



Grand Haven Area Public Schools

# **WHITE PINES INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

## **Student and Parent Handbook**

### **2016 - 2017**

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to another great year at White Pines Intermediate School! This student and parent handbook was developed to answer many commonly asked questions you may have during the course of the year. Our goal is to create a positive, educational atmosphere of learning where rules are enforced firmly, fairly and consistently with all students. Working together is the most important ingredient to student academic and social success.

Please sit down as a family and read through the information in this handbook together.

**On *Page 23*, there is a section which requires both student and parent signatures. Please sign, and return immediately to your child's homeroom teacher.**

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**Main Office 850-6300 \*\*\* 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Student Services 850-6320 \*\*\* 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Attendance Office 850-6350 \*\*\* 8:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.**

**Main Office Fax 850-6310 \*\*\* Student Services Fax 850-6313**

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## **Absences and Attendance**

Michigan state law provides that children between six and sixteen years of age shall attend a public school or private school, during the entire school year. It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian to see that they are in school. (Sec. 340.731, code of 1955 State of Michigan.) Students who are not in regular attendance are considered truant. Truant students are reported to the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD) Truancy Officer, who will work with the family to improve attendance or institute legal proceedings if necessary.

Good attendance is very important to intermediate school students not only as a legal issue, but because it is a critical time for the shaping of positive and appropriate behaviors and routines for school success. The senior high school has strict attendance requirements. Preparing students at the intermediate school level for this policy must become part of the program. Teaming in the intermediate/middle school with unique class schedules and activities also influence the need for students to have good attendance. Attendance will be closely monitored.

It is equally as important for children to be on time when coming to school. Please be sure your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn. This is very important for them and for other children in the class. The first few minutes of every day are crucial to children's learning.

WPIS general guidelines for attendance (absences or tardies) include the following:

- 5 absences or tardies – a letter will be sent home indicating absenteeism and emphasizing the importance of school attendance.
- 8 absences or tardies – a letter may be sent home to request a meeting with parents and school personnel to develop an Educational Plan/Report.
- 12 absences or tardies – unless a healthcare provider's documentation has been provided by parents, a truancy report and Education Plan / Report will be filed with the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD).

## **Attendance Exemptions**

The following absences may be exempt and therefore not be counted towards truancy.

- **Trip Slips** may be picked up in the Attendance Office several days before your trip. Planned, extended absences will be exempted if student's use a trip slip. A parent's signature is required, as are all teachers' signatures; including both Specials teachers. A note or email to the Attendance Office may serve as a parent's signature. Any homework missed will be listed on the trip slip by the teacher. The completed trip slip must be returned to the Attendance Office **BEFORE** the planned absence. At White Pines Intermediate, five (5) absences per semester can be exempted with the use of a TRIP SLIP.
- **Medical Notes** should be brought to the Attendance Office after each doctor's appointment. If your child has a medical appointment (doctor, dentist, orthodontist, family counselor, etc.) and returns to school with a note from the doctor's office, his absence will be exempted.

- **Chronic Illness** (i.e. asthma, diabetes, chronic migraines) are exempt if a note from your family doctor is on file in the Attendance Office. If your child is absent due to that illness, the chronic med note will be used to exempt your student's absence. A new note must be supplied every school year.
- **Funerals** are exempt. A message to the Attendance Office should reference a funeral.
- **Court Appointments** are exempt if court documents are turned into the Attendance Office.

We reserve the right at any point in time to make a referral to the OAISD truancy officer.

If a student arrives to school after the start of the day and before 9:00 A.M., they are considered tardy for the A.M. session. If they arrive after 9:00 A.M., they are considered absent for the A.M. session. If a student leaves before 3:30 P.M., they are considered absent for the P.M. session.

### **GHAPS Student Code of Conduct**

The Grand Haven Area Public Schools' Board of Education policy 8005 Student Code of Conduct - Rights and Responsibilities in the Grand Haven Area Public Schools, pertains to the importance of creating and maintaining an environment in our schools conducive to the learning process. The Code also stresses instilling respect for individuals, their property, and their rights in all of the Grand Haven Area Public Schools while at school related events, on school property, including buses, and also along school routes to and from school.

This Code defines student conduct that is considered prohibitive and includes types of misbehavior that are accepted by parents as to be generally disruptive to the learning process. Of special note are state and federal requirements prohibiting student possession, use, sale or distribution of electronic communication devices and also mandatory expulsion for possession of weapons or for the commission of arson or sexual misconduct on school property.

Further outlined in the Code is the process and procedure used by the schools to enforce the Code. Discipline for conduct considered prohibited under the Code of Conduct includes exclusion of the student from a classroom or activity for a period of time, all the way to mandatory expulsion for at least a year for the most serious offenses.

Student Code of Conduct is available at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org) under the Board of Education tab.

### **Drugs/Alcohol/Weapons**

Any student who intentionally sells, gives, possesses, uses or is under the influence of illicit drugs, narcotics, or alcohol in or on school property, including buses, shall be (1) expelled from school and (2) reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for possible legal action. Parents, students and staff must take the issue of weapons and illegal behavior at school very seriously. If students are caught with a weapon as defined in either state or federal law or commit serious acts such as arson or rape, they will be expelled. Recently both the federal and state governments

enacted laws requiring local school boards to implement policies requiring expulsion of students who bring weapons to school. Student Code of Conduct is available at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org) under the Board of Education tab

### **Harassment/Bullying**

It is the policy of Grand Haven Area Public Schools to clearly prohibit harassment of any type including, but not limited to, ethnic, racial, sexual harassment, and bullying. School board policy delineates definitions, right of confidentiality, reporting procedures, and penalties. Reports of harassment of any kind will be investigated and appropriate measures taken according to the policy and procedures of the school district. Parents suspecting harassment or bullying should contact the building administrator to initiate an investigation. Student Code of conduct is available at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org) under the Board of Education tab.

### **Weapons Policy**

Student safety is of utmost the importance in the Grand Haven Area Public Schools. Therefore, the Board of Education has adopted a policy in line with both state and federal laws requiring zero tolerance of weapons on school property.

The law and school board policy are both very clear regarding zero tolerance for weapons in GHAPS. Parents and students should know federal and state law, as well as GHAPS School Board Policy, calls for the expulsion from school of a student who possesses a weapon on school property.

Michigan law requires the expulsion of any student who possesses "a dangerous weapon" defined as a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles on school property. The penalty for violating the zero tolerance laws and policy is a one-year expulsion for student in 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades (180 days), and up to a 90 day expulsion for a kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade child.

If you have any questions about a circumstance where your child might need or want to bring any item to school that could be considered a weapon, call the school. Know the law and talk with your child about serious consequences of violating the weapons policy. Complete policy available at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org) under the Board of Education tab.

### **Absences for Illness:**

If a student is too ill to attend school, parents should call the attendance office **at 850-6350** to report the absence. You may call prior to 7:45 a.m. and **leave a message including:** the student's name, grade, and why he/she will be absent. If it is not possible to call in, the student may bring a note to the attendance office on the day he/she returns, signed by a parent, that tells when he/she was absent and why. Assignments may be requested for students who are absent two or more days. A **twenty-four (24) hour notice is required to fill requests.** Requested assignments may be picked up in Student Services. Not more than one week's assignments will be given at a time. Teachers will not be asked to make additional assignments until previous assignments are completed and returned to the teacher.

- **Make-Up Assignments**

Absent 1 day; make up work in 2 school days  
Absent 2 days; make up work in 3 school days  
Absent 3 days; make up work in 4 school days  
Absent 4 days; make up work in 5 school days  
Absent 5 or more days; make up work in 2 full weeks

### **Student Services Office**

Student Services, located in the office area, provides many services for students.

Students who become ill during the school day should report to Student Services. The school will make every effort to notify parents of an accident or illness that may need care at home.

### **Medication**

Students who must take medications during school hours are required to store them in Student Services. No medication, not even aspirin, may be kept in the student's possession or locker. Board policy requires all prescription medications be brought into the office ***in the container in which they were issued, showing the name of the drug, dosage, and doctor's name.*** ***A signed medication form must also be on file.*** Students who do not follow this procedure will have the medication confiscated until the school can confirm there is a medical need for its use. **Students are not permitted to give or receive any medications to or from other students.** No medication, not even an aspirin, will be given out unless there is ***a signed medication form on file.*** The school does not provide non-prescription medication for students. Parents may, however, bring aspirin **in the original container, with a signed medication form** to Student Services where it will be held for the child.

### **Parent Messages for Students**

**Messages** that need to be delivered to students during the day should be called into Student Services at 850-6320 **no later than 12:45** to insure that your child will receive the message. Messages received prior to their lunch hour are posted on a ***message board in the lunchroom*** for the students to receive. After 12:45 it is very difficult to deliver last minute messages.

### **Bus Pass**

Students requesting to ride a bus other than their assigned bus are to obtain a Bus Pass in Student Services **before 1:00.** All requests for change must be in writing, signed by a parent/guardian and approved by the principal or student services secretary. Note: Adequate seating must be available to approve the pass. Students who do not have a bus pass from the school office will not be allowed to ride a different bus **OR** get off at a different stop. This is a school district policy to ensure your child's safety and well being, so please cooperate in this very important matter.

### **Deliveries for Students**

Students will be notified if flowers or balloon bouquets are sent to them. Students may pick up these items at the **end of the day in Student Services**. **Note:** Balloons are not allowed on the school busses.

Homework, gym clothes, lunch money, etc. may be dropped off in Student Services. Arrangements will be made to have these items delivered.

### **Lost and Found**

Lost and found centers are located in Student Services and cafeteria. Students should check here to look for and to report missing items immediately. Items in lost and found are kept for approximately 30 days.

It is advisable to label all belongings with the student's name. Do not bring valuable items to school, as we cannot guarantee their safety. Students are responsible for their own possessions. School insurance does not cover lost or stolen items.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

An emergency file is maintained by Student Services to track information about how to locate parents if needed, to whom students may be released, and other important information. **IT IS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP THIS INFORMATION UPDATED WITH CURRENT DATA ABOUT PARENT'S WORK PHONE NUMBERS, NAMES AND ADDRESS CHANGES, CUSTODIAL STATUS WHERE APPROPRIATE, ETC.** In case of an emergency, such as an accidental injury or sudden illness, the school uses this information to locate you or your designee.

### **Students Leaving School During the Day**

Students who will be leaving school during the day must bring a note to the office first thing in the morning. A sign-out sheet in the office is used when children are picked up by parents (or other designated adult) during school hours. You must report to the office before your child will be dismissed from his/her classroom. All outside doors except the front entrance are kept locked during the school day for safety purposes.

### **Permission to Release Students**

We do not release a student to persons not designated on the emergency card without permission. You should also be aware that we cannot prevent a non-custodial parent from picking up a student without an official court decree.

### **Student Phone**

Students may use the phone in Student Services with secretary's permission. This phone should be used only for school related business. After school plans are to be made before students arrive at school.



### **Check out Form (Drops/Transfers)**

Please call or send a written note to Student Services if dropping or transferring from our school indicating location of new school (if known) and last day, and a drop form will be given to the student. A copy will be made for Student Services record and the student gets the original to take with them to their new school.

### **Transportation**

Riding the school bus is a privilege. School buses are operated for your convenience and safety. Rules of conduct have been established to maintain the safety of students and to create a positive environment in which everyone is treated with respect. Following is a brief summary of policies that regulate transportation services in the district:

1. Items taken on the bus must be enclosed in a tote bag or backpack and placed on the student's lap. Bags, containers, or personal items brought on the school bus are subject to inspection by the driver to ensure they do not pose a safety problem during transit. Drivers have the right to confiscate items that are dangerous, illegal, or are creating an unsafe environment. Skateboards, roller blades, baseball bats, science projects, fund raising boxes, and balloons are some specific items not allowed on buses. Even though they may be allowed at school, they must be transported by some other means.
2. Bus Registration Form: Should a student become sick or injured while on a school bus, it is very important that we are able to contact the parents or a responsible adult. To assist with this, parents are required to complete a bus registration form. These are sent home at the beginning of the school year or as needed and should be returned promptly.
3. Requesting to ride a bus other than the assigned bus:
  - a) All requests for change must be in writing, signed by parent/guardian, and approved by the principal or school secretary.
  - b) The address must be on any existing bus route.
  - c) Adequate seating must be available to approve the change.
  - d) Elementary, Intermediate and Middle School students who do not have a bus pass from the school office will not be allowed to ride a different bus OR get off at a different stop. High School students must have a bus pass by parent phone call to the Transportation Office (850-5150) or by parent note to the Bus Driver. This note must include a parent phone number for our office to contact. This is a school district policy to ensure your child's safety and well-being.
4. Pre-school siblings are not allowed to go on field trips.
5. Students residing within one (1) mile of their schools are not eligible for transportation. A student may be required to walk up to one (1) mile to school or their bus stop. No more than four (4) stops per mile will be established.
6. A student may have up to two (2) different bus stops, one of which would be home and the other a consistent day care location. The day care location must be within the school attended boundary area.
7. Buses do not travel down private drives or dead-end streets. They do not go down cul-de-sacs or non-through streets unless they are longer than ½ mile and at least one (1) student's driveway is ½ mile or farther from the main road. The cul-de-sac turn around must also be County maintained.

8. Parents are responsible for the safety and conduct of their children while walking to their designated bus stop, waiting at the bus stop, and walking home from their bus stop.
9. Buses do not follow an exact time schedule due to traffic, weather, and road conditions. Students are to be at their assigned stop five minutes prior to the designated pick-up time. Buses do not stop at bus stop locations when no students are present.

### **Transportation Bus Rules**

Students must:

1. Be at assigned bus stop five (5) minutes early.
2. Not litter on the school bus.
3. Stay off the roadway; maintain proper conduct while waiting for or leaving a school bus.
4. Get on and off at the designated stop. Changes must be approved in writing by a school authority.
5. Not talk in a loud voice or shout or create any other disturbing noises.
6. Remain seated. The driver is authorized to assign seats.
7. Not eat or drink on the school bus without permission of the bus driver or teacher or chaperone.
8. Not use profane or vulgar language, or make obscene gestures.
9. Cross in front of the bus, not in back.
10. Keep head and hands inside the bus.
11. Not throw objects on the bus or out of the window of the bus.
12. Obey instructions of and show respect to the driver.
13. Not harass others or otherwise be unruly.
14. Not fight.
15. Not spit or bite.
16. Not damage or vandalize the school bus. Students will be required to pay for repair of damage.
17. Not possess or use flammable or explosive devices on the bus.
18. Not possess or use illegal/dangerous substances/items on the bus.
19. Not possess or use tobacco products on the bus.
20. No bullying.

A complete copy of the rules for student conduct on the bus may be obtained from any school, from the Transportation Department, or posted on the district website at [www.qhaps.org](http://www.qhaps.org). Bus drivers may award points for infractions of the stated rules. The number of points determines the length of a student's suspension from riding the bus. Points are cumulative during the year. Should a student accumulate 20 points during the year, they will lose the privilege of riding the bus for the remainder of the school year. When a misconduct slip is given to a student, they will be given two copies. One copy is for the parent to retain, and one copy must be signed by the parent and returned to the driver on the day bus riding privileges resume. Not damage or vandalize the school bus. Students will be required to pay for repair of damage.

### **Bus Lanes**

Designated areas in front of the schools must be kept free for buses and emergency vehicles. Parents are to drop off and pick up students in other safe areas, such as the school parking lots.

### **Walkers**

Students who walk to and from school must follow proper safety practices. Walk only on sidewalks. Show respect for lawns, gardens, shrubs, and other personal property of the public. **The jurisdiction of the school covers students en route to and from school.**

### **Bikes, Rollerblades, Scooters and Skateboards**

Students must not ride bikes on school sidewalks, athletic fields, tennis courts, lawns, or inside school buildings. Students must assume all responsibility for accidents or theft.

Bicycle racks are provided at school. Racks are located on the north side of the office wing. **Students will not be able to loiter around the bike racks.**

Roller blades, skateboards, and roller shoes are not to be ridden on school property. They are to be picked up and carried into school. Place roller blades and skateboards in your locker.

The school district does not permit skateboards or roller blades to be taken on buses.

### **Fire, Tornado, and Safety Drill Procedures**

To help insure the safety of all students in the school we conduct regular practice drills in case of fire, severe weather, or other emergencies. These drills are very important and students must take them very seriously. Teachers will instruct their students in the procedures.

### **Lunch Program**

The Food Service Department is committed to provide a healthy and nutritious lunch to students. All students are eligible to participate in the lunch program. Menus are now published through Nutrislice, a new interactive website or download the free smartphone app. (<http://ghaps.nutrislice.com/>) **Snow Days** – when school is cancelled due to inclement weather, the meal that was scheduled to be served on the snow day will be served on return day of school. Check the Food Service website for the latest information.

### **Payments**

Meals may be paid for by the month, week or day. No more than two lunches may be charged for the year. During the last two weeks of school, charging of lunches will not be permitted. Payments can be made by check, cash, money order or online. Checks or Money Orders should be made out to GHAPS and can only be deposited for the entire amount; no change will be given to students. There is a \$15.00 service fee on all returned checks. Credit and debit card payments are accepted at [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com). There is a \$2.00 charge for this service.

### **Breakfast Program**

The Food Service Department is pleased to provide a breakfast program that is open to all students in participating schools. Breakfast is served from 8:15 – 8:45.

### **Computerized POS System**

GHAPS has a district wide computerized Point of Sale system that provides more accuracy in accounting for student's balances and lunch choices. The Meal Magic System, enables parents to view or print out their child's account history and set up low balance reminders. Visit [www.sendmoneytoschool.com](http://www.sendmoneytoschool.com) to get started.

### **Negative Balances**

A student whose account is in the negative will be reminded in the lunch line. We will allow students to charge up to 2 meals. Prompt pre-payment of meals is encouraged.

### **Positive Balances**

Positive Food Service account balances at the end of the school year will automatically be applied to your child's meals for the next school year.

### **Meal Benefits**

Through the National School Lunch Program, your child may be eligible for free or reduced meals at school. You may apply at any time during the school year. This benefit is based solely on household income. Applications are available from the Food Service Department, the school office, or on the GHAPS website. (**[www.ghaps.org/foodservice](http://www.ghaps.org/foodservice)**) You may also apply online at [www.lunchapp.com](http://www.lunchapp.com).

### **Sack Lunches**

Sack lunches are available for purchase from the Food Service Department for your child's field trips. Meal benefit students may receive sack lunches at their current benefit rate. All lunches must be ordered 48 hours in advance and can be deducted from your child's pre-paid balance or paid on that date. Request forms are available through the school office, your child's teacher or on the GHAPS website. (**[www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org)**)

### **Student I.D. Card:**

All students will receive a multi-use ID card. This card is used as a lunch debit card and a library card. Every student must have his/her identification card in his/her possession while at school or attending school functions. On occasion you may be asked to show your ID to a staff member or security personnel. Failure to do so constitutes in and of itself a violation of the discipline code and will result in disciplinary action. Replacement cards may be purchased for \$5.00 in case a card is lost or damaged.

### **Food Allergies**

If your child has a food allergy, please notify your school and the Food Service Department. We must have a note from your child's doctor each year to verify the allergy. Information is available to be reviewed in our office containing the ingredients we use in our menu items. Please contact the Food Service Department at 850-6080 if you would like to set up an appointment to review this

### **Other**

Students may only consume food and beverages in the cafeteria or under the supervision of a teacher. Students may have water in the classroom at the teacher's discretion (**flavored water is not allowed**). Students are not to be drinking from beverage containers in the hallway or sipping from containers in backpacks and at lockers. They may take sealed, closed containers to the lunchroom or designated eating areas. A staff member will take containers with unsealed caps.

### **Immunization Requirements**

Students who are not adequately immunized and/or do not have a waiver form approved by the Ottawa County health Department **WILL** be excluded from classes.

All immunization requirement information is available from the Ottawa County Health Department at [www.ottawahealth.org](http://www.ottawahealth.org) and complete immunization information from the Center for Disease Control is available at:

<http://www.miottawa.org/HealthComm/Health/Imms.htm#immunize>

### **Parent Involvement/Volunteer/Visitors**

Grand Haven Area Public Schools welcomes and encourages parental involvement in a variety of educational experiences.

The safety of our students is the number one priority. To help insure that safety, the GHAPS conducts a records check on all individuals volunteering in our schools. If you intend to volunteer in our school or plan to volunteer in the future, you must complete the Volunteer Assessment Form and return it to the school office immediately. This includes people working in any capacity in the school - in the classroom, office, field trips, chaperoning parties, etc.

Technology is available to the school district, through the Michigan State Police, to do background checks on individuals. To help insure there are no concerns with individuals who come in contact with students in our school, a criminal background check will be done on any person volunteering. People volunteering

### **Volunteers/Visitors, con't**

in school will complete the Volunteer Assessment Form, including name, address and birth date. The form is available at:

<http://www.ghaps.org/content/elementary>-forms or in the school office. This information will be submitted to the Michigan State Police ICHAT (Internet Criminal History Access Tool) program for review. Results will be completely confidential. If you currently volunteer in our school or if you think you might volunteer in the future, please complete a form and return it to the office. This includes people who volunteer in any aspect of school life: in the classroom, the office, go on field trips, chaperon parties, etc.

**Visitors/Student Visitors:** All parents and visitors are asked to sign in at the main office and wear a visitor's pass prior to visiting the rest of the building. **Students visiting** are to obtain authorization from the main office the day before their visit. Permission slips will be given to the guest on the day of arrival by the administration. **Visitors are not permitted during the last two weeks of school.** Students from districts immediately adjacent to the Grand Haven district will not be given visitor passes unless the visit is approved by the neighboring school district.

### **PTO**

Parents are encouraged to get involved with the building PTO. The PTO sponsors many activities during the year to support the education of the children and provides many classroom resources.

### **Photos and Videos**

On occasion, students will have photos or video taken while they are at school. These images are often used in promotional materials for the school district. The photos might be used in Spotlight, on the district website, in brochures or publications, or on GHTV. If you do not wish to have your child photographed, you must notify the school office.

### **NORA/Recreation**

Northwest Ottawa Recreation Authority is a cooperative effort sponsored by the City of Grand Haven, Grand Haven Township, Grand Haven Area Public Schools, City of Ferrysburg, and Robinson Township to provide quality recreation and leisure activities for our community. The program is administered by the Grand Haven Area Public Schools. Program schedules are published regularly in a brochure that is available in the office, in Spotlight, on GHTV, or on the district website. Programs will often be highlighted in flyers sent home with students. For more information on programs available, call 616.850.5125.

### **Safe Zone**

In an effort to provide a more comfortable place for students to bring discriminatory comments and racial slur concerns to a trained staff member, our buildings now have "Safe Zone" contacts to assist in this effort. The Safe Zone contact, who has had specialized training, offers a very unique set of skills and awareness that may help students feel more comfortable sharing these types of concerns. Please contact your building principal for the name of the Safe Zone contact person in your building. Parents and staff should encourage students to utilize this new building resource.

### **School Hours**

8:45 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

Parents should not drop their children off at school until supervision is available at 8:15 a.m. As a general rule, the closer students arrive to the 8:45 a.m. starting time, the better. Open door is available at White Pines. See information below regarding the Open Door Program.

### **School-Year Open Door**

Open Door is a licensed childcare program designed to meet the needs of all children ages 2½ through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Hours are from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. To enroll in Open Door, phone 850-6825.

### **Summer Open Door**

Summer Open Door is a childcare program open to children who are 2½ through 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. The Summer Open Door program site is at Central High School. Quality childcare is provided from 6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Summer Open Door program is designed to be a fun learning experience.

### **Snow Days/Emergency Closings**

When the possibility of school cancellation exists, parents are asked to check the district website at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org), listen to Grand Haven radio station WGHN 92.1, watch major television channels or call the school closing line (850-5100) or register to receive alerts via text and email through **Nixel** at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org). Information will be available on these sources as early as possible.

On rare occasions school must be dismissed early due to poor weather conditions. If you “think” school might be dismissed before normal dismissal time because of weather, please tune in to WGHN, call the school closing line (616.850.5100), or check the district website at [www.ghaps.org](http://www.ghaps.org). Please talk with your child regarding what your plan is if an early school closing should occur. If you are not at home please make arrangements for your child go to a neighbor’s or friend’s home.

## **Student Conduct**

Rules and expectations pertaining to student conduct on the playground, in the classroom, lunchroom, and other areas of the school are necessary to maintain a harmonious school environment that promotes the proper values, attitudes, and practices necessary for a good educational climate. These rules are based on, and part of, a general philosophy of mutual respect between school personnel and students, keeping in mind the students' rights and safety, and the school's responsibilities.

With this in mind, the following three general statements, along with common sense, provide the basis for all of our school rules:

- Students should not violate the rights of others;
- Students should not engage in activities that are dangerous to themselves or others;
- Students should respect the property of the school and of all individuals who comprise the school community.

These three general statements give rise to the following, more specific rules, which everyone is expected to follow:

1. Students are to obey the teachers and other school district personnel. They are there for each student's well being and should be treated with courtesy and respect.
2. Leaving the school grounds without permission is strictly forbidden.
3. Fighting, hitting, pushing, tripping, teasing and name-calling, pulling down another student's pants are not permitted.
4. Harassment of any type including ethnic, racial, sexual harassment and bullying, is clearly prohibited.
5. The use of profanity and obscene language is prohibited.
6. Throwing things such as stones, sticks, sand, snowballs, pine cones etc. is not allowed.
7. Tackle football, King of the Mountain, chicken fighting, and other similar games are not permitted
8. All playground equipment to be used properly and safely and in the appropriate areas.
9. Weapons – State and Federal law mandates serious consequences for students who bring weapons to school - even for elementary pupils. Note the section under Weapons for an explanation of the law.
10. Theft—Taking or possessing school property, cafeteria property or personal property of others without permission is not permitted.

Incidents of student behavior requiring discipline, whether in school, on the playground, or on the bus, will be treated similarly. Previous offenses may be considered in determining consequences.



## **Suspension From School**

If a student is suspended from school, he/she will be afforded minimal due process protections, including oral or written notice of the accusation(s), what disciplinary measures are being proposed, and an opportunity to respond. If feasible, the notice and hearing will precede the student's removal from school. If the student's presence poses a danger to persons or property or threatens to disrupt the academic process, prior notice and hearing may not be feasible. In this case, a hearing will follow the student's removal from school as soon as possible.

## **Dress Code**

The school laws of the State of Michigan require that students, in conjunction with their parents, dress and groom themselves in a manner that does not detract from the educational process. The final decision on the appropriateness of a student's attire will rest with the principal or designee. If you have questions about apparel, please ask. Students are expected to use good judgment.

1. Bare midriffs are not acceptable. (If you can't tuck it in, don't wear it).
2. Too much throat is not acceptable. (If you hold your neck with your right hand, placing the first finger and thumb over your collar bones, the border of the garment you are wearing has to be hidden by the bottom of your hand).
3. Tank tops must have straps that are a minimum of 4 fingers wide. The opening for the arms must fit snugly against the body.
4. Skorts and shorts will need to follow the fingertip rule. Shorts and skorts that are higher than the ends of your fingers when arms are held at your sides are not acceptable.
5. Skirts higher than 3 inches from the middle of the knees are not acceptable.
6. Shredded, torn, ripped, or tattered clothes; pants with holes or rips above the knee are not acceptable.
7. Sagging pants are not acceptable.
8. Clothing or jewelry that promote tobacco, alcohol, are drug-related, or have any kind of gang symbolism are not acceptable.
9. Clothing that displays sexually inappropriate, offensive, or vulgar content are not acceptable.
10. Chains, dog collars, rings, necklaces, balls & chains, or bracelets which could potentially hurt someone or are excessive are not acceptable.
11. Footwear must be worn at all times! (No Wheelies or Heelies)
12. Hats or bandannas should not be worn without permission from principal or designee.
13. Non-prescriptive sunglasses should not be worn without permission from the principal or designee.
14. Pajamas and slippers should not be worn without permission from the principal or designee.
15. Jackets or coats indoors should not be worn without permission from principal or designee.

Students whose dress is not acceptable will be given the opportunity to change clothes rather than be sent home from school. The appropriateness of a student's attire will be decided on the basis of health and safety, and whether it is disruptive to class routine. The final decision will rest with school authorities. In the event attire is deemed not acceptable, the principal or designee will determine what measures need to be taken.

### **Technology Code of Ethics**

With support from our community, the Grand Haven Area Public Schools are pleased to offer access to state-of-the-art technology. The available hardware, software, network, and Internet access provide students and employees excellent opportunities for learning and working. Access to the Internet enables users to explore thousands of libraries, databases, and bulletin boards throughout the world.

Families should understand that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While our intent is to make Internet access available to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. We believe that the benefits to students from access to the Internet, in the form of information resources and opportunities for collaboration, exceed any disadvantages. But ultimately, parents and guardians of minors have the right and responsibility for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources. Therefore, the Grand Haven Area Public Schools support and respect each family's right to decide whether or not to allow their child access to the Internet.

The Technology Code of Ethics clearly defines appropriate student behavior for use with technology at GHAPS. Additional rules and regulations may be posted in district classrooms. Students violating any of these expectations may face loss of access, restitution and/or other disciplinary or legal action according to the parameters established by the individual building or district.

The use of technology at Grand Haven Area Public Schools is a privilege extended to students to enhance learning and exchange information. Users have the opportunity to utilize district technology and access the Internet for learning. Therefore, it is the expectation that all users will adhere to the following guidelines:

- Act responsibly during use of hardware, software, printers, labs, and networks in the district.
- Maintain the privacy of passwords and network security.
- Be responsible for personal network storage.
- Understand any information stored on the district network is the property of the school district.
- Comply with all copyright laws while using district technology.
- Refrain from downloading or installing programs, changing software or hardware configurations, or using district technology for any unauthorized purpose.

- Abstain from using chat programs, telnet, and other forms of personal communications except email.
- Follow specific rules and regulations posted in individual district buildings or classrooms.

Individuals using technology will adhere to all of the rules, regulations, and standards of Grand Haven Area Public Schools. Users violating any of these expectations will face disciplinary action according to the parameters established by the district.

## **Cheating Policy**

### ***What is Cheating?***

#### **On Assignments.....**

Giving someone your paper to copy. Copying from someone else's paper. Copying answers from an answer sheet. Correcting your own paper when asked to exchange. Putting your name on someone else's work (or project) and turning it in as your own. Dishonest reporting of grade.

#### **On Tests and Quizzes.....**

Copying from someone else's paper. Obtaining or giving answers prior to the test or quiz. Using a "cheat sheet" when not permitted. Allowing others to see your answers during the test or quiz. Any communication of any kind for any reason.

#### **Consequences for all kinds of cheating.....**

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense** – Credit to be granted at teacher discretion; student to write a letter home to parents. Documented as first offense.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** – Zero credit; letter home; parents called; discipline referral.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – Zero credit; letter home; discipline referral, student/parent/teacher meeting.

# **White Pines Intermediate School**

## **e-Reader Acceptable Use Policy**

### **Introduction**

White Pines Intermediate School, in striving to maintain technological relevance in education, is providing the opportunity for students to use privately owned e-reader devices in school. E-readers are those devices intended to be used to read books, magazines, periodicals, and other electronic media. Devices intended to be used to play games, watch videos, or navigate the Internet are not allowed. Use of the device must adhere to the Technology Acceptable Use Policy. These policies apply when students are at school or attending a school-sponsored or related activity off-campus.

### **e-Reader Acceptable Use Policy**

1. A student who brings their privately owned computer to school is personally responsible for the equipment. The district assumes no responsibility for the loss of, theft of or damage to any personal device.
2. No privately owned student devices may be attached to the school's network or Internet services.
3. All e-Readers must have cellular and network capabilities disabled (turned off) while the device is at school.
4. All material on the e-Reader must comply with the spirit and policies of White Pines Intermediate School – including all Sustained Silent Reading classroom policies.
5. e-Readers are to be used at appropriate times in accordance with teacher instructions. The e-Reader must not be a distraction for the students or those around him/her, nor be a source of any classroom disruption.
6. Students may use the device before school, at lunch, and after school in adult supervised areas only, such as the media center or classrooms with a teacher present. (not the cafeteria)
7. The school may examine a student's personal device and search its contents if there is a reason to believe that school policies, regulations, or guidelines for use of the device have been violated.
8. Inappropriate use or violation of Acceptable Use Policy on personal equipment may also result in disciplinary action in coordination with policies.

### **Consequences**

When a student misuses a device, the school may do the following:

1<sup>st</sup> offense: Take device and contact parents. Student can pick device up from the principal's office at the end of the school day

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Take device; assign detention; only parent can pick up device from school. The student will lose the privilege of having the device at school.

There may be other consequences depending on the severity of the incident.

### **Usage Examples**

\_ Examples of appropriate use: reading ebooks, looking up words, highlighting text

\_ Examples of inappropriate use: accessing Facebook or YouTube, playing games, listening to music, watching videos, sending messages, pictures not provided by the ebook publisher.

## **Cell Phone and Electronic Devices**

Cell phones and electronic devices may be used in the morning until the start of school. Once school begins these devices are to be turned off and stored in a locker. They are to remain in a locker and turned off until the end of the school day. This includes any school-sponsored event where there is reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness or where the use of these devices would cause a disruption.

### **School Response to Misuse of Cell Phone or Electronic Device**

Adult will confiscate phone or device and give it to a principal at earliest convenience.

1. First offense – phone or device kept for the day and student signs “Cell Phone/Electronic Device understanding” sheet.
2. Second offense - phone or device kept for the week, student calls parent, and student signs “Cell Phone/Electronic Device understanding” sheet.
3. Third offense – phone or device kept for one month and student calls parent



# Grand Haven Area Public Schools

## **SIGNATURE SECTION**

### **STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT**

Please read, sign and return this form to your homeroom teacher by:

**Friday, September 23, 2016.**

**We have read the Student-Parent Handbook together. We understand the rules and policies that are explained in the handbook. We agree to support and follow the rules and policies described in this handbook.**

Student, please **PRINT** name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_