

DAKOTA VALLEY
HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2020-21



Home of the Panthers

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Handbook adopted by the Dakota Valley Board of Education

MISSION STATEMENT

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

SECTION 4
High School Information- Grades 9-12

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AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Our staff strongly advocates positive reinforcement and encouragement as the most powerful tools available to us in bringing about appropriate behaviors in our students. The following awards are presented for academic performance, attendance, and school citizenship.

ACADEMIC LETTER

The official school letter is awarded to students who earn a minimum grade point of 3.5 for two consecutive semesters. Students will receive a bar for each additional year they meet the required grade point average.

THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Members of the Dakota Valley Chapter of the National Honor Society are selected by a faculty council. Criteria have been established by the National Honor Society and include the following:

- Scholarship- a cumulative GPA 3.0
- Leadership
- Service
- Character

HONOR ROLL

There will be three categories of membership in the Dakota Valley Honor Roll for students with GPA's in one of the following brackets: 4.00, 3.5 to 3.99, and 3.0 to 3.49.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Students who earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 during the first seven semesters of high school wear special honor cords at commencement.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

The following numerical values are assigned to each letter grade to compute grade point averages (GPA) for awards and class rank:

STANDARD CLASSES: A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0

SENIOR ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVES

For year-end honors where the school is asked to send one representative from the senior class solely based upon academics, the seniors will be rated on the following formula:

GPA * 250 = _____ 1000 being the most points possible

ACT * 27.777 = _____ 999.972 being the most points possible

The two scores will be added together to sort the students, as several of the awards only allow one nominee from our school. The highest totaled student would get to pick which event they wish to attend, with the second highest picking next, the third picking third, etc.

OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS

The Presidents Academic Fitness Award
The Good Citizenship Award
Valedictorian
Salutatorian
The National Scholar/Athlete Award
The Bausch and Lomb Science Award
The Regents Scholarship Award
The National Merit Scholarship
Corporation Awards
Student of the Month
PAW Awards
Principal's Leadership Award

CO-CURRICULAR AWARDS

Awards are also given by the following:
Interscholastic Sports Programs
Vocal and Instrumental Music Programs
Drama Department
Art Department
Journalism Department
Future Business Leaders of America

EARLY GRADUATION

This may be arranged and approved on an individual basis through the principal, requiring school board approval. One condition of approval is the ability to complete all required courses as set by the Dakota Valley Board of Education and the State of South Dakota.

PROCESS FOR SELECTING GRADUATION SPEAKERS

DVHS will have three or more senior students speak during the graduation ceremony.

- Top ranked Valedictorian based on GPA, ACT, and Smarter Balanced scores (If multiple students are tied, all of the students with a tied score will speak at graduation)
- Next highest ranked Valedictorian based on GPA, ACT, and Smarter Balanced scores (If multiple students are tied, all of the students with a tied score will speak at graduation)
- A class representative will be selected by the senior class and high school staff to give a commencement address.
***A student's behavior record may exclude a student from speaking at graduation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- 1.) Students will need twenty-three (23) credits for graduation.
- 2.) Local course requirements - Grades 9-12
 - Language Arts.....4 units
 - Social Studies.....3 units
 - Mathematics.....3 units
 - Science.....3 units
 - Fine Arts..... 1 unit
 - Physical Education 1/2 unit
 - Elective..... 8.5 units

Students planning on furthering their education at the college level should give serious consideration to an additional unit of Mathematics and an additional unit of Science.

Students entering the high school as 9th graders must meet the following requirements: Note that locally the minimum is 23 credits instead of the minimum 22 as established by the state.

-----High School Graduation Requirements -----
As approved by the SD Board of Education, July 2018

A student's Personal Learning Plan must document a minimum of 23 credits that include the following.

1. Four (4) Units of Language Arts
 - a. Writing – 1.0 Unit
 - b. Literature – 1.0 Unit
(including 0.5 unit of American Lit.)
 - c. Speech or Debate – 0.5 unit
 - d. Language Arts Elective – 1.5 Unit
2. Three (3) Units of Mathematics
 - a. Algebra 1—1 Unit
 - b. Mathematics Electives: 2 Units
 - Pre-Algebra—1 Unit
 - Geometry—1 Unit
 - Algebra 2—1 Unit
 - Pre-Calculus—0.5 Units
 - Trigonometry—0.5 Units
 - College Algebra—1 Unit
 - AP Statistics—1 Unit
 - AP Calculus AB—1 Unit
3. Three (3) Units of Lab Science
 - a. Biology – 1 unit
 - b. Science Electives—2 Units
 - Physical Science—1 Unit
 - Chemistry—1 Unit
 - Physics—1 Unit
 - Human Anatomy—1 Unit
 - AP Biology—1 Unit
4. Three (3) Units of Social Studies
 - a. U.S. History – 1 unit
 - b. U. S. Government – 0.5 unit
 - c. Social Studies Elective—1.5 units
 - World History—0.5 Unit
 - World Geography—0.5 Unit
 - Psychology—0.5 Unit
 - Sociology—0.5 Unit
 - Modern America—0.5 Unit
5. One (1) Unit of the following – any combo
 - a. Approved Career & Technical Education
 - b. Capstone Experience or Service Learning
 - c. World Language
6. One (1) Unit of Fine Art
7. One-half (0.5) Unit of Personal Finance
8. One-half (0.5) Unit of Physical Education
9. One-half (0.5) Unit of Health or Health
10. Five and One-Half (6.5) Units of Electives

3.) Students must be enrolled in seven (7) classes, except for second semester of their senior year.

- One semester of class, when successfully completed, earns one-half (1/2) unit.
- If a senior is enrolled in enough credits at the start of the second semester, which would enable him/her to graduate in the spring, he/she may walk/across the stage during the commencement ceremony. A maximum of 7 courses may be taken in the second semester to be eligible to participate in graduation. Situations other than those described here will be addressed individually by the counselor and administration.
- All requirements must be fulfilled before receiving a diploma.
- Students may fulfill a required course in an approved secondary program outside the district if they have failed to successfully complete that course at Dakota Valley High School, with administrative approval.
- **Students' class standings** will be decided based on the following credit counts:
Seniors - 16, Juniors - 10, Sophomores - 4, and Freshmen - eighth grade completion.

4.) Schedule changes should be kept to a minimum and will only be considered for legitimate reasons. Procedures and guidelines for schedule changes are contained in the course guide.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Except when special events require modifications, the daily schedule is as follows:

Period 1/5	8:25 to 9:55
Period 2/6	10:05 to 11:35
Period 3/7	11:40 to 1:40
Period 4/8	1:45 to 3:15

COLLEGE VISITATION

To assist our students in college planning, Dakota Valley does allow limited excused college visitation. All college visitation requests must be made through the counseling office with appropriate forms and paperwork completed as indicated on the request forms.

POLICIES GOVERNING STUDENT CONDUCT

We want to explain our citizenship expectations for Dakota Valley High School students and our rules and procedures. It is important that all students understand the behaviors we value.

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 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.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to show respect to staff and other students at all times. Vulgarities, "put-downs," and verbal confrontations are not acceptable in the school setting.

ATTENDANCE

The Dakota Valley School Board believes that regular school attendance is essential to the achievement and the responsible attitude of the students both during and after high school. The board, therefore, has adopted the following policy:

- 1.) It is the parent (s) responsibility to cause the child to come to school. Parents or guardians are expected to phone the school regarding a student's absence on the day of the absence. If no call is received by 9:00 a.m., the school will call the home and make every effort to contact a parent to verify the absence.
- 2.) It is important all students present an excuse from the parent or guardian to the principal's office when returning to school after any absence. A written excuse is not necessary if a phone call has been made by the parent or guardian. If no excuse is presented on returning to school, the absence will remain unexcused.
- 3.) A student shall not leave school during the school day without first reporting to the principal's office and obtaining permission.
- 4.) Absences will be excused for the following reasons:
 - a.) illness
 - b.) professional appointments
 - c.) bereavement
 - d.) religious observance
 - e.) court summons
 - f.) pre-arranged family requests
 - g.) short-term suspension
- 5.) Any absence from school for reasons other than those listed above will be designated as an unexcused absence.
- 6.) When five (5) absences have been accumulated from any class during the semester, the parent or guardian will be asked to attend a conference with the high school principal.
- 7.) Students wishing to earn academic credit for courses should not exceed a total combination of seven (7) excused and unexcused absences in those courses. Any

additional absences may result in loss of credit for the course. Students who exceed seven (7) absences may appear before the attendance review committee to appeal the loss of credit. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may accompany students at the hearing.

- 8.) Emergency absences which may be considered exceptions to the policy include the following:
 - a.) serious illness in the student's immediate family
 - b.) hospitalization or extended illness under a doctor's care
 - c.) court summons
 - d.) religious observance
 - e.) bereavementA student may also be given emergency absence for other reasons with approval from the administration.
- 9.) Absences because of attendance at a school sponsored trip or activity will not be considered an absence from school. However, the student will be required to make up work missed.
- 10.) Students may be excused and counted for school attendance up to five (5) days per year to attend events of state or nationally recognized youth programs of educational value.
- 11.) Permission for absences should be obtained in advance whenever possible.
- 12.) **If a student misses 30 minutes or more from a class (either the beginning or end) then the student will be counted absent for that period.**

Daily class work missed because of truancy **CAN NOT** be made up and a zero or comparable grade shall be recorded. Class work covering material presented over a longer period of time, such as term papers, may be made up and partial credit may be given. Tests **MAY NOT** be made up if test dates are announced in advance. These policies also apply to special education students.

SENIORS ONLY - SEMESTER TEST REWARD SYSTEM

All students will be required to take semester tests each semester. For seniors in the Spring semester, the following attendance reward is in place:

In the spring semester, Seniors who are absent in a class **LESS THAN THREE** times and do **NOT** have more than 3 tardies are exempt from the semester test in that class.

Any senior who has exhibited behavior which results in being **assigned either ISS or OSS** by the Principal or their designee forfeits the right to earn the Semester Test Reward.

As an incentive for maintaining high grades, seniors who have achieved a 94% or higher will also receive this reward in the classes where they have a 94% or higher.

Seniors who have earned the reward may choose to take their tests in the spring in an attempt to improve their grade. If the semester test does not improve the grade, the test will not be counted against the grade.

This is a **REWARD** system. No student is punished for having missed three or more days through the semester test reward for attendance. You must **EARN** the **REWARD** by being present in school.

An appeal process is possible where a student may appeal in writing (typed, dated, signed and hand delivered to the building principal 5 days prior to the first day of the senior's semester testing) their absences and state the reasons they feel they should be granted the reward even though the days of attendance to earn the reward have been exceeded. Being sick, family vacations, and similar absences are not granted as exemptions and are denied in the appeal process. Appeals are rarely granted as we do understand there is some luck involved in earning the reward, but the focus is on this being a reward and not a consequence.

TARDY POLICY

Students are expected to be through the door of the classroom when the bell sounds. Any student who is tardy for class should report to the principal's office. Students are allowed two (2) tardies and then will be assigned a 30-minute detention for every subsequent tardy. The ninth tardy may be cause for loss of credit, with possible removal from the class for the rest of the semester.

MAKE-UP WORK

For excused absences, teachers shall allow two school days for make-up work for each day missed. *The responsibility to see teachers and make definite arrangements lies entirely with the students.* Students have the opportunity to receive full credit for school work made up because of excused absences. Being absent from school in itself is not cause for reduction of a student's grades. However, if a student fails to make up the missed work he/she cannot receive credit for those assignments. (This policy does not apply to unexcused absences.

BEHAVIOR

The Dakota Valley School District #61-8 disciplinary policy applies to any student who is on school property, who is on school-owned and operated school buses or on chartered buses, 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 district or the safety or welfare of students or employees.

A student may be reported for failing to abide by school regulations and/or failure to demonstrate the qualities of good citizenship expected of all students. The following specific inappropriate behaviors will result in disciplinary actions that may include detention, suspension, or expulsion.

- Cheating, or forgery results in no credit for the assignment.
- Disrupting classes or school activities.

- 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.
- Bringing food or beverages to class.
- Stealing.
- Fighting or harassing others.
- Wearing clothing that may disrupt the educational process.
- Unsafe or disruptive driving on or near the campus.
- Vandalizing school or personal property.
- Occupying restricted areas of the campus.
- Using skateboards, bicycles, mopeds, motorcycles, automobiles, or trucks other than for transportation to and from campus.
- Refusing to comply with directions from teachers, administrators, or other school personnel.
- Using profanity or improper language, or showing disrespect to the dignity of other students or staff on campus or at school events.
- Displaying abusive epithets or threatening gestures to other students, teachers, administrators, or other school personnel.
- Displaying conduct which disturbs the orderly, efficient and disciplined atmosphere and operation of a school related activity.
- Participating in documented conduct detrimental to the best interest of the school district.
- Exhibiting disruptive behavior in the lunchroom.
- Expressing unsportsmanlike conduct involving visiting teams and representatives.
- Demonstrating overt displays of affection.
- Missing school or assigned classes or activities without a reasonable excuse.
- Violation of the rules of the school or board of education.

PROCEDURE FOR BREACHES OF DISCIPLINE

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 designee.

Removal from Class -

Removal from class is that period of time a student is sent from the classroom by the teacher to the office of the principal for a period of time not to exceed one (1) day.

Detention -

Detention is a 30 minute period of time to be made up by a student outside the regular school hours.

Detentions will be served each Monday through Thursday, before and after school. A student shall serve the detention either the day it is assigned or the next school day. Failure to attend at the assigned time will result in doubling of the time. Failure to serve detention will result in a day of In-School Suspension.

Once a student receives -

Step 1 - 3 Detentions - appearance before the Discipline Committee, ISS or OSS is a possibility, depending on the offenses.

Step 2 - 6 Detentions - student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will appear before the Discipline Committee to discuss student behavior and recommend a suitable consequence. Possible ISS or OSS.

Step 3 - 9 or more Detentions - Discipline Committee meets and, based upon the Committee's recommendation, student, parent(s)/guardian(s), and principal appear before the board of education with a hearing to consider possible expulsion.

The committee will consult with the principal as to any disciplinary actions that will be undertaken. Attendance at committee hearings is mandatory. Detentions for tardies do not count as behavioral detentions.

In-School Suspension -

In-school suspension is the temporary isolation of a student from one or more classes 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.

Removal from a Specific Class for the Remainder of the Semester -

Removal from a specific class for the remainder of the semester is isolation of a student from a specific class while under proper supervision and is a permanent in-school suspension for the semester from that class where the student's conduct does not warrant expulsion from school.

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.

Probation -

Probation is conditional attendance for a specified length of time during a trial period imposed for conduct which violates the regulations or rules established by the board of education, including breach of discipline as defined in the Discipline Policy, or for cases of conduct detrimental to the best interest of the school. Breach of the conditions of probation may result in more severe sanctions.

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENTS ACT

Any student in grades eleven and twelve who is admitted to an institution of higher education or a postsecondary vocational education institution as a special student may enroll in not more than two courses per fall or spring semester, which are offered at the institution of higher education or postsecondary vocational education institution. The student shall obtain the school district's approval of the postsecondary course prior to enrolling in the course. If approved, the student shall receive full credit toward high school graduation as well as postsecondary credit for the postsecondary course. The student is responsible for all tuition and fees and for any other costs involved with attending a postsecondary institution. If a failing grade is received in a postsecondary course under this section, the student receiving the failure is no longer eligible to enroll for postsecondary courses under this section. Forms for college coursework are available from the counseling office.

LEAVING SCHOOL

Students will not be permitted to leave the building before dismissal time without the consent of the principal or principal's designee. A sign out sheet in the office must be signed by students leaving school early. Students leaving school without permission will serve one (1) day of in-school suspension.

DRESS CODE

Students generally conduct themselves in a manner similar to the way in which they dress and groom. School clothing should be appropriate as to time, place, and weather. Shorts may be allowed if appropriate. Bare midriff, shirts with "spaghetti straps" and tattered clothing will not be considered appropriate. Students should be dressed and groomed in a way that is not offensive to others or distracting from the operation of the school. **HATS, CAPS, HOODS, AND ANY APPAREL WHICH COVERS A STUDENTS HEAD SHOULD NOT BE WORN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY IN THE BUILDING.** An exception will be made only for safety purposes in industrial arts, religious beliefs, and in case of a special day approved by the principal. Shoes must be worn in the building at all times. **INAPPROPRIATE PRINTED MATERIAL ON CLOTHING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE**, including reference to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or obscenities. The premise for these regulations is common courtesy and respect for others and an appropriate learning environment.

GRADING SCALE IMPLEMENTED 2001-2002

99-100	A+
94-98	A
92-93	A-
90-91	B+
85-89	B
83-84	B-
81-82	C+
76-80	C
74-75	C-
72-73	D+
67-71	D
65-66	D-

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 the 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.

CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

In our current technological society, cell phones are now being used to communicate. Cell phones are not allowed for use during class unless under the direction of a staff member for instruction; because of the disruption that occurs in the learning environment. In the event that electronic devices, such cell phones, are used or are visible during class time without staff supervision, teachers are instructed to take temporary ownership of the device and deliver it to the high school office. Students may pick up the item after school. If the problem persists, parents will be contacted.

PARKING PROCEDURES

Students who drive to school are to park in the designated **student** lot only. Speed limit in the lot is 10 mph; please observe that limit. Students who park their cars improperly will be given a school ticket or other disciplinary action. The fine for improper parking or reckless driving is \$5.00 and is to be paid in the principal's office. Fines that are not paid will be sent to the parents and the student will be placed on a financial hold. A continuous problem with improper parking or reckless driving may result in a loss of the student's school driving privilege.

Students will be required to provide vehicle information.

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) and any other extra-curricular activity, including Homecoming and Prom activities. The graduation ceremony is defined as a culminating academic activity and is not considered a school activity. Therefore, the attendance or participation at graduation is not covered by the student conduct code.

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 which are found in the K-12 section of the student handbook.

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 2nd 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 career 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 - The student will be suspended and not allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activities or extra-curricular activities for twelve (12) months. If the student at their own expense completes an evaluation and completes a treatment program, the penalty will be reduced to ninety (90) days.

Fourth Violation and all subsequent violations - the student will be suspended and not allowed to attend or participate in any school or after school activities or extra-curricular activities for twelve (12) months.

Violation of the suspension – if a student violates any of the above suspensions, consequences will be determined by the building administrator and activities director. Being banned from participating in all school events (including Homecoming, Prom, and the Graduation Ceremony as examples) would be considered as a consequence.

* 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 or attend school activities until 11:59 pm of 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. GOOD BEHAVIOR CLAUSE: If a student is found to be in violation of this code, he/she may be rewarded for subsequent good behavior. If the student maintains good behavior and is not in violation of this code for eighteen (18) months, then the student will move back one level. An example would be that a student violates the code and is on their first violation in October of

their 9th grade year. If the student exhibits good behavior and does not violate the policy again until December of their 11th grade year, the second violation will have occurred after 18 months of good behavior so the penalty for the second violation will be reduced to that of a first violation.

This code applies to all students, regardless of whether or not they have signed a receipt form. For students wishing to participate in any school sponsored activities (as opposed to attending as a spectator), the student and parent will be required to sign and return this form prior to participating in that activity.

D. 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. 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.

E. 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.

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, 3rd 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.

DAKOTA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

BEHAVIOR	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
General Classroom or Hallway Misconduct and/or Use of Profanity	Written warning, or staff assigned detention.	Written warning, or staff assigned detention and student conference.	Detention, removal from class or lunch (1 day), staff/parent conference (via telephone call).	
	4th Offense	5th Offense	6th Offense	
	Student removed from class or lunch for two (2) days, with loss of class time. Admin/parent conf.	Student removed from class or lunch for three (3) days with loss of class time, and one (1) day suspension.	Student removed from class for the remainder of the semester, with grade of "WF" and loss of credit. Parent notified.	

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Leaving School Without Permission and Unexcused Absence	FULL day suspension. Parents notified.	Immediate two (2) day suspension. Parent (s) notified.		Immediate three (3) day or more day suspension, with Admin/parent conference. Repeated offenses may be referred to the superintendent and board of education.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Skipping Class Without Leaving the Building	One (1) hour detention assigned by Admin. Per class skipped.	1/2 day suspension. Parent notified.	Full day suspension. Parent notified.	Multiple day suspension by Administration. Admin/parent conference.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Use of Profanity Directed at Staff	Immediate removal, plus one (1) day suspension; teacher/student, admin/parent conf.	Immediate removal, plus two (2) day suspension, parent(s) notified.	Immediate removal, plus three (3) to five (5) day suspension, with same staff-removal from class for the remainder of the semester, with a grade of "WF" and loss of credit. Admin/parent conf.	Repeated offenses may be referred to the board of education.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Hazing or Harrassment of Students	Written warning and/or detention assigned. Admin/parent conf. Counselor referral.	One (1) day suspension. Admin/parent conf.	One (1) to five (5) day suspension. Admin/parent conf.	Repeated offenses may be referred to the board of education. Parents notified.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses

Harassment of Staff Member	Immediate three (3) to five (5) day suspension. Admin/parent conference with possible referral to board of education.	Immediate three (3) to ten (10) day suspension, with referral to superintendent, and board of education. Parents notified.	Removal from school pending a hearing with the superintendent and/or the board of education.	
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	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Fighting	Immediate removal, plus three (3) day suspension. Admin/parent conference. Liaison/Police notified.	Immediate removal, plus (5) day suspension. Admin/parent conference. Liaison/Police notified.	Immediate removal, plus 5 to 10 day suspension. Parent notified. Liaison/Police notified, may be referred to Supt./Board of Education	Immediate removal, plus three (3) or more days of suspension. Referral to Supt. And board of education. Admin/parent conf.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Insubordination	Referral to office with possible detention or suspension. Teacher/student conference.	Immediate removal, plus one (1) day suspension, and removal from class for two (2) days. Admin/parent conf.	Immediate removal, plus two (2) day suspension, and removal from class w/a grade of "WF" & a loss of credit for the semester. Parent notified.	Immediate removal, plus three (3) or more days of suspension. Referral to Supt. And board of education. Admin/parent conf.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Assault on Students or Staff	Immediate three (3) to ten (10) day suspension, and referral to the superintendent and board of education. Admin/parent conference. Liaison Officer notified.	Removal from school pending a hearing with the superintendent and/or board of education. Liaison Officer notified. Parent notified.		

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Theft of Personal Property	Immediate three (3) to ten (10) day suspension, and referral to the superintendent and board of education. Admin/parent conference. Liaison Officer notified.	Removal from school pending a hearing with the superintendent and/or board of education. Liaison Officer notified. Parent notified.		
Smoking and/or Possession/Use of Tobacco Products, or any device or product that contains nicotine, or a device that is used for inhaling or injection unless used for medicinal purposes with a prescription	Immediate three (3) day suspension. Parent notified, recommend counseling assessment. Liaison/Police notified.	Immediate five (5) to ten (10) day suspension. Parent notified. Liaison/Police notified.	Immediate three (3) or more day suspension. Parent notified. Liaison/Police notified.	
	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Possession or Use of Alcohol, Drugs, or Related Items On School Property or at School Events (see Alcohol and other drug use by students in the K-12 section)	Immediate (10) day suspension. Admin/parent conference required, with notification to the Superintendent/board of education for further action. Liaison/Police/liaison officer notified; recomm. Counseling assessment.	Immediate ten (10) day suspension. Admin/parent conference required, with notification to the Superintendent/board of education for further action. Liaison/Police/liaison officer notified; recomm. Counseling assessment.	Removal from school, pending a hearing with the superintendent and/or board of education.	
	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Possession or Use of Alcohol, Drugs, or Related Items - Not on school property or at school events	See <i>Student Conduct Code</i> at the beginning of the Dakota Valley High School Discipline Policy			
	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	Subsequent Offenses
Vandalism to School	Detention or suspension, with work detail assigned, and payment of damages. Liaison Officer notified.	Suspension with work detail assigned, and payment of damages. Admin/parent conference. Liaison officer notified.	Immediate removal, plus one (1) to three (3) day suspension and payment of damages. Parent(s) and Liaison officer notified.	Referral to superintendent, and board of education. Parent(s) and Liaison officer notified.
Weapons and Look Alike Weapons	See Weapons and Look Alike Weapons sections of the K-12 section of the handbook.			

NOTE: Students involved in extra-curricular activities are subject to additional consequences as specified in the Athletic/Activities Handbook