-campus credits to count toward graduation requirements. All online/off-campus courses must be approved by the high school principal prior to enrollment, if the student wishes to count the course for credit toward graduation requirements.

Adding/Dropping Courses

High school students may add or drop a course during the first week of each semester, unless the student is being recommended by a committee of administrators, parents, and the counselor to add or drop a course.

Withdrawing from School

Any student wishing to withdraw from school must start the process by visiting with the school administration. He/she must have permission from their parent/guardian before the student may begin the withdrawal process. The “Withdrawal Form” should be signed by each teacher and returned to the office. If the student is involved in activities, the coach or sponsor should also sign the form. All materials belonging to the school must be returned and all fines paid before student withdrawal is considered complete.

Academic Awards

Honor Roll: The Honor Roll is posted at the end of each term. Students must achieve a 3.0 grade point average or better with zero F’s to be on the honor roll. All courses are included when determining the Honor Roll, except those courses with an S/U grade.

Honor Roll (Middle School): A’s or B’s in the core classes of Math/Science/ELA.

Awards: In the spring of each year, an awards assembly may be held and teachers select individuals who have achieved at high levels to be recognized as Outstanding Students.

High School Graduation

Any students who have passed the required courses at the end of their senior year, will be recommended for graduation from St. Stephens. These students will be allowed to participate in all graduation ceremonies, as long as they have completed all required course work and have successfully completed the check-out process with the school.

***** NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE *****

Graduating with Honors: Students achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher after completing seven semesters will graduate with honors. In the event of a student meeting all of the credit and graduation requirements early (24 credits as laid out above), the student will be allowed to request one of the following options:

- **Work Study** – Students who are employed have the option to schedule time to leave school to do their job. Students requesting this option must have a valid driver's license, personal transportation, and proof of employment as requested.
- **College Release** – Students choosing this option would enroll in college course(s) at CWC, and the course(s) must be semester-long. Students requesting this option must have a valid driver's license, personal transportation, and proof of enrollment with CWC as requested.
- **Early Graduation** – Students choosing this option must have legitimate and important reasons for graduation early (i.e., entering the military, hardship, etc.). Further, students requesting this option must meet with the administration, the administration must make a recommendation to the school board, and the school board must approve the request – otherwise, students will be required to attend all classes until graduation.

Any student not choosing one of the options above would be required to attend school full-time and meet all of the school's attendance policies.

Extracurricular Activities

The staff and administration at St. Stephens Indian School recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities. A list of activities, clubs, and sports that may be offered include:

National Honor Society, Traditional Club, Student Council

Homecoming, and Prom committees

Football, Volleyball, Cross Country

Basketball, Track and Field

Robotics

If students are interested in other extracurricular activities, they may make recommendations to the administration or to a staff member at the school.

Title IX: The Board of Education at St. Stephens Indian School complies with the regulations of Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972. No student shall be discriminated against on the basis of sex in any district-sponsored curricular or co-curricular program offering, as stipulated in Title IX. All student grievances filed in relation to this policy shall follow the appeals process as outlined in this handbook.

Extracurricular Expectations

Participation in athletics and club activities is a privilege. Students who participate in such activities are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects favorably on themselves, the school, and the community.

Students who fail to demonstrate exemplary citizenship, meet academic and attendance requirements, or have violations of the student code of conduct that result in suspension may be suspended or excluded from in extracurricular activities. Behavior outside of the activity or outside of school can still affect participation in the activity. In addition, St. Stephens has worked hard to build an environment of positive behavior and sportsmanship during extracurricular activities. The following are expectations of the school, specifically during sporting events.

Students: Student habits and reactions, as spectators, determine the quality of sportsmanship that reflects upon the reputation of the school. Profane/abusive language and obnoxious behavior have no place at an athletic contest. Students shall:

- 1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship.**
- 2. Respect and cooperate with all event participants.**
- 3. Respect the property of the school and the authority of the school officials.**
- 4. Respect the decisions of the officials.**
- 5. Show respect for injured/disqualified players.**
- 6. Cheer for your team, not against the other team.**

Fan Behavior: Whether at home or away, fan behavior reflects upon the school and the entire community. Hometown fans should treat visitors with respect. Similarly, visiting fans should treat their hosts (both individuals and property) with appreciation and respect.

Fans/spectators shall:

- 1. Know and demonstrate good sportsmanship.**
- 2. Respect the decisions of the coach(s).**
- 3. Respect the point of view of the official(s).**
- 4. Cheer for your team, not against the other team.**

Student Eligibility

Requirements: All eligibility requirements for St. Stephens Indian School must be in compliance with the eligibility requirements of the Wind River Conference Athletic Association (WRCAA) or the Wyoming High School Activities Association (WHSAA). No requirements will be less restrictive than those set forth by the WRCAA or WHSAA. Extracurricular Activities: as defined by the WRCAA and WHSAA are activities that take place outside the time of any regular school class period and are not required academic functions.

- 1. All school athletic activities will be covered by this definition.**

2. All social events, clubs and organizations are included.

Student progress will be monitored every week. It is required that the classroom teacher inform the student of their academic progress and enter the student's academic progress into the student grading system so weekly eligibility can be established.

Teachers are required to have up to date grades in their computer at least every 10 business days. When teachers have student athletes in their classes it is also expected that they update grades every mid-week to support the athletic director in their efforts to determine athletic eligibility. Activity Sponsors and athletic coaches are expected to inform the participants of the consequences of being ineligible. A Warning list will be run every Monday morning. The Warning list will include D's and F's.

Any student not on the warning list will be eligible for the week's activities. Students on The Warning list will have until 12:00pm on Thursday to get their grades up. At that time a new eligibility report will be run. Demonstration of either proficiency or progress towards proficiency on academic standards as measured by curriculum-based assessments *will* also be a determining factor in athletic or activity eligibility.

Grades 5-8: Any student with only 1 "F" grade at 12:00pm on Thursday or fewer will be eligible to play with athletic director, coach, and principal permission. Any student with 2 or more F's at 12:00pm on Thursday will be ineligible to participate in activities until the following Thursday.

Grades 9-12: Any student with only 1 "F" grade at 12:00pm on Thursday or fewer will be eligible to play with athletic director, coach, and principal permission. Any student with 2 or more F's at 12:00pm on Thursday will be ineligible to participate in activities until the following Thursday.

Activity Attendance

Grades 5-8: Students must be in attendance at school no later than 9:00 a.m. and in attendance the remainder of the day in order to participate/attend a practice or an after-school activity that day. Exceptions are allowed for doctor/dental appointments, bereavement, cultural events, documented family emergencies, and court appointments. Exceptions must be approved by the building principal or athletic director. Students in ISS are not allowed to participate/attend a practice or an after-school activity. If an activity occurs on a Friday or Saturday, students must be in attendance the previous Thursday, arriving no later than 9:00 a.m. and in attendance the remainder of the day. Further, if a student is in ISS on Thursday, they are not allowed to participate/attend a practice or an activity on Friday or Saturday.

Grades 9-12: Students missing more than one period will not be eligible to participate/attend and after school-activity that day. Exceptions are allowed for doctor/dental appointments, bereavement, cultural events, documented family emergencies, and court appointments. Exceptions must be approved by the building principal or athletic director. Students in ISS are not allowed to participate/attend a practice or an after-school activity. If an activity occurs on a Friday or Saturday, students must be in attendance the previous Thursday, missing no more than

one period. Further, if a student is in ISS on Thursday, they are not allowed to participate/attend a practice or an activity on Friday or Saturday.

Conduct Away from School

Students who represent the school in activities are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect credit upon them, their school, and their community. Students attending such activities are expected to dress neatly and stay within the guidelines established by coaches and activity sponsors.

Transportation Requirements

Students participating in activities must ride the school provided transportation to and from the event/competition. Sponsors/coaches will have a sign-out sheet for students who choose to ride home with their parents/guardians, however, only parents/guardians may sign students out. Exceptions may only be made by written request by parents/guardians and must be authorized by the administration 24 hours prior to the trip taking place.

Rules Governing Overnight Activities

Sponsors/coaches will decide student room assignments and will establish evening “curfew” times with students. At curfew, students should report to and stay in their assigned rooms for the remainder of the night. Students will travel and eat together as a group and no individual excursions will be allowed. All school rules will be in effect during all school activities. Violation of guidelines for overnight activities (or sponsor/coach’s rules) may result in the student’s parents/guardians being notified and the student being sent home. Students failing to follow guidelines and expectations may be barred from attending overnight activities in the future.

Sports

Competitive Teams: At the beginning of each sport season, the coach will issue a call for all students to sign up for that sport. All those signing up will have the opportunity to try out for the team. Eligibility requirements for each sport (stated above) will be reviewed with students at or prior to the first practice of the sport season.

Practice Requirements: Coaches will establish and communicate practice schedules and expectations of attendance, effort, and attitude. Student athletes are expected to attend all practices on time unless prior arrangements have been made with the coach. Students must abide by all athletic handbook policies. Prior to competing, students must attend and participate in the required number of practices set forth by the WRCAA or WHSAA.

Physicals Must be on File: Student athletes are required to have physical examinations on file with the school before they can participate in interscholastic competition. It is the responsibility of the student to present the coach with a signed physical examination form before the first practice. Physical exam forms are available either through the coach or in the office. WHSAA Sports Semester Eligibility (High School Only): The WHSAA eligibility policy states that in

order to be eligible starting in August and January, all students must have a passing grade in at least 5 classes during the previous semester. Students failing to pass the minimum number of courses the previous semester are not eligible to compete; the only exception or consideration will be completion of courses/classes (i.e. summer school, dual enrollment) that are approved for credit by the school principal and school counselor. Please review the St. Stephens Indian School Sports Handbook or speak to the athletic director for further descriptions of the policies and procedures set forth by the athletics department.

Right of Search

The administrator and/or designee charged by the St. Stephens Indian School Board of Trustees with the responsibility of supervising students during regular school hours and/or school-related activities is authorized in their duty to maintain school discipline. This duty includes the right to conduct a search of a student's person, property, locker or any other area on school premises if the administration has a reasonable belief that a student has stolen property, is in possession of an illegal substance or weapon, or has violated any board policy or building regulation.

Surveillance/Recording

The school administration and/or designee may use electronic surveillance/recording systems to prevent and/or record disciplinary infractions. Further, the administration may use these systems as a means to accurately document communications between school officials and students believed to have committed disciplinary infractions.

Student Behavioral Expectations

Student Rights and Responsibilities: The word “rights” refers mainly to that which a person may keep for themselves as an individual. The word “responsibility” refers mainly to the individual's obligation to others within his society. The Constitution of the United States through the Bill of Rights and subsequent Amendments gives all citizens certain rights, and students do not lose those constitutional rights by walking through school doors. However, within the school setting, and in society, there are responsibilities and expectations that students must adhere to and understand. Each student has the responsibility to the following:

- 1. Respect the inherent human dignity and worth of every individual.**
- 2. Be informed of and adhere to the rules and regulations established by the Board of Education and implemented by school administration and teachers for the educational welfare and safety of students.**
- 3. Study diligently and maintain the best possible level of academic achievement.**
- 4. Be punctual and present in the regular school program.**
- 5. Refrain from libelous and slanderous remarks and obscenities in verbal and written form.**
- 6. Help maintain and improve the school environment, preserve the school property, and exercise the utmost care while using school facilities.**

- 7. Conduct oneself in an appropriate manner while in attendance at all school functions.**
- 8. Be actively involved in one's education, understanding, and prepare oneself for adult life.**

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is a value-based philosophy that guides decisions on policy, programs, and practice. The goal is to obtain a balanced focus on victims, offenders, and community members concerning a specific incident of wrongdoing. In addition, the goal is to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations in order to “make the wrong right.” Key principles essential to Restorative Justice are respect, responsibility, repair, relationships, and reintegration. Restorative Justice will be implemented when all parties involved are willing participants and it is determined that restorative practice will potentially lead to reasonable outcomes. Restorative Justice Conferences will be used to address conflicts or wrongdoings. In the case of wrongdoings, the conferences will assist students in gaining a better understanding of accepted behaviors.

Preventative Measures: The following are examples of measures taken by our school to prevent the occurrence of discipline problems.

- **Professional development focused on improving student achievement.**
- **Training and support for staff in diversity and cultural awareness.**
- **Teacher access to parent/guardian contact information.**
- **Parent/Guardian access to teacher contact information.**
- **Parent Involvement opportunities such as: Back-to-School Night, Family Nights Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent Advisory Group.**
- **Online access to Student & Parent Handbook.**
- **District website has information about activities, upcoming events, etc.**
- **District calendar is distributed at the beginning of the year.**
- **Teachers distribute and explain class expectations, requirements, and grading systems.**
- **Rules and expectations are posted within the building and are periodically reviewed.**
- **Campus is monitored by surveillance cameras and school security.**
- **Visitors are required to sign in at the main office.**

Disciplinary Action Levels: Disciplinary actions apply to the behavior and conduct of students while on district property, in district vehicles, at school sponsored events or activities (on or off campus), and under circumstances where off-campus behavior is detrimental to the safety and

welfare of other people and of school personnel. Within each level, from minor offenses to the most serious offenses, there are probable interventions and available consequences that may be applied. There will be considerations as to the specific event, seriousness, prior offenses, whether the student stops the misbehavior when told to do so, the number of students involved, the number of adults necessary to deal with the immediate incident, whether the incident presented a significant danger of physical or emotional harm to any person, etc. Due to the seriousness of some behaviors, consequences are very specific and may require law enforcement to be involved. In addition, at the high school, students are given points depending upon the severity of the offense. These points are used to track student behavior in coordination with student incentives and re-enrollment each year.

Student Behavior/Misconduct Definitions

The point system will be utilized for grades 6-12.

Level 1 - Minor Offenses (1 Point):

- **Inappropriate Language** - Profanity is socially offensive language, which may also be called bad language, strong language, offensive language, coarse language, foul language, bad words, vulgar language, lewd language, choice words or expletives. The use of such language is called swearing, cursing or cussing. The use of the F word is prohibited.
- **Minor Insubordination** - Defiance of authority; refusal to obey orders/requests.
- **Minor Classroom Disruption** - Disruption requiring teachers to stop class/address students.
- **Dress Code Violation** - Students must come to school clean and neatly dressed, apparel must meet health and safety codes, be in good repair, and not interfere with the educational process. Shoes must be worn at all times. Clothing may not display or suggest derogatory, obscene, or hurtful behavior or language, threatening or intimidating caricatures, gang symbols, or messages that promote alcohol, tobacco, or drug use. Further clothing may not be unnecessarily distracting (laser lights, reflectors, etc.) or allow undergarments or excessive skin to show (clothing must not show midriff, torso, or cleavage; shorts should be mid-thigh, and no mesh outer garments and/or strapless or spaghetti strapped tops). It is unacceptable to wear jeans with the waist below the bottom of the tailbone, undergarments as outer garments, sunglasses in classrooms, heavy chained and/or spiked jewelry or clothing. At the elementary school, hats and bandanas are not permitted. Failure to meet the code will result in the student being asked to change to appropriate clothes (provided by student or school), failure by the student to change will result in the student being sent home and his/her absence recorded as unexcused.
- **Electronics Abuse** - See Electronics Policy
- **Tardies/Absences** - See Attendance Policy
- **Minor Bus Misconduct** - See Transportation of Students Policy
- **No Hall Pass** - Being in the hallway/outside of class without a hall pass.

- **Minor Inappropriate Cafeteria Behavior** - Spilling food and not cleaning it up, not listening to the cafeteria staff, taking food outside, etc.
- **Refusal to Complete Work** - Not completing work assigned by an instructor.
- **Sleeping in Class** - Falling asleep during instruction or during a designated work time. Laying head on desk or laying on the floor falls under sleeping in class.
- **Inappropriate Hallway Behavior** - Horseplay, going into areas without permission, etc.
- **Minor Disrespect/Non-Compliance** - Lacking respect or courtesy. Refusal to follow staff instructions, directions, or requests.
- **Food or Drink in Classroom** - Food or drink (other than water) is not allowed in the classroom, except for special occasions determined by the teacher. Food/drink may cause unnecessary distractions or messes during class.

Disrespect-Isolating/Picking on/making fun of another student – Any student that is isolating or picking on another student by disrespecting them or making unwanted comments and/or making others feel isolated or lesser than will be reminded by their classroom teacher to apologize and stop the behavior.

Level 2 - Serious Offenses (2 Points): Optional Office Referral

- **Major Bus Misconduct** - See Transportation of Students Policy
- **Lighters/Matches** - Possession or use of lighters or matches on school grounds.
- **Abusive Language Toward Students** - Students cursing at other students.
- **PDA** - Public Displays of Affection.
- **Major Disrespect/Non-Compliance** - Lacking respect or courtesy. Refusal to follow staff instructions, directions, or requests.
- **Threats/Intimidation** - Showing an intention to cause bodily or emotional harm.
- **Skippping Class/Truancy** - Missing class without staff permission.
- **Failure to Report to Detention** - Missing an assigned detention without permission.
- **Horseplay** - Rough behavior that could endanger fellow students during school hours.
- **Minor Inappropriate Physical Contact** - Making physical contact with students or staff that is inappropriate in nature (slapping someone on the butt).
- **Major Inappropriate Cafeteria Behavior** - Food fights, disrespect toward cafeteria staff, etc.
- **Encouraging a Fight** - Instigating and/or persuading others to fight.
- **Driving Violation** - See Student Vehicle Use and Parking Policy
- **Minor Theft (< \$20.00)** - Stealing something that is less than \$20 in value.

- **Minor Vandalism (< \$20.00)** - Vandalism that results in damage that costs less than \$20 to repair.

Repeated Disrespect-Isolating/Picking on/making fun of another student – Any student that is isolating or picking on another student by disrespecting them or making unwanted comments and/or making others feel isolated or lesser than will be reminded by their classroom teacher to apologize and stop the behavior.

Level 3 - More Serious Offenses (5 Points): Optional Office Referral

- **Bullying** - Using superior strength or influence to intimidate someone or force them to do what one wants. Making others feel isolated or less than others. Repeated teasing, picking on, making fun of, or disrespect towards another.
- **General Harassment/Discrimination** - Aggressive pressure or intimidation, the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different types of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, or sex.
- **Hazing** - The imposition of strenuous, often humiliating tasks as part of an initiation.
- **Leaving School Grounds** - Leaving school grounds without permission.
- **Indecent Exposure** - The crime of intentionally showing one's sexual organs in public. Depending on what is shown, the individual punishment may be much more severe.
- **Cheating** - The act of using or copying other students' work, and/or using resources that are not allowed.
- **False Fire Alarm** - Pulling the fire alarm when there is no emergency.
- **Obscene Drawings/Messages** - Drawing inappropriate pictures or messages that can be seen by other students or staff members.
- **Major Classroom Disruption** - Disruption that results in the teacher having to stop class and address the interruption multiple times and/or requiring the teacher to send the student out of the classroom.
- **Major Electronic Abuse** - See Electronics Policy

Level 4 - Very Serious Offenses (15 Points):

Mandatory Office Referral

- **Abusive Language Toward Staff Member** - Inappropriate, intimidating, or abusive language directed toward a staff member.
- **Major Theft (> \$20.00)** - Stealing something that is more than \$20 in value.
- **Major Vandalism (> \$20.00)** - Vandalism that results in damage that costs more than \$20 to repair.

- **Fighting (No Major Injury)** - Physical altercation between students resulting in no major injuries.
- **Plagiarism** - The practice of taking someone else's work/ideas and passing them off as one's own.
- **Trespassing** - Entering the school/school grounds without permission.

Level 5 - Most Serious Offenses (25 Points):

Mandatory Office Referral

- **Arson/Fire** - Starting or playing with fire on school grounds.
- **Physical Assault (Student to Student)** - The act of physically contacting/attacking another student in an aggressive or threatening manner.
- **Physical Assault (Student to Staff)** - The act of physically contacting/attacking a staff member in an aggressive or threatening manner.
- **Fighting (Major Injury)** - Physical altercation between students resulting in major injuries.
- **Breaking and Entering** - The act of forcibly entering the school/school grounds without permission.
- **Sexual Harassment** - Harassment of a sexual nature.
- **Possession/Threat of Weapons** - Possessing or threatening to use a weapon.
- **Use/Possession of Tobacco, Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Vaping** - Possessing or using tobacco, alcohol, vape pens, e-cigarettes, or illegal drugs or paraphernalia

BEHAVIOR CATEGORIES (Middle School/High School) Examples of offenses/interventions include, but are not limited to:	
Level 1 – Minor Offenses (1 Point)	Minor Offenses – Possible Actions/Interventions
Inappropriate Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Verbal Warning ● Conference with Student and Principal/Counselor ● Conference with Student and Teacher/Staff Member ● Conference with Student/Parent and/or Teacher/Staff Member and Administration ● Written Statement/ from Student ● Behavior Contract ● Attendance Contract ● Conflict Management Counseling ● Small Group Counseling ● School or Community Service ● Parent Attend Class with Student
Minor Insubordination	
Minor Classroom Disruption	
Electronics Abuse	
Tardies/Absences	
Minor Bus Misconduct	
No Hall Pass	
Minor Inappropriate Cafeteria Behavior	
Refusal to do Work	
Sleeping in Class	
Inappropriate Hallway Behavior	
Minor Disrespect/Non-compliance	
Food/Drink Violation	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Notification • Confiscation of Unauthorized Item • Loss of Privileges • Detention • Restitution
Level 2 – Serious Offenses (2 Points)	Serious Offenses – Possible Actions/Interventions
Repeated Level 1 Offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Previous Actions/Interventions are Possible • School or Community Service Detail • Friday School • Suspension • Activity Suspension • Schedule Modification • Referral to Outside Counseling/Agency
Major Bus Misconduct	
Lighters/Matches	
Abusive Language towards Students	
PDA (Public Display of Affection)	
Major Disrespect/Non-Compliance	
Threatening/Intimidation	
Skippping Class/Truancy	
Failure to Report to Detention	
Horseplay	
Minor Inappropriate Physical Contact	
Major Inappropriate Cafeteria Behavior	
Encouraging a Fight	
Driving Violation	
Minor Theft (< \$20.00)	
Minor Vandalism (< \$20.00)	
Level 3 – More Serious Offenses (5 Points)	More Serious Offenses – Possible Actions/Interventions
Repeated Level 1 o 2 Offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Previous Possible Actions/Interventions are Possible • Emergency Removal due to Immediate Danger or Serious Disruption • Out of School Suspension (up to 10 days) • Recommendation for Expulsion •
Bullying	
General Harassment/Discrimination	
Hazing	
Leaving School Grounds	
Indecent Exposure	
Cheating	
False Fire Alarm	
Obscene Drawings/Messages	
Major Classroom Disruption	
Major Electronic Abuse	
Level 4 – Very Serious Offenses (15 Points)	Very Serious Offenses – Possible Actions/Interventions
Repeated Level 1, 2, or 3 Offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Previous Actions/Interventions are Possible • Extended Out of School Suspension • Recommendation for Expulsion • Contact Law Enforcement
Abusive Language Toward Staff Member	
Major Theft > \$20.00	
Fighting – No Major Injury	
Plagiarism	
Trespassing	

Level 5 – Most Serious Offenses (25 Points)	Most Serious Offenses – Possible Actions/Interventions
Repeated Level 1, 2, 3, or 4 Offenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Previous Actions/Interventions are Possible • Extended Out of School Suspension, Pending Expulsion • Mandatory Expulsion • Contact Law Enforcement
Arson/Fire	
Physical Assault (Student to Student)	
Physical Assault (Student to Staff)	
Fighting – Major Injury	
Breaking and Entering	
Sexual Harassment	
Possession/Threat of Weapons	
Use/Possession of Tobacco, Alcohol, Illegal Drugs	

Student Due Process Rights/Appeal Procedure

Any student whose behavior is alleged to be in violation of the School Code of Conduct may be referred to the office for possible disciplinary action. Student consequences will always follow a due process procedure. The building administrator will inform the student of the charges and explain that disciplinary action may result. The student will then have an opportunity to state his/her view of what took place. If the student admits to a violation of a school rule, the principal/designee may make a decision in the case. If the student does not admit violating a school rule or does not feel that a rule has been violated, the administrator will conduct an investigation of the incident and then make a decision in the case. Students may appeal any decision made by the assistant principal to the principal. All appeals must be in writing and delivered to the Superintendent within 24 hours after receipt of the initial decision. Students may appeal any decision made by the Principal to the St. Stephens Indian School Board.

Expulsion from School - Hearing and Procedures:

A student at St. Stephens Indian School may be recommended for expulsion from school for conduct that disrupts the educational process or endangers the health and/or safety of the student, his/her classmates, or school personnel. Examples of conduct that may result in recommendation for expulsion are outlined in the school's behavior intervention system, above. When a student is alleged to have violated school rules which could result in expulsion or suspension of 10 days or more, a fair and impartial hearing will be held. The principal will recommend to the Superintendent that the student be expelled and request that a hearing be held. The Superintendent along with Teacher Leadership Council will preside at the hearing and determine whether or not the student has committed an act or acts warranting expulsion from the school.

The disciplinary hearing will ensure that the student receives due process, which includes;

1. Written notice of the charges within a reasonable time frame prior to the hearing- Notice of the charges shall include reference to the regulations allegedly violated, notice of access to all

statements of persons relating to the charge, and notice of access to those parts of the student's school record

2. A fair and impartial hearing.

3. The right to produce witnesses on the student's behalf and to confront and examine all witnesses.

4. The right to have a parent/guardian present and to be represented by law or legal counsel at the student's expense.

5. The right to receive a record of the hearing including written findings and facts.

6. The right to administrative reviews and appeals.

7. The right to not be compelled to testify against himself.

8. The right to have allegations of misconduct expunged from the school record in the event that the student is found not in violation of the charges.

The hearing officer (Superintendent) shall conduct the hearing and the Board shall make findings of fact and conclusions as to whether a student is in violation of school policy based upon the evidence presented at the hearing. Then, the Board of Trustees may:

a. Expel the student at the principal's recommendation and/or recommend other consequences that may include probation, extended suspension, and/or other initiative i.e., participation/completion of programs and counseling services to remediate the behavior,

b. Discuss terms, conditions and length of expulsion; also conditions for re-admission when extended suspension or expulsion has been completed,

c. Determine that the student should not be expelled.

Parent Concerns Regarding Discipline

Parents are encouraged to take part in the Parent Open House that occurs in the fall and to sit down and review the expectations and information in this handbook with the administration at St. Stephens Indian School. A parent who has concerns about any disciplinary matter involving a student should initially speak to the building principal/designee and the staff member involved. If no resolution can be reached, the parent may request the principal to involve the Superintendent in the matter.

Law Enforcement Officials and School Administration

It shall be the policy of St. Stephens Indian School that a reasonably cooperative effort is maintained between the school administration and law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement officials may be summoned to conduct an investigation of alleged criminal conduct on the school premises, during a school-sponsored activity, or to maintain the educational environment. The administration acts as the law enforcement unit who can share certain files with the authorities.

Anytime the school suspects a crime has been committed, the school first determines the need for a SCAN report to be immediately initiated, then the school contacts the school's resource officer (SRO), who is an active member of the BIA, and then the school will contact parents/guardians. For example, if a staff member suspects a student is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol they will present it to the administration. If the administration agrees there is enough suspicion, the SRO will be contacted, then the parents/guardians.

Reporting Procedures

Any person who believes they have been the victim of harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying by a student or an employee of the school district, or any third person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute discipline should report the allegations immediately to an appropriate school district official as designated by this policy. The high school principal and/or designee will be the person responsible for receiving verbal or written reports involving high school students who report they have been victims or witnesses of misconduct and for investigating the reports. The principal/designee will present a written report regarding the incident to the EPA (Educational Program Administrator) within 24 hours. If the complaint involves the principal, the complaint shall be filed directly with the EPA. The complainant shall be free from retaliation of any kind. The administration will respect the confidentiality of the complainant and individual against whom the complaint is filed. Both the complainant and the alleged rule violator are encouraged to keep the matter confidential. All complaints, both formal and informal, must be taken seriously and investigated. If the complaint is determined to be valid the principal or designee will take action as appropriate based on the results of the investigation. The results of the investigation will be reported, in writing to the complainant by the administration and the report will document whether or not disciplinary action was taken. A copy of the report will be placed in either the student files of both the complainant and accused or the personnel files of both the complainant and accused. In inconclusive cases the report will remain in files in light of a possible pattern of behavior. If there are no similar incidents within five years, the administration may purge the report from the files.

False Complaints

False or malicious complaints will call for consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who is found to have made a false accusation, report, or complaint.

Corporal Punishment

The St. Stephens Indian School believes that the use of corporal punishment in school is not a desirable means of modifying student behavior nor an appropriate means of discipline. The school recognizes that differences may exist about how corporal punishment is defined and how exceptions are determined. Corporal punishment will be defined as the intentional infliction of physical pain as a means of discipline including paddling, slapping, or prolonged maintenance of physically painful positions when used as discipline, but excluding reasonable physical activities associated with athletic training. The school, however, also recognizes the complexity of school

discipline policies and does not recommend that an employee be prevented from nor sanctioned for using reasonable force when:

- 1. Quelling a disturbance or prohibiting an act threatening physical injury to any person;**
- 2. Obtaining possession of a weapon or other dangerous objects within the control of any child;**
- 3. Acting in self-defense or defending another person;**
- 4. Protecting property;**
- 5. Removing a disruptive student from school premises, from motor vehicles used for school purposes or from activities or events sponsored by the school district;**
- 6. Preventing a child from inflicting harm upon himself;**
- 7. Protecting the safety of any other person or;**
- 8. Maintaining control and order.**

The safety of the child must be the primary concern when investigating allegations of corporal punishment.

*******Return this sheet to the office by August 22, 2025*******

Our signature below reflects that my child and I have read and discussed the information included in this student-parent handbook. I have been given the opportunity to ask for clarification and ask questions regarding the discipline and conduct procedures of the school. I understand I can call the school for more information.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____