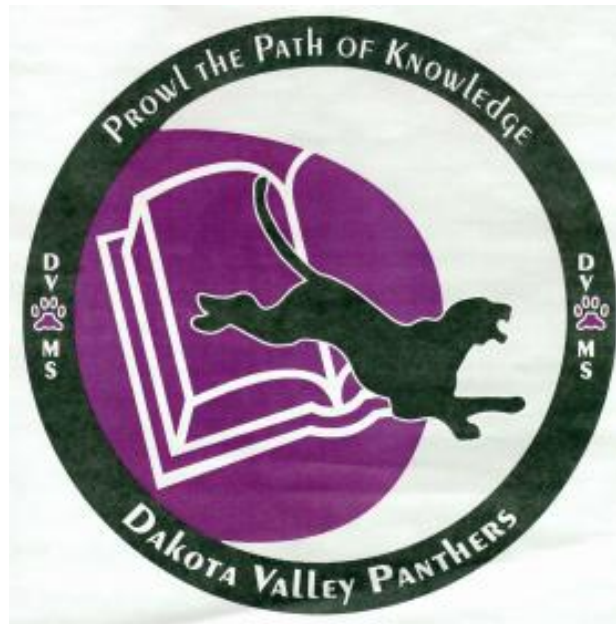


# DAKOTA VALLEY UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

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2018-2019



## **MOTTO**

*Prowl The Path of Knowledge*

## **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of Dakota Valley Schools is to ensure all students receive an enriched educational experience in a safe environment.*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT**

*The vision of Dakota Valley Middle School is to prepare responsible, respectful, trusting, and caring students with the knowledge base to succeed.*

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## BELIEFS

- Everyone is capable of learning
- Everyone is unique
- Everyone needs to be successful
- Everyone needs a feeling of self-worth
- Everyone deserves to feel safe
- Everyone deserves to be treated fairly
- Every action has a consequence
- A positive environment enhances learning
- Learning is a lifelong process

## WE EXPECT FROM OUR STUDENTS

- Clean and Neat Appearance
- Follow School and Classroom Rules
- Respect for Others
- Responsible Workers
- Cooperation with Faculty and Staff Members
- Punctual, Regular Attendance
- Orderly Conduct
- Preparation for Class
- Restraint from Profanity

## ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

### Time Schedule:

#### Bells

1st Bell - 8:18 AM.  
Tardy Bell - 8: 25 AM.  
Dismissal - 3: 20 PM.

#### Office Hours

7:45 AM. to 4:00 PM.

Good attendance is very important for the continued academic growth of a student. Students who establish a good attendance record will be establishing a pattern that will be of use to them in high school and later in life. The following guidelines are to help students establish a good attendance record:

- 1.) Any student who will be absent for all or a portion of a day should have a parent or guardian phone the middle school office (422-3830) by 9:00 AM. or as soon as the impending absence is known. If no note or call has been received, the absence will be considered unexcused and further disciplinary action will result. If the school has not received a call by 9:00 AM, the school will make every effort to confirm this absence with parents at home or work.
- 2.) When a student knows in advance of an absence for such things as a doctor or dental appointments, weddings, funerals, etc., it is asked that the school be notified in sufficient time so the student can have his/her work made up prior to the absence. Work must be made up within a reasonable amount of time. Our policy is two days make up for each day absent. If work is not made up in the allotted time, the teacher may give zeros for the work not completed. Lengthy vacations during the school term are discouraged as they cause undue hardship on students and staff. Parents are encouraged to consult the district calendar for scheduled vacation dates. There is no substitute for regular attendance and many classroom experiences cannot successfully be replicated and/or made up by the student who misses.

- 3.) Absences will be excused for the following reasons: (a) illness, (b) professional appointment, (c) bereavement, (d) religious observance, (e) court summons, (f) pre-arranged family activity, and (g) short-term suspension.
- 4.) Any absence from school for reasons other than those listed above will be designated as an unexcused absence.
- 5.) The parent or guardian will be notified by letter when a student has accumulated seven (7) absences during the semester.
- 6.) Students wishing to earn academic credit for the year may not exceed a total combination of twenty (20) excused or unexcused absences for the year. Any additional absences may result in retention, unless unusual circumstances exist, as determined by the principal.
- 7.) Parents, whose child has missed nine (9) days per semester due to illness, may be requested to provide a doctor's statement verifying the child's health.
- 8.) Truancy is an absence without knowledge or consent of the parents, or without the sanction of the school. Any student who willfully stays away from school without permission will be assigned to detention or in-school suspension.
- 9.) Any time a child is picked up before regular dismissal parents must stop in and notify the office. The child will be brought to the office to be dismissed. Parents should not go to the classroom to pick up the child.

### **ILLNESS POLICY**

If your child is running a fever of 100 degrees or higher or has vomited, they should not attend school until they are fever free without the assistance of medicine or have not vomited for 24 hours. If they were taken to the doctor and are taking antibiotics, they should not return to school until 24 hours after the first dose.

If your child's illness requires their absence from school for more than 3 days, they will need to be seen by our school nurse or a doctor's note should be brought in to the school office.

Even if your child was sent home from school, you must still call your child in absent each day they will be out of school.

### **TARDY POLICY**

Students are expected to be seated in class when the bell sounds. After a student has received three (3) tardies in one class, in one semester, he/she will serve a detention.

## **DRESS CODE**

- 1.) Any style of dress, article of clothing, or hairstyle, which interferes with or disrupts the maintenance of a learning atmosphere, is unacceptable. Alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, profanity, or obscene pictures are not allowed.
- 2.) Students must wear clean clothing and be clean of person.
- 3.) Students must wear reasonable footwear, appropriate to the activity or season.
- 4.) Any article of clothing that is a hazard to safety is unsuitable attire.
- 5.) Hats or caps are unsuitable classroom attire during the normal operation of the school day.
- 6.) Hairstyles must be in keeping with the ideals of cleanliness, neatness, and good grooming.
- 7.) Any article of clothing which exposes a bare midriff is unsuitable classroom attire.
- 8.) Students must have proper clothing for each season, (i.e., coats, gloves, hats, etc.)
- 9.) Shorts, skirts, dresses must be no shorter than the fingertips when hands are extended at the side.

## **YOUTH GANG APPAREL AND BEHAVIORS**

For the safety and welfare of students, and the continued maintenance of a positive and secure learning environment, the following rules relative to youth gang apparel, possessions and behaviors apply to all students on school grounds or at school activities.

Dress, identified as gang-related apparel by Dakota Valley Public Schools, is not allowed. Any item worn or carried to identify a person as a gang member is not allowed.

Writing gang graffiti, possessing items containing gang graffiti, or the display of gang hand signs can be an indication of possible gang involvement and are not acceptable in the school setting.

## **BEHAVIOR**

Maintenance of a positive learning environment depends upon the responsible behavior of all members of the school community. Any behavior which hinders a student from achieving, a teacher from teaching, or any staff member from successfully fulfilling the school's mission, may result in the following disciplinary actions.

## **DENIAL OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES OR PRIVILEGES**

Denial of extracurricular activities or privileges shall be the declaration of ineligibility to participate in such extracurricular activities or privileges for a period of time to be specified by the principal or his/her designee. Any student with excessive detentions, suspensions, absences, and/or failing grades can be excluded from any or all activities.

### **DETENTION**

Detention is time spent after school. Detention time is assigned as disciplinary action for the improper behavior displayed by a student. The following guidelines have been established for students serving detention:

- 1.) The length of detention will be forty (40) minutes or as determined by the principal or classroom teacher.
- 2.) Students are expected to complete a report followed by schoolwork or other assigned tasks as given by the principal or teacher.
- 3.) Detention period takes precedence over all extracurricular activities, after-school jobs, or requests from the teachers or parents.
- 4.) Riding the bus will not be an excuse to miss detention. Students may contact their parents to make arrangements for a ride home from detention.
- 5.) Detention will be held on Monday through Friday. If a student receives a detention, he/she will serve the detention that day or the next detention day.
- 6.) Students with a habit of not completing assignments may be required to spend time after school so teachers can assist them with their studies.
- 7.) Students who earn eight (8) detentions will appear before the Discipline Committee with parent(s)/guardian(s) and receive a minimum of a Level II suspension, based on the current year's behavior record.
- 8.) Students who earn twelve (12) detentions will serve a minimum of a Level III suspension, and parents will be required to meet with the principal. Students with a habit of not completing assignments may be required to spend time after school so teachers can assist them with their studies.

**Students may receive detention for the following reasons:** (Not an all-inclusive list!)

- 1.) Insubordinate to staff
- 2.) Failure to follow class or school guidelines and rules
- 3.) Fighting and improper language
- 4.) Excessive tardiness

### **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION**

In-School Suspension is the temporary isolation of a student from classes for the day while under proper supervision. In-school suspension may be imposed by the principal for violation of school rules or policy where the infraction does not necessarily warrant removal from school by suspension.

## STUDENT RIGHTS-DUE PROCESS

Each student who is involved in some form of disciplinary action of any kind is entitled to due process which would include the following items:

- 1.) The student is entitled to know what he/she has done wrong or if any rules have been violated.
- 2.) The student is entitled to present his/her version of the circumstances involved.
- 3.) The student is entitled to know the disposition of the case.
- 4.) The right of appeal to the superintendent and subsequently the Dakota Valley Board of Education is available with the understanding that these groups may sustain or change any or all of a decision reached prior to that appeal.

## DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The disciplinary policy applies to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at any school-sponsored activity, or whose conduct at any time or place interferes with or obstructs the goals or operations of the school or welfare of students or employees.

**General classroom, hallway and lunchroom misconduct** will result in the following consequences: the teacher may warn the student, hold a student conference, contact the parent or assign a detention.

Students who have received four (4) detentions will meet with the principal and respective teachers. The student will receive an in-school suspension or be placed at the appropriate level of suspension based on the current school year's behavior record.

Students who have received eight (8) detentions will meet with the principal, counselor, respective teachers and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The student will receive a minimum of two (2) days out of school suspension, based on the current school year's behavior record.

Students who have received twelve (12) detentions will serve a minimum of three (3) days out of school suspension, and parents will be required to meet with the principal, superintendent, and appear before the board of education to consider expulsion.

Examples of misconduct (not limited to): anything listed in "Student Conduct" as well as: excessive talking, rude or discourteous behavior, being disrespectful to students and staff, refusal to comply with directions, use of profanity or improper language, displaying abusive epithets or gestures, any conduct which disturbs the orderly, efficient and disciplined operation of a school-related activity, public displays of affection, cheating, plagiarism or forgery.

In addition to the above provisions, playground infractions will be punished as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense – loss of recess privileges for 2 days
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – loss of recess privileges for 5 days
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – loss of recess privileges for 10 days
- 4<sup>th</sup> offense – loss of recess privileges for the remainder of the year.

Examples of misconduct (not limited to)-throwing balls against the building, throwing snowballs, pushing, shoving, tackle football etc.

### **SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION**

Short-term suspension is that period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days that a student is sent home from school for any breach of discipline as covered in this handbook. A suspended student shall be given the opportunity to make up work and receive credit on the same basis as other absentees. Suspended days are to be counted as absences. The initiative to make up the work shall be made by the student.

### **EXPULSION**

Expulsion shall be made only by the majority vote of the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the administration for a period of time not to extend beyond the end of the school year.

### **PLAYGROUND RULES**

- 1.) During free play, each group decides upon rules for their group. Each participant must play and abide by those rules or be sent to the office.
- 2.) Children must stay on the playground. In order to retrieve a ball, a child must receive permission from the adult on duty.
- 3.) No throwing balls against the building.
- 4.) No snowballs, sliding on snow or ice, or “King of the Mountain”.
- 5.) No child should pull at another student’s clothing. **NO WRESTLING.**
- 6.) Students being dropped off at or walking to school before 7:40 a.m. are there at their own risk as no supervision is provided before 7:40 a.m.
- 7.) Students should stay on the pavement after it has rained or when the snow is melting.
- 8.) The following equipment is not allowed on the playground for safety reasons - guns, knives, skateboards, hard balls and roller skates.



## **TELEPHONE INFORMATION**

Students are not to be excused from classes to make phone calls. Phone use is discouraged by students except in emergencies. The main office phones are business phones only. Please try to make all plans with your children before they leave for school.

A change of address or telephone number during the school year should be reported to the Principal's office immediately. Parents without a phone, please list the name of another adult who can be reached in case of an emergency. Notifying the school of a change is very important should an emergency arise.  
The Middle School office number is 422-3830.

## **CELL PHONES**

In our current technological society, pagers and cell phones are now being used to communicate. However, pagers and cell phones and all handheld electronic devices are not to be used in school during school hours because of the disruption that occurs in the learning environment. In the event that a pager or cell phone, etc., is used or is visible in the classroom, teachers will be instructed to take temporary ownership of the device and deliver it to the Middle School Office. Students may pick up their electronic device in the main office after school. If the problem persists, parents will be contacted. A breach of this rule would be considered insubordination as covered in the discipline policy.

## **PETS**

Pets are important to every child. However, dogs frequently cause considerable trouble on the playground. When these pets follow children to school, children may be frightened or bitten. This entails checking the ownership and rabies protection of the dog. In the interest of the safety of the students, pets should be kept off the school grounds. Confer with the principal and classroom teacher before bringing any pets to school for sharing time.

## **HONOR ROLLS**

Academic honor rolls will be published each quarter. A 3.50 grade point average qualifies you for the Honor Roll. A "B" (3.00) average qualifies you for the Merit Roll. (All classes are included toward the Honor and Merit Rolls.) Awards include student of the month, perfect attendance, honor society, and others.

## GRADING AND REPORTING

The suggested grade scale, for grades 4-8 is as follows:

|                |                |                    |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| A+ = 98 - 100  | C+ = 78 - 79.9 | F = 59.9 and Below |
| A = 93 - 97.9  | C = 73 - 77.9  | I = Incomplete     |
| A- = 90 - 92.9 | C- = 70 - 72.9 | Until Made Up      |
| B+ = 88 - 89.9 | D+ = 68 - 69.9 |                    |
| B = 83 - 87.9  | D = 63 - 67.9  |                    |
| B- = 80 - 82.9 | D- = 60 - 62.9 |                    |

## STUDENT PASSES

Students who wish to pass from a class to another at times other than during the passing period must present to the teacher of the class he/she wishes to leave, the student agenda book filled out with the time they are leaving and where they are going.

## PARTIES

- A.) Parties are a part of the regular school program and these activities, for pupils' fifth grade through eighth grade, will be held during the school day. Provisions have been made for a sufficient number to provide interest without taking too much time from the teaching day. Parents and Students are encouraged to provide students with healthy treats.
- B.) Individual birthday treats may be given at school. A maximum of ten minutes at the end of the day is considered sufficient time. Please keep treats simple.
- C.) To avoid disappointment and hurt feelings, invitations to private children's parties should not be issued at school unless all the girls, all of the boys, or the whole class is invited.
- D.) Bringing gifts for teachers is discouraged.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students are required to take Physical Education as a part of the curriculum unless excused, in writing, by their family medical doctor. The written request must be on file in the office of the school. It is recommended that all 7th & 8th-grade students wear gym clothing and are required to wear tennis or athletic shoes for Physical Education. Students who miss Physical Education due to their failure to bring PE clothes will be assigned to detention.

All 7th & 8th-grade students are expected to take showers following Physical Education. No towel service is provided by the school; therefore, students should bring a clean towel weekly for the purpose of showering.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework is an essential part of our school day. Homework will be used to increase practice to insure learning. Practice activities will not be recorded. The emphasis will be placed on what students show they know and are able to do based on tests, projects, and class activities.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Middle school students involved in any extracurricular activity are governed by the following rules for eligibility. Students must be passing his/her required academic classes to participate. Students having more than one failing grade will be ineligible to continue with extracurricular activities for the remainder of that grading period. School assignments must be completed before students will be allowed to attend activities and sports events. Students serving a suspension are not eligible to participate that day. Extracurricular activities include: cross country, football, boys/girls track, boys/girls basketball, girl's volleyball, band, chorus, wrestling, golf, drama and student council.

## **PROMOTION-RETENTION-PLACEMENT**

Placement shall be made in the best interest of the students after careful evaluation of all the factors relating to the advantages and disadvantages of promotion or retention. In retaining or promoting a pupil, the school will consider not only the child's academic achievement and needs but the child's age, his/her social and emotional security, and the wishes of the child's parents. Pupils can be retained at any grade level. In all instances of retention, the child's parents will be kept informed of the child's progress. Parents will be informed of a possible retention by the middle of the 3rd nine weeks. Failure of two major subject areas may constitute failure of a grade level.

## **RETENTION/SUMMER SCHOOL**

### **Purpose:**

To provide an additional opportunity for students who have been considered for retention to remedy deficiencies and to prove themselves capable of successful performance at the next grade level.

### **Eligibility:**

1. Any student who fails the same class in both semesters is required to attend summer school.
2. Students who fail two or more classes or have incompletes at the end of the second semester are required to attend summer school.

**Considerations:**

1. Incomplete work and/or unmet curriculum objectives will be completed during summer school.
2. Unsuccessful classroom performance, irregular attendance, or disruptive behavior during summer school may result in grade level retention.

**Structure:**

1. Summer school is a maximum of two weeks in June, Monday-Friday (but subject to change).
2. Students placed in summer school by the staff will not be charged a fee.
3. Parents/Guardians cannot place or request their student be placed in summer school.
4. Summer school is a completion program. Student are finished when all objectives are met at the established proficiency level.
5. Other curricular areas will be individually addressed as necessary.

**Summer School Requirements:**

1. 90% + attendance
2. Successful demonstration of performance criteria (Typically achieving a minimum of 70%)

**FIELD TRIPS**

Educational field trips may be taken by various classes during the school year. Such trips will be made on school buses with a teacher(s) in charge. A permission slip will be sent home and must be signed by a parent in order for the child to attend. Students will lose field trip privileges if it is determined by the principal that a history of inappropriate behavior exists, or classroom work has not been satisfactorily completed as required by the teacher. If you have any problems concerning bussing, please contact your principal or transportation supervisor, Kelly Curran at 422-3830 or (712) 259-3608.

**8TH HOUR**

Many students turn work in late or do not turn their work in at all. Not completing required work greatly affects their overall grade and also their daily performance and understanding of the concepts taught. Homework/assignments allow the students to practice the skills taught in class. They are also a form of review and drill to help master the skills. Teachers use homework/assignments to assess student understanding of

concepts taught. When students do not complete their homework and assignments they are not learning the required skills, therefore it makes it difficult to participate in class and difficult to move on to new skills.

“8th Hour” is used to assure that students complete their work on time. When a student does not have their assignment completed or turned in on time, they will stay after school that day to complete it. It is a time for them to work and get caught up and prepared for the next day. This is a way to ensure student responsibility and prevent them from falling farther and farther behind. Students will be asked to contact their parent/guardian regarding the late work and making arrangements to stay after.

8th hour is NOT a detention and it does not go on their permanent record. If students do not stay for an 8th hour, they will serve a detention the next day for their late work.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

This code is designed to provide a consistent, positive, and safe environment for the students in the Dakota Valley School District. This code applies to all students and covers all school activities, whether home or away, such as but not limited to athletics, dance, drill team, cheerleading, student council, band, choir, orchestra, debate and speech, if the same are not related to courses for credit, any other extra-curricular activity.

All violations of this code must be reported to the principal or his/her designee, and in the case where the student is involved in athletics, the athletic director shall also be informed of the incident. All students must sign this form (part of student handbook), in order to participate in any of the activities listed above.

All violations *which occur on school property* have additional penalties.

#### **A. PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT** (on or off school property) is as follows:

- 1.) The sale, distribution, use or possession of any mind-altering chemicals, including a controlled substance or marijuana.  
(Violations & penalties will be pursuant to state law, which are in addition to the violations and penalties outlined in this code.)  
**\*\*\* Note that the State of South Dakota has a specific law (13-32-9)** that states that students involved with the legal system for drug-related offenses will be ineligible to participate for one calendar year, which may be reduced to thirty (30) calendar days for completing an assessment and treatment program. The student is also ineligible for a minimum of two SDHSAA sanctioned events upon completion of the reduced suspension period. The one-year suspension for a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense may be reduced to sixty (60) calendar days if the student completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program. If the suspension for a second offense is reduced, the student is also ineligible for a minimum of six SDHSAA sanctioned events upon completion of the reduced suspension period. A student is ineligible for the remainder of his or her high school for a third offense.

- 2.) The sale, distribution, use or possession of alcohol.
- 3.) The use or possession of tobacco of any kind, including smoking or chewing tobacco, or devices or smokeless products which resemble the smoking of tobacco or any nicotine producing product.
- 4.) Disobedience of public laws resulting in adjudication or finding of guilt of any criminally related activities.

If a student violates # 2, 3, or 4 of the above prohibited conduct, the following penalties will be assessed. It is the intent and specific policy of the Dakota Valley School District that violations will be cumulative during the student's seventh and eighth grade years. At the commencement of the student's ninth grade year, all students will be considered to have no violations but all violations thereafter, grades 9-12, will be cumulative. Penalties for violation of the code are as follows:

NOTE: The reduction in suspension is not an option for any of the violations if the student had contact with law enforcement officials anytime during the violation.

**First Violation** - The student will be suspended and will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activity or extra-curricular activities for a period of fourteen (14) calendar days. However, the student must participate in any extra-curricular activity practices during the fourteen (14) day suspension. If the student voluntarily admits the violation, and reports the violation to the administration of his/her school, the school, in its sole discretion, may reduce the suspension to seven (7) calendar days, and the imposition of fifteen (15) hours community or school service which must be completed prior to participating or attending any school activity.

**Second Violation** - The student will be suspended and will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activity or extra-curricular activities for a period of sixty (60) calendar days. If the student voluntarily admits the violation, and reports the violation to the administration of his/her school, the school, in its sole discretion, may reduce the suspension to thirty (30) calendar days, and the imposition of thirty (30) hours community or school service which must be completed prior to participating or attending any school activity.

**Third Violation and all subsequent violations**- The student will be suspended and will not be allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activity, or extra-curricular activities for one hundred and eighty (180) calendar days commencing on the date of the infraction. If the student voluntarily admits the violation, and reports the violation to the administration of his/her school, the school, in its sole discretion, may reduce the suspension to ninety (90) calendar days, and the imposition of ninety (90) hours community or school service which must be completed prior to participating or attending any school activity. If all three infractions are of the same type, the student will be suspended and not allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activities for twelve (12) months. The same type of infractions will be defined as substance abuse or criminal related activities. If the student at their own expense completes an evaluation and completes a treatment program, the penalty will be reduced to ninety (90) days.

\* All calendar day penalties define a day as ending at 11:59 pm. An example would be a 7-day penalty means that the student is ineligible to participate in or attend school activities until 11:59 pm on the seventh day.

## **B. APPEAL PROCESS**

*During the appeal process, the student will be ineligible.* If an appeal of the administrative decision is desired, the process is as follows:

- A.) The Administration must meet with the student. If the parent(s) desire; the parent (s) may also meet with the Administration.
- B.) In the event the student or parent/guardian believes that the action taken by the Administration is inappropriate, they may appeal the Administration's decision in the following manner:
  - 1.) An advisory three (3) member panel of impartial school staff members shall review the case. Two (2) members of the review panel shall be appointed by the school principal. One (1) of these two (2) staff members may be chosen by the student if so desired. The third (3rd) panel member will be designated by the superintendent of schools from the central administration staff.
  - 2.) The student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified when and where the review panel will meet, and they shall be allowed to appear before the review panel.
  - 3.) The review panel shall consider the circumstances and evidence and make its findings and recommendations in writing, to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s), and to the school principal. Responsibility for the decision of the appeal rests solely with the principal of the school.
  - 4.) Following the decision, the student and parent(s)/guardian(s) shall have three (3) school days to file an appeal with the superintendent. The appeal shall be heard at the earliest feasible opportunity, but no later than seven (7) days following the filing of the appeal.
  - 5.) If the appeal conducted by the superintendent is not acceptable, then an appeal may be made to the board of education at the next regularly scheduled board meeting, in closed session.

**C. CREDIBLE WITNESS:** Judgment as to whether a student has violated this code will be based upon an arrest, citation, or notification from Law Enforcement, self-admission, or court proceedings. A credible witness is defined as school staff, law enforcement, or parents of the violator. Additional witnesses may enter evidence to be considered if they are willing to submit information in a signed statement.

**D. DATES OF ENFORCEMENT:** This code is in effect upon the first day of practice and/or the first day of school, whichever arrives first. The code remains in effect until the last school-sanctioned event in the summer.

**STUDENTS CANNOT PARTICIPATE OR PRACTICE  
IN ANY SCHOOL SPONSORED CO/EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY UNTIL THIS  
CODE HAS BEEN SIGNED BY BOTH THE STUDENT AND  
PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) AND RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL.**

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the above rules and code and agree to adhere to this code if I participate in activities for the Dakota Valley School District #61-8.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Signature)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian Signature)

*We are proud of the behavior of our student body. Most Dakota Valley Middle School students conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. Visitors to our building often comment about the positive climate at Dakota Valley Middle School and the courtesy extended to them by students. Every effort will be made to develop and maintain a positive learning environment.*

**NONDISCRIMINATION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NOTICE**

The Dakota Valley School District does not discriminate in its policies and programs on the basis of sex, or sexual orientation, race, color, age, religion, disabilities, or national origin.

Inquiries concerning the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the American with Disabilities Act should be brought to the attention of the Special Services Director, 1150 Northshore Drive, North Sioux City, SD 57049 or by phone at (605) 422 – 3800.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and School Food Services should be brought to the attention of the Special Services Director, 1150 Northshore Drive, North Sioux City, SD 57049 or by phone at (605) 422 – 3800.

To file a complaint regarding Section 504, Title VI or Title IX, please contact the Regional Office for Civil Rights, write to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City Missouri 64106. You may also call (816) 268 – 0550 or TDD to (800) 877 – 8339 or fax to (816) 268-0599.

To file a complaint of discrimination in regard to school food service, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.