

**ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #225**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
2016 - 2017**



SCHOOL SONG

TUNE: NOTRE DAME VICTORY MARCH

"Armstrong Loyalty"

Come, sing together, we'll raise a cheer
Pep, Pep, and what a grand team this year
We will pledge ourselves to you
Dear Armstrong High School ever true
Fight, fight, fight, fight team for victory
Purple and gold means our Varsity
To the earth we'll show our worth
In glorious victory.

Welcome!

The Staff and Board of Education extend a warm welcome to the students of Armstrong Township High School. This handbook has been prepared to serve as a guide and source of information to all students. You should become familiar with this material so that you will understand the school's policies and procedures. Questions or concerns should be addressed to the Principal or Superintendent by calling 569-2122 or by email. You can take a look at our website at www.armstrong.k12.il.us to find email addresses.

The Board of Education reserves the right to amend, modify, or waive the rules as situations present themselves during the year.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #225
2016-2017**

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SCHOOL COLORS: Purple and Gold

MASCOT: Trojan

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ASSURANCES

- Armstrong Township High School District #225 is an equal opportunity employer and educator. Discrimination is prohibited against employees, job applicants, students, and contractors on the basis of color, race, national origin, gender, age, or disability. Armstrong Township High School District #225 abides by applicable state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination.
- Projects receiving federal or state funds will be administered in conformity with the provisions of Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, the Right to Privacy of Student Records (Federal Regulations, November, 1995), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Illinois Human Rights Act, and the School Code of Illinois.
- Armstrong Township High School has developed pursuant to State Board of Education regulations (23 Ill. Adm. Code 227.40, amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 14957) a plan making available for all gifted and talented pupils appropriate programs in all fundamental areas of learning. Gifted and talented children have been identified through a process which uniformly applies the following criteria: academic performance as demonstrated in standardized achievement tests and checklist for creativity and psychomotor skills; professional judgment based on teacher recommendation, past school performance, and/or performance and/or portfolio in the performing arts. Entry into the program will be after consultation with the student and his or her parents.

REPORTING ABSENCE AND RETURNING TO SCHOOL

If a student will be absent for all or part of a school day, the parent or legal guardian must call the school to report the absence. If the parent or legal guardian does not have access to a telephone, the student must bring a written notice and excuse on the day he or she returns to school. The student should report to the school office for an admit slip before reporting to classes.

- Students who miss all or part of a school day because of a medical or other appointment should return to school with a “return to work or school” slip from the doctor or other professional.
- Students who must leave school early because of an appointment must have a “permit to leave the building” issued in the school office. Leaving the building without permission will be counted as an unexcused absence.
- Students who have been absent excused will have the opportunity to make up missed work within a reasonable time (to be determined by the classroom teacher). Students who have been absent unexcused may lose all or partial credit for work missed during absence.

ANNUAL ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN NOTICE

This is to inform you of the status of Armstrong Township High School District #225 asbestos management plan. It has been determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency that asbestos is a potential health hazard, and precautions should be taken to avoid disturbing any asbestos containing materials.

As required, our buildings were initially inspected for asbestos. Our inspection was conducted in 1988-89. The AHERA law requires that a visual surveillance of asbestos containing areas be completed every six months, and a re-inspection conducted every three years. Any evidence of disturbance or change in condition will be documented in the Management Plan as required.

The Inspection/Management is available for public review in the District Superintendent’s Office. Should you wish to review the plans, please call to make an appointment between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Any concerns relative to asbestos containing materials should be directed to the District Superintendent at 30474 Smith Street, Armstrong, IL 61812, 217-569-2122.

DRUG-FREE CAMPUS

Armstrong Township High School provides a drug-free workplace and educational environment. Unlawful manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using of any controlled substance including cannabis, by any employee or student of Armstrong Township High School District #225 is prohibited. As part of our drug prevention program, and pursuant to Illinois School Code 5/10-22.10a, the Board of Education authorizes Administration to request the assistance of law enforcement officials, including the use of specially trained dogs, for the purpose of conducting reasonable searches of school buildings, grounds, and lockers for illegal substances, before, during, or after school hours.

An employee engaged in unlawful manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using of any controlled substance including cannabis, in the workplace will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination and the filing of criminal charges.

Students engaged in unlawful manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using of any controlled substance including cannabis, in school buildings, on school grounds, or in school vehicles, will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion and the filing of criminal charges (see “Student Discipline: Prohibited Student Conduct”).

PHILOSOPHY

The pursuit of knowledge and learning cannot proceed effectively without good, consistent discipline. Discipline is learning to act responsibly in accordance with accepted rules in order to obtain certain goals for oneself. Armstrong Township High School District #225 believes it is the responsibility of the school to help students maintain and further develop self-discipline so that the exercise of individual rights does not infringe on the rights of others or disrupt the educational program. The school has developed a framework with definitive expectations and standards of behavior with the safety and well-being of all students in mind. Every staff member of Armstrong Township High School will be responsible for providing adequate supervision of students and apply the district's policies for the benefits of all students in accordance with Federal and State law.

A POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE

Armstrong Township High School faculty and staff strive to create a school which is a safe, warm, and caring place for students to learn. Our school is exemplified by a friendly, supportive atmosphere, one in which high expectations are held for students and students are treated with respect. We believe that ALL students at ATHS have a right to be successful if they apply themselves and do their best.

We expect that all students will:

1. Reach out for new ideas, work hard, and achieve to the highest of individual potential.
2. Make school the number one priority in the daily schedule of activities.
3. Be in school daily, be on time, and be prepared for class.
4. Keep the halls, classrooms, and grounds of the school neat and orderly.
5. Practice common courtesy to staff, guests, and fellow students in the hallways, classrooms, cafeteria, on the buses and at games and assemblies.
6. Engage in appropriate behavior at all times as representatives of Armstrong Township High School.
7. Dress in a manner that is appropriate for school.

We expect that parents and guardians will:

1. Provide a study area at home where the student can work.
2. Encourage at least one hour of quiet study time and/or reading each evening.

3. Contact school personnel involved with your son or daughter to discuss his or her progress.
4. Understand that mutual trust and honesty are essential; encourage your son or daughter to accept responsibility of their own actions.
5. Realize that the school cannot do the job alone; we need your support and participation.

SCHOOL-WIDE GOALS
DEVELOPED BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL, OCTOBER 1994

As a result of their high school education, we want our children to be able to:

- communicate appropriately.
- read, write, and calculate with skill.
- demonstrate effective study skills for high school and beyond.
- value learning as a lifetime activity.
- seek and retain employment.
- work with others constructively.
- show respect for the rights, opinions, and traditions of others.
- articulate his or her own views and listen to those of others.
- manage personal finances.
- value his or her own music, arts, and culture and that of other people.
- know and value her or his own strengths.
- accept responsibility for his or her own actions.
- interact with skill and confidence in environments different from home.
- solve problems by reasoning and thinking independent of peer pressure.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

All students have the right to:

- a free and appropriate quality education that will develop potential regardless of any handicaps.
- equal access to learning experiences.
- information regarding their progress in school.
- opportunities in preparing for the world of work.
- experiences which foster citizenship responsibility.

All students have the responsibility to:

- use their education for development of their full potential.
- use facilities properly, and to make positive use of learning experiences.
- use information on their progress to help their development.
- attend school regularly preparation for the world of work.
- practice good citizenship.

STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

All students have the right to:

- express their views.

All students when expressing their views have the responsibility to:

- refrain from disrupting the work of the school or the orderly conduct of classes.
- refrain from mocking, ridiculing, or deliberately demeaning or provoking others because of race, religion, national origin, gender, or individual views.
- refrain from violating the rights of others.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

All students have the right to:

- determine their own styles of dress and hair within the guidelines set forth in the handbook.

All students have the responsibility to:

- see that their manner of dress and grooming conforms to standards of health, safety, and decency and is not disruptive of the educational program

THE STUDENT PRESS AND OTHER PRINTED MEDIA

All students have the right to :

- express and to distribute their views without censorship or restraint through any and all forms of the press or other printed media, be it on or off the school campus.

All students have the responsibility to:

- express their views in accordance with responsible journalistic practices.
- avoid printing obscenities and profanity.
- distribute material in accordance with all regulations.
- identify the source of any literature distributed within the school.

RIGHT TO PETITION OF GRIEVANCES

All students have the right to:

- present petitions, complaints, or grievances to the administration without fear of disciplinary action, assuming the petition is free of libelous statements, personal attacks, and in the bounds of reasonable conduct.

DUE PROCESS

All students have the right to:

- a fair hearing with the opportunity to call in witnesses in their behalf, and to appeal their case in the event of disciplinary action brought against them.
- the presence of legal counsel at his or her own expense if involved in suspension or expulsion proceedings.

All students have the responsibilities to:

- carry out the duties of a good citizen and should be willing to volunteer any information he or she may have related to a disciplinary case.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

All students have the right to:

- voice opinions about the formulation of the school policies and decisions which affect their educational lives.
- hold office and to vote in student elections as determined by the guidelines set up by student government.

Student government has the responsibility to:

- state the scope of its powers, privileges and responsibilities as public record. The charter or constitution must be the result of the joint administration-faculty-student discussions.
- publicly state and inform the students of the eligibility rules for candidates, rules for conducting campaigns and elections, and other student government functions.
- share with the administration and faculty in the development of a school climate conducive to wholesome learning and living.

STUDENT PROPERTY

All students have the right to:

- privacy in their lockers and desks consistent with rules established by the School.
- privacy in their personal belongings.

All students have the responsibility to:

- keep their lockers and desks free of any stolen property or any contents which threaten the health, safety, or welfare of themselves or other students.
- take proper precautions to secure the safety of personal belongings (wallets, jackets, purses) by using appropriate lockers and locks.

USE OF TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, AND DRUGS

All students have the right to:

- breathe air free of tobacco smoke.
- be in a school environment where other students are not under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.

All students have the responsible to:

- refrain from the use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs on school property or at school activities.

STUDENT GRIEVANCES AND CHAIN OF COMMAND

Students have both the right and the responsibility to express school related problems and concerns to the administration.

The procedure for students/parents to register complaints and/or discuss issues shall follow the chain of command in the following order: Teacher, Principal, Superintendent, and School Board. (Failure to follow the chain of command will result in being sent back to the appropriate level.)

RESIDENCY AND ADMISSION

It shall be the policy of the Armstrong Township High School District #225 to limit attendance in the district's school to those students who reside within District boundaries. Students living in the Potomac Community Unit School District #10 boundaries must have the authorization of the superintendent of that district to register at Armstrong Township High School, for the duration of the deactivation agreement.

Home school students are admitted under the guidelines of the State of Illinois and the Regional Superintendent of Schools for Home Schools.

Students who are designated as "homeless" are admitted according to the Education for Homeless Children Act, 105 ILCS 45/1-1 et. seq.

All non-resident students are admitted on a tuition basis only by action of the Board of Education.

For the purpose of determining the residency of a pupil under 18 years of age, the residence of the person who has legal custody of such pupil shall be the residence of the pupil. For a pupil 18 years of age or older, the physical residence of the pupil shall determine residency.

For the purpose of this policy, "legal custody" means one of the following:

- custody exercised by a natural or adoptive parent with whom the pupil resides;
- custody granted by order of a court of competent jurisdiction to a person with whom the pupil resides for reasons other than to have access to the educational programs of the District;
- custody exercised under a statutory short-term guardianship, provided that within 60 days of the pupil's enrollment a court order is entered that establishes a permanent guardianship and grants custody to a person with whom the pupil resides for reasons other than to have access to the educational programs of the District
- custody exercised by an adult caretaker relative who is receiving aid under the Illinois Public Aid Code for the pupil who resides with that adult caretaker relative for other than to have access to the educational programs of the District; or
- custody exercised by an adult who demonstrates that, in fact, he she has assumed and exercises responsibility for the pupil and provides the pupil with a regular fixed nighttime abode for purposes other than to have access to the educational programs of the District.

In the event a question concerning residency of a child arises, the District shall:

1. Require the child's parent or guardian to complete a questionnaire in order that the District may determine residency. Such questionnaire shall be routine at the time of original enrollment, and may be required at such other times as the administration deems necessary;
2. Conduct an informal investigation to acquire information which may aid the District in determining residency. The administration may require the parent or guardian to submit evidence of residency within the School District, which may include such items as:
 - a. Proof of payment of rent or mortgage, such as receipts or canceled checks;
 - b. Utility bills including electricity, water, telephone, and propane/natural gas;
 - c. Valid voter's registration card; and
 - d. Current Illinois Driver's License or other valid information.
3. Provide the child and/or the parents or guardians of the child an opportunity to present pertinent information to the District which would aid in determining residency;
4. Permit the child and/or the parents or guardians of the child to appeal unfavorable residency determinations to the School Board, provided that the School Board's residency determination after hearing shall be final and binding; and

5. Allow the child to attend Armstrong Township High School until the District makes final determination of the child's residency, provided, however, that the child's parents or guardians shall be responsible for payment of the costs (tuition equivalent) incurred by the Armstrong schools for this interim period of time the child was permitted to attend.

If a person is exercising legal custody of a child by an order of a court or a statutory short-term guardianship as provided above, a written copy of such court order or short-term guardianship form must be submitted to the School District.

If the Board of Education or its designee determines that a pupil, who is attending school in the Armstrong School District on a tuition free basis, is a nonresident of the Armstrong School District for whom tuition is required to be charged, the Board of designee shall notify the person who enrolled the pupil of the amount of the tuition that is due to the District by reason of the nonresident pupil's attendance in the District's school. Such notice shall be given by certified mail, return receipt requested. Within ten (10) days after receipt of such notice, the person who enrolled the pupil may challenge this determination and request a hearing to review the determination as provided by Section 10-20.12b of the School Code.

Any person who knowingly or willfully presents to the District false information regarding the residency of a pupil for the purpose of enabling the pupil to attend school in the District without the payment of nonresident tuition, or any person who knowingly enrolls or attempts to enroll in the schools of the District on a tuition- free basis, a pupil known by that person to be a nonresident of the District shall be guilty of a Class C MISDEMEANOR.

Non-resident pupils who attend schools in the District for less than an entire school year shall have their tuition apportioned. Pupils who begin a school year as residents but become non-residents during the school year shall not be charged tuition for the remainder of the school year in which they become non-resident pupils.

HOMELESS CHILDREN

A homeless child, as defined by State law, may attend the District school that the child attended when permanently housed or in which the child last enrolled. A homeless child living in any District school's attendance area may attend that school. Transportation shall be arranged according to State law. If a dispute arises regarding a homeless child's rights, the Superintendent shall inform his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) of the availability of an investigator, sources for low-cost or free legal assistance, and other advocacy services in the community.

Education of Children with Disabilities

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The School provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the school. The term "children with disabilities" means children between ages 3 and the day before their 22nd birthday for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of the school to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

TRANSFER OR WITHDRAWAL

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of a student transferring from the District or withdrawing from school should give the building Principal written notification of their intent, pay outstanding fees or fines, sign a release form, and return all school-owned property.

The Principal shall complete a "good standing" form for any student transferring from the District. Within ten (10) days of transfer notification, the Principal shall send to the District in which the student will or has enrolled, a completed good standing form, an unofficial record of the student's grades, and the remainder of the

student's school records. Within ten (10) days after the student has paid all outstanding fines and fees, the Principal shall mail an official transcript of the scholastic record.

Transfer students have to attend Armstrong Township High School for their Junior and Senior year to be eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors. Armstrong Township High School will not accept weighted grades from incoming transfer students. Grades earned will count the same as they would here.

RE-ENROLLMENT

Re-enrollment shall be denied to any individual above the age of 16 years who has dropped out of school and who could not earn sufficient credits during the normal school year(s) to graduate before his or her 21st birthday. A person denied re-enrollment will be provided counseling and be directed to alternative education programs, including adult education programs that lead to graduation or receipt of a GED diploma. (105 ILCS 5/26-2).

HEALTH EXAMINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATIONS

Parents(s)/Guardian(s) of students entering the 9th grade shall present proof of a health examination by a licensed physician and of having received the immunizations against and screenings for preventable communicable diseases, as required by the Illinois Department of Public Health rules. **Failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the District.** All new students who are first time registrants shall have thirty (30) days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations. A student may be exempted from this policy's requirements on religious or medical grounds if the student's parent/guardian presents to the Superintendent a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption, and in the case of medical grounds, a verification by a physician.

HOME AND HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

A student who is absent or whose physician anticipates his or her absence from school for an extended period of time, or has ongoing intermittent absences because of a medical condition, may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital. A student who is unable to attend school because of pregnancy will be provided home instruction, correspondence courses, or other courses of instruction before the birth of the child when the student's physician indicates, in writing, that she is medically unable to attend regular classroom instruction as well as for up to 3 months after the child's birth or a miscarriage. For information on home or hospital instruction, contact the school principal.

THE SCHOOL DAY

The School Day begins promptly at 8:03 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced. Students are to be in attendance at 8:03 a.m. Students who are chronically tardy to school will face disciplinary action.

TARDINESS: USE GOOD JUDGMENT AND BE PROMPT

As a student it is your responsibility to use a reasonable degree of judgment in regard to the time element you have before school, between classes, and at lunch. Adequate passing time is provided in the schedule. All students are to be in their assigned classroom when the class bell rings. Teachers may make additional stipulations regarding what constitutes a "tardy" to class.

Students entering school late due to medical or professional appointment should report to the school office for verification and to receive an admit slip. Students arriving late to school for any other reason should report to class, where the teacher will issue and record a tardy slip. If a student is detained by a staff member, that staff member should issue a corridor pass to the next scheduled class teacher.

Students are granted two (2) tardies without any penalty each semester. Disciplinary action will take place after the second tardy in each semester.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance means being present in your assigned class. Regular attendance is of prime importance to the student's success, both in high school and in college or the workplace. Good attendance is a sign of dependability and good citizenship. Classroom teachers will work closely with the Principal in promoting regular attendance.

Good attendance is the responsibility of the student and his/her custodial parent. Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

There are certain exceptions to the attendance requirement for children who: attend private school, are physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), are lawfully and necessarily employed, are between the ages of 12 and 14 while in confirmation classes, have a religious reason requiring absence, or are 16 or older and employed and enrolled in a graduation incentive program.

Students shall not be absent more than **seven (7) times per semester** per class. For all absences over seven per semester, the student will be required to provide verification from a physician specifying the dates on which the student was medically unable to attend school. Without such medical verification, each absence over seven per semester will be unexcused. Students will be allowed to make up work missed due to **excused absence**; the student must make arrangements with the teachers for make-up work and must complete make-up work in a reasonable time. "Absence" is defined as being gone from class for half or more of the period. Teachers will not admit a student to class after an absence without an admit slip issued by the Office. Admit slips will be issued after 8:00 a.m. by the Principal, Superintendent, or authorized attendance officer.

Excused absences pertaining to this policy will be recorded in the following way:

1. **ILLNESS**
 - A. A parent's or guardian's written excuse or phone call on the day of the absence or before the first class on the day of the student's return to school. Any absence not cleared in this way will be unexcused.
 - B. In the event a student is confined to a hospital or restricted to home by a doctor, the period of confinement specified by the doctor shall count as a single absence for the purpose of this policy.
 - C. In cases of chronic physical conditions requiring regular consultation or treatment by a physician, which necessitates that the student miss school, the Principal or Superintendent shall have the discretion to waive the seven (7) absence rule presented with medical verification of such condition. Such medical verification must be presented each semester.
2. **MEDICAL OR DENTAL APPOINTMENTS**
 - A. Appointments with health care professionals, including psychologists or psychiatrists and verified by a "return to work or school" form issued at the time of the appointment.
3. **DEATH IN THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY (Spouse, child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, in-laws, guardian)**
 - A. The student will be excused from the time of notification through the day after the funeral.

4. **COURT APPEARANCE**

- A. Mandated court appearances must be verified by a subpoena or other legal document.

5. **VACATION**

- A. Parents/Guardians must notify the school in advance of trip. If approved in advance the student will be allowed a maximum of three (3) days per year allotted to "vacation." All days in excess of three (3) will be unexcused. If the vacation is not approved in advance, all days missed will be unexcused unless family emergency.
- B. All work missed must be made up in a timely fashion.

6. **HUNTING**

- A. Hunting trips will be regarded as vacations (See Section 5). Students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

7. **AGRICULTURAL WORK**

- A. Agricultural work on one's own or family farm will be treated as an excused absence. Parents or guardians must call or provide written verification of the absence. Students will be responsible for all make-up work. The seven (7) absence rule applies.

8. **AUTHORIZED RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES**

- A. Attending any church-related activity which extends into part or all of a school day will be excused with parent note or phone call as for illness.

An **unexcused absence** is being gone for all or part of the school day without authorization. Examples of unexcused absence are: absences not cleared as in 1A) above; absences in excess of seven (7) not verified by medical excuse, leaving the school without permission, cutting class, vacations or hunting trips not pre-approved, going to work, attending sports or extra-curricular activities not sponsored by the school, college visits not pre-approved. It is at the discretion of the teacher to allow students to make up work missed during an unexcused absence or to reduce the student's grade for such work. Unexcused absences will result in disciplinary action.

COLLEGE DAYS

College days are an opportunity for junior and senior students to visit campuses, or technical schools, and/or make appointments to talk to admissions personnel about their program. Junior and senior students will be allowed two (2) college days each year. **College days when verified are not counted as absences**, but will be treated as class field trips. **College days must be arranged in advance with the school office; students must submit a completed "College Day Visitation Form" when they return to school.** Days in excess of two (2) used for campus visits, testing, or counseling will be considered as excused absences when verified by a parent.

TRUANCY

Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are considered chronic truants. The Regional Superintendent's Office will be notified of any chronic truants; legal action may be taken against parents of chronic truants under the age of 17. A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State law.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Prohibited Student Conduct

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco materials; including electronic or e-cigarettes. Federal and State Law prohibits smoking within schools or on school grounds by anyone.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling illegal drugs, controlled substances, cannabis(including marijuana, medical marijuana and hashish), any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription; look alike drugs, and/or drug paraphernalia, or any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. Students who are under the influence are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had drugs in their possession.
4. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling, explosives, firearms, knives, or any other object that can be used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm (weapon).
5. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling: any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a licensed health care provider or when not used in the manner prescribed.
6. Using or possessing electronic devices such as mp3 players, radios, pagers, laser pointers, cellular telephones, smartphone, games and tape recorders, without the permission of the teacher and/or administrator. (Without prior permission, devices should be off, and out of sight; also refer to rules on cell phone use)
7. Disobeying directives from staff members or school officials and/or rules and regulations governing student conduct.
8. Using lewd, obscene language or gestures or libelous material.
9. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, or bullying using a school computer or a school computer network or other comparable conduct.
10. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure and sexual assault.
11. Engaging in teen dating violence
12. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's personal property.
13. Unexcused absenteeism.
14. Being a member of or joining or promising to join, or becoming pledged to be a member of, soliciting any other person to join, promise to join, or be pledged to be a member of any public school fraternity, sorority, or secret society.

15. Involvement in gangs or gang-related activities, including the display of gang symbols or paraphernalia.
16. Cheating, defined as illegally obtaining or providing copies of tests and/or answer keys or using unauthorized notes during a test or quiz.
17. Plagiarism, defined as willfully taking the ideas, work, writing, etc., of another and passing them off as your own; forgery.
18. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, and hazing.
19. Sending, receiving or possessing sexually explicit or otherwise inappropriate pictures or images, commonly known as "sexting." Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving or possessing and indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone.
20. Using, purchasing, selling or possessing any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois Association of High School Association's most current banned substance list, unless administered in accordance with a prescription.
21. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
22. Engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with school purposes or educational function or is disruptive to the school program.

These grounds for disciplinary action apply whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to the school or school activities including, but not limited to:

1. On school grounds before, during, or after school hours and at any time when the school is being used by a school group.
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event.
4. Anywhere if the conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member, or an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

DISCIPLINE OPTIONS

In the operation of the schools, it is hoped that the hallmark of the exercise of authority will always be fairness. Every effort should be made to secure understanding and acceptance of decisions that are made in good faith. At times there may be legitimate differences of opinion between a student and a staff member. The Board will extend to students their full rights as provided by law. It is the Board's desire that the exercise of authority in a school setting be fair and that the student's rights be fully protected.

When requested by the building Principal, it is expected that a parent shall pick up his/her child immediately. It is crucial that school personnel not neglect other students due to disciplinary problems. Above all else, a favorable learning atmosphere must be maintained.

The following are disciplinary options available to the Board and/or administration of the District:

REMOVAL FROM CLASS

A teacher may temporarily remove a student from a classroom for inappropriate behavior. Continued inappropriate behavior by the student will lead to a disciplinary referral to the Principal for further action.

DETENTIONS

Detentions may be served before or after school or at lunch in a supervised, designated room. Detentions typically are 30 minutes long, but time may be increased or decreased based on student behavior. Seats will be assigned; there will be no talking, and no disruption. Students may serve their detention with the teacher who issues the detention. Skipping detentions will lead to alternate discipline measures.

ALTERNATIVE GUIDED STUDY

Alternative Guided Study is a disciplinary option for students whose behavior is a serious infraction of school rules, but does not necessarily affect the school program or the safety of others. Alternative Guided Study may be assigned at the Principal's discretion in, but not limited to, the following, cases: Unexcused absence, failure to serve assigned detention, excessive tardies to class, excessive detentions, and violation of closed campus. Students and parents will be notified in writing or by a call or email of an assigned Alternative Guided Study.

SUSPENSION AND DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Suspension is the exclusion of a student from school for up to ten (10) school days. Suspension is done by the Superintendent or Principal. A conference will be held with the student prior to the suspension to allow the student to state his or her case. The administration has the discretion to determine whether the suspension will be in-school or out-of-school. In-school suspensions will be served with supervision in an area determined by the administration. If adequate supervision cannot be guaranteed, the suspension will be out-of-school. Any suspension will be reported by phone or written notification to the parent or guardian with a full statement of reasons for the suspension and notice of the right to review by the School Board. A request for review by the School Board must be made in writing to the Superintendent within five (5) days of receipt of the written notice of suspension. A student returning from suspension must be admitted by the principal or designee. The suspended student may not participate in any extracurricular activities during the period of the suspension. The suspension will count toward absences according to the attendance policy.

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

EXPULSION AND DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

Expulsion is the **dismissal** of a student from the school for any period of time, but not to exceed two (2) school years. Only the Board of Education can order an expulsion according to Illinois School Code 10.22.6. An expulsion charge may be initiated by the Principal or Superintendent. Expulsions may take place only after the custodial parents or guardians have been requested to appear at a closed hearing of the Board of Education to discuss the charges.

The custodial parents or guardians will be notified by registered mail of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting related to the expulsion. The student may be suspended from school until the time of the hearing. Both school administration and student may present witnesses who will be subject to questioning by both parties. Either party may record the proceedings at his/her own expense. The rules of evidence shall not apply to the proceedings.

Should the Board determine that expulsion is warranted, it will state the reasons for the dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to become effective. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final. The

period of expulsion will count toward absences accordance with the attendance policy.

Illinois Public Act 89-0371 allows the School Board to expel a student for not less than one school year and up to two (2) school years for bringing a weapon onto school property. Such expulsion must be consistent with Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

REMOVAL FROM EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Participation in extra-curricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Failure to abide by school district rules and/or coach and sponsor rules may be grounds for removal from the activity. At school dances, inappropriate dance moves will be reason for disciplinary measures to be taken.

REMOVAL FROM BUS

Students are expected to follow the bus procedures outlined in this handbook and as established by Board of Education policy. Failure to follow the bus procedures may result in loss of bus privileges. (Refer to Bus Discipline Section of handbook)

REFERRAL TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS

If school officials have a reasonable belief that a student violated the laws of the State of Illinois, school officials may contact local law enforcement officials for further investigation and action.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment shall not be used at Armstrong Township High School. Corporal punishment is defined as slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of a student in a physically painful position, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include, and certified personnel are permitted to use reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, for the purpose of self-defense or the defense of school property (Illinois Public 88-0346, January 1, 1994).

MISCONDUCT BY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee shall also serve as the District's behavioral intervention committee to plan and implement procedures for using behavioral interventions with children with disabilities. The procedures shall conform to the State Board of Education's guidelines on the use of behavioral interventions, including that each student receiving special education services who requires the use of a restrictive behavioral intervention should have a written behavioral management plan developed by the IEP team and included in the student's IEP.

The District shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education's Special Education rules when disciplining special education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

BUS TRANSPORTATION/DISCIPLINE

Buses are provided for the convenience of students. Riding is a privilege, NOT A RIGHT. While being transported to or from school, or on other trips sponsored by the school, the bus driver (or other Board designee) is in charge and MUST be obeyed at all times. Students who fail to obey either the bus driver or school rules and place the health and safety of all riders at risk will be subject to disciplinary action and/or lose their privilege to ride. (Illinois School Code: 5/10-22.6).

Behavior expected of ALL school bus riders:

1. Be on time at the designated bus stop---help keep the bus on schedule.
2. Stay off the road while waiting for the bus. Always cross the street in front of the bus, so that you are visible to the driver at all times.
3. Remain seated in your assigned seat while the bus is moving.
4. Keep your head and arms inside the bus and keep your feet out of the aisles.
5. Never throw an object of any kind on the school bus.
6. In an emergency, stay on the bus and follow the driver's instructions.
7. Talk in a quiet voice so as not to distract the driver. Be courteous to other riders and the driver.
8. Help keep the bus clean by picking up litter on the floors or seats.
9. Carry no animals on the bus.
10. Do not bring fire-arms or other weapons, drugs other than prescription medication, or alcoholic beverages on the bus.
11. Do not swear or use inappropriate language or gestures.
12. No public displays of affection (as defined elsewhere in the handbook).

If a rider needs to be dropped off at a location other than his/or her designated stop, the student must have a note signed by the parent or guardian and authorized by the Principal or designated school personnel.

All school bus misconduct will be reported to the school Principal. Penalties may include detention or loss of school bus privileges. Students are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus. Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for violating school rules or for engaging in other gross disobedience or misconduct. The school board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus.

A student who is suspended from riding the school bus and who does not have alternative transportation to school shall be allowed the opportunity to make up all missed work for equivalent academic credit. It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternative transportation to school.

GUIDELINES FOR RECIPROCAL REPORTING OF CRIMINAL OFFENSES COMMITTED BY STUDENTS

The School Principal and or the Police Department School Liaison Officer will arrange meetings as needed between school officials and individuals representing law enforcement to share information. The Police

Department School Liaison Officer and the School Principal will verbally report to each other the following activities when committed by a student enrolled in the school:

- unlawful use of weapons under Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961
- a violation of the Illinois Controlled Substances Act
- a violation of the Cannabis Control Act
- a forcible felony as defined in Section 2-8 of the Criminal Code of 1961 (treason, murder, sexual assault, robbery, burglary, arson, kidnapping, aggravated battery (720 ILCS 5/2-8))

The State's Attorney shall provide to the School Principal a copy of any delinquency dispositional order where the crime would be a felony if committed by an adult or was a weapons offense.

Local law enforcement shall provide a copy of all arrest records and the State's Attorney shall provide a copy of all conviction records to the School Principal if the record involves a student who is arrested or taken into custody after his or her 17th birthday.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

To maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

School Property and Equipment as well as Personal Effects Left There by Students

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as, lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or the consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The administration may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

Students

School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as, purses, wallets, knapsacks, book bags, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student conduct rules. The search itself must be conducted in a manner which is reasonably related to its objective and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student, and the nature of the infraction.

Seizure of Property

If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the district's policies, such evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed to be a distraction to the educational process. District 225, its employees, and third party agents contracted by the District shall not be financially or legally responsible for lost, stolen or damaged phones or other electronic devices. In addition, these same parties shall not be responsible for the illegal or improper use of cell phones or cell phone accessories, or any violation of the

responsibilities that students must take on when parents choose to have their child possess a cell phone at school. The responsibility for cell phone possession at school or on school buses shall therefore rest entirely with the parent/guardian and the student.

General Rules and Regulations

- Cell phone use is limited to before school, after school, and in the classroom for educational purposes at the discretion of the classroom teacher. At other times during the school day, devices should be off and out of sight.
- Electronic music devices with earphones and e-book readers may be carried by students during the school day and used at the discretion of each classroom teacher. Earphones/headphones should not be in use during passing time.
- Cell phones or other electronic devices may not be used to transfer or record the voice of anyone but the user and images may not be transferred or recorded unless permission from classroom teacher or administration has been given.
- Improper cell phone camera usage will result in a possible suspension.

Any violations of the responsibilities may result in loss of the privilege to have a cell phone at school, loss of cell phone until a parent can pick it up, detention, in-school suspension and/or suspension. Illegal use of a cell phone is likely to be referred to law enforcement.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

A positive school environment fosters the development of close relationships among students. Affection is a natural outcome of close relationships. Public expression of affection such as hugging and hand-holding are not in themselves inappropriate. Inappropriate public displays of affection include kissing and/or hugging, sitting on the lap of another, or sitting with arms and/or legs entwined. Such intimate displays of affection have no place in school. Students engaged in intimate displays of affection will be asked to stop; if students are not able to refrain from intimate displays of affection at school, they and their parents will be invited to attend a private conference with the Principal.

DRESS CODE

We expect students to dress and groom themselves in a manner that does not detract from or disrupt the educational process of the school.

- Dress and grooming will be consistent with educational objectives and not promote alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco, illegal or violent behavior, or have sexual connotations.
- Bare back and bare midriffs are unacceptable. Clothing that exposes undergarments is not acceptable. Strapless clothing, hats, bandannas, sweatbands and sunglasses shall not be worn in school during the day, except for special occasions approved by the administration.
- Accessories that can be deemed a safety issue are not acceptable. Wallet chains and studded jewelry are two examples.
- The items listed above are examples and not all-inclusive.

When a student's dress violates the rules or becomes inappropriate for the school setting, then it becomes the responsibility of the school to intervene. Administration reserves the right to determine whether a student's dress is inappropriate for a school setting. Students who violate the student dress code shall be immediately required to change their attire into something appropriate.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

It is illegal and against District No. 225 Board of Education policy for any employee or student, male or female, to sexually harass another employee or student by:

1. Making unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, as a condition of an employee's continued employment, or a student's academic status.

2. Making submission to or rejections of such unwelcome conduct the basis for employment or academic decisions affecting an employee or student.
3. Creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working, or educational environment by such conduct.

A student who believes that he or she is a victim of sexual harassment is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Principal or Superintendent, who will follow uniform grievance procedures (possible written statement of complaint, investigation, written report of investigation, appeal rights). The student's parents or guardians may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved and will be kept informed of the investigation's progress. The student's oral or written statements will be kept confidential. District personnel will comply with the child abuse reporting laws.

Teen Dating Violence Prohibited

Engaging in teen dating violence that takes place at school, on school property, at school-sponsored activities, or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, the term teen dating violence occurs whenever a student who is 13 to 19 years of age uses or threatens to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship; or uses or threatens to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.

INTIMIDATION/BULLYING POLICY

Bullying, intimidation, teen dating violence and harassment are not acceptable in any form and will not be tolerated at school or any school-related activity, on school property, on school buses and transportation vehicles or through the transmission of information from a school computer, network or other school electronic equipment or through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or a program or from the use of technology or an electronic that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of the school. The school will protect students against retaliation for reporting incidents of bullying, intimidation, teen dating violence or harassment, and will take disciplinary action against any student who participates in such conduct.

No person shall harass, intimidate or bully another based upon perceived race, color, nationality, immigration status, sex, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, creed, physical or mental disability, gender identity, order of protection status, status as homeless, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy, unfavorable discharge from military service, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristic or any other distinguished characteristic. The school and district will not tolerate harassing, intimidating conduct, or bullying whether verbal, physical, or visual, that affects the tangible benefits of education, that unreasonably interferes with a student's educational performance, or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying (bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication) and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of: (1) placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property; (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health; (3) substantially interferes with the student's academic performance; or (4) substantially interferes with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

Examples of prohibited conduct include, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, bullying through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment, or other comparable conduct.

Students who believe they are victims of bullying, intimidation, teen dating violence, or harassment or have witnessed such activities are encouraged to discuss the matter with a building administrator, guidance

counselor, or staff member. Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same sex. Complaints will be kept confidential to the extent possible given the need to investigate. Students who make good faith complaints will not be disciplined.

Any student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in bullying, intimidation, teen dating violence or harassment will be subject to disciplinary consequences as provided in this handbook, including but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with the school and district's discipline policy. Parents of students who have engaged in the above behavior will be notified. Any student making a knowingly false accusation regarding harassment may also be subject to disciplinary consequences.

Any student who by word, act, deed, or implication attempts to intimidate any employee of Armstrong High School District #225 or any other student may be suspended and/or expelled from attending classes at Armstrong Township High School District #225. The intimidation includes any threat or implied threat; communication written, spoken, transmitted electronically or by other persons that would indicate intent to cause physical harm. These may include, but are not limited to:

1. Verbal/physical threats toward another student.
2. Prior incidents.
3. Out of control behavior.
4. Staff observation.

An employee engaging in sexual harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination and the filing of criminal charges. A student engaging in sexual harassment will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion. [Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000e et seq.; 29 CFR Sec. 1604.11(A).]

Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students may not participate in graduation ceremonies until all requirements are completed.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| English | 4 credits |
| Math | 3 credits |
| Science | 2 credits |
| U.S. History | 2 credits |
| Civics | .5 credit (plus test on US/State Constitution) |
| Keyboarding | 1 credit |
| Consumer Ed. | .5 credit |
| Health | .5 credit |
| Driver Ed. | .5 credit(elective course) |
| Music/Art/For. Lang/ or Voc Ed | 1 credit |
| *P.E. | 3.5 credits |
| Electives | 8 |

*** The state requires enrollment in seven (7) semesters of P.E. unless waived. If P.E. is waived, an equivalent amount of elective credits must be substituted.**

ACADEMIC COURSEWORK OUTSIDE REGULAR SCHOOL

The Board of Education of Armstrong Township High School District #225 recognizes its responsibility for establishing a policy regarding the transfer of credits and the acceptance of credits earned through summer school, private or parochial schools, or correspondence courses. Credit will be granted in accordance with the following:

Students entering Armstrong Township High School District #225 from another accredited school district must present official records indicating attendance, grade placement, and academic achievement in the previous school district. Grade placement may be adjusted, credits withheld, or promotion denied where evidence or lack of evidence of previous attendance, grade placement, or academic achievement warrants.

Credit will be accepted for **courses offered in summer school programs** of regionally accredited high schools. Credit for summer school courses shall not accelerate graduation prior to the seventh semester unless pre-approval has been given by parents/custodial parent, guidance counselor, principal, superintendent, and the school board. Courses recognized for credit must be courses offered at Armstrong Township High School or have pre-approval by the guidance counselor, principal, superintendent, and the school board. The student assumes responsibility for all fees.

Credit will be accepted from schools which are fully accredited by their respective state or by a regional accrediting association, including North Central, New England, Middle States, Southern, Northwest, and Western accrediting associations. Students enrolling from non-accredited schools will have their transcripts and other documents reviewed by the Principal and Guidance Counselor.

Credit for work completed in **correspondence courses** must be taken with an institution accredited by the North Central Association, National Home Study Council, or any recognized college or university by the state. The course must be approved in advance by the administration. A maximum of four (4) credits may be accepted while attending high school; credit for correspondence courses shall not accelerate graduation prior to the seventh semester unless pre-approval has been given by parents/custodial parent, guidance counselor, principal, superintendent and the school board. **The correspondence course must be completed prior to graduation for a student to participate in graduation ceremonies and grades received by the schools.** The student will be responsible for all fees.

EARLY GRADUATION

Some students who have met the graduation requirements may wish to graduate from high school before the end of the traditional eight semesters of attendance. These students will meet the following stipulations:

1. Successfully complete seven (7) semesters of academic work.
2. Carry at least a "C" average (cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 at the end of the 7th semester).
3. Fulfill all graduation requirements before the end of the 7th semester.
4. Present a written petition authorized by a parent or guardian to the Board of Education by the end of the first marking period of the senior year.

Seventh semester graduates may take part in the commencement ceremonies at the end of the school year. If a student chooses to graduate early, he or she will forfeit the right to be named Salutatorian or Valedictorian or to receive any special honors or scholarships awarded by Armstrong Township High School. He or she may not compete in any school sponsored athletic activity. He or she may not attend any other school activities (dances, parties, class or club trips) unless as an approved guest of an ATHS student.

GRADING SYSTEM

The administration and professional staff shall establish a system of grading that is fair, consistent, and defensible; develop procedures for reporting academic achievement to parents and students; and determine when the requirements for graduation have been met.

To receive credit for coursework taken, students must achieve a minimum passing grade. Single semester courses will receive a grade based upon the average of two (2) grading quarters and a final exam if exam is given. Full year course grades will be based upon an average of the two semester grades.

Students in Armstrong Township High School must receive a minimum number of credits during the school year to advance to the next grade. If a student does not receive enough credits to advance, that student will be retained in the same grade and will only be allowed to participate in that grade's activities. Students without enough credits to be a Junior would not be allowed to go to College Express or go to prom, unless asked by an upper-classman.

- Freshman must have 5 credits to move to 10th grade.
- Sophomores must have 11 credits to move to 11th grade.
- Juniors must have 16 credits to move to 12th grade.

Absent a court order to the contrary, upon request of either parent of a student whose parents are divorced, copies of report cards, along with other notices and records must be furnished to both parents by the district.

Every teacher shall maintain an evaluation record for each student in the teacher's classroom and submit the evaluation record to the administration at the end of each school year.

The final grade assigned by the teacher cannot be changed by a District administrator without notifying the teacher. Reasons for changing a student's final grade include:

1. A miscalculation of scores.
2. A technical error in assigning a particular grade or score.
3. Extra work assigned will impact the grade.
4. An inappropriate grading system was used to determine the grade.

Should a grade change be made, the administrator making the change must sign the changed record. The official grading scale used by staff at ATHS shall be as follows:

- A = 92-100%
- B = 84-91%
- C = 76-83%
- D = 68-75%
- F = 67% and below
- I = Incomplete.

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll is a program of recognition for students who have achieved excellence in academics. Honor Roll is published at the end of each marking period. Eligibility for Honor Roll is contingent on academic achievement for the current marking period of 3.0-3.49 for Honorable Mention; 3.50-3.99 for Honors; and 4.0 for High Honors.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Eligibility in the National Honor Society is open to any student in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade. Students must be enrolled in the school for one semester prior to being inducted into the Society and must meet the scholarship requirements set up by the National Council.

The object of the Middlefork Chapter is to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership, and to encourage the development of character in all students of Armstrong Township High School. Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society; membership is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council. The faculty council shall consist of five faculty members appointed annually by the Superintendent. Membership in the chapter is based upon scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

The faculty council will survey academically eligible students to obtain information regarding service and leadership. Students so surveyed should understand that such surveys are not applications for membership, and that review of information does not guarantee selection. The student activity form compiled by the academically eligible student will be used by the faculty council to assist in the selection process.

The faculty council will evaluate potential members for leadership, service, and character and make its selection. Students selected will be notified personally by the chapter advisory and inducted as members of the National Honor Society. After election, the students must continue to exemplify qualifications for membership.

FINAL EXAM WAIVERS

Final exam waivers will be issued to students who:

- have not more than two (2) full days of excused absences in the current semester. Absences for one period or less than half a day are not counted for purposes of this policy.
- have no unexcused absences, suspensions, excessive tardiness or disciplinary referrals in the current semester.
- have at least a C average (cumulative) in the course for which they use a waiver.

A student may not waive the same course final in two (2) consecutive semesters of an academic year. The Principal's office will issue exam waivers to eligible students during the last week of classes of each semester. Other rewards for responsibility and excellence in daily effort may be given as available.

PROGRAM CHANGES

During pre-registration a student may request courses for the following school year. Students' requests will be honored as scheduling restraints permit. After the opening day of either semester of school, any change in a student's program must be approved by the Principal and the custodial parent. Students will be asked to fill out a "Change of Program Request" and secure the proper signatures. Priority will be given to course changes because of duplication of a course or completing required courses. No change will be approved after the designated deadline in either semester. If a course is dropped after that time, the grade of "W/F" will be recorded on the permanent record. Students will be responsible for any fees resulting from a change in their course schedule.

REPORTING PROGRESS

The district will issue progress reports for all students at the end of the fourth week of each nine-week grading period. Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine-week period. Teachers are encouraged to contact parents **as soon as** a student is not meeting expectations; parents are encouraged to contact the teachers or administration at any time to check on a student's progress.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Conferences between teachers and parents or guardians should be held whenever either party requests one. School-scheduled conferences will be held at the end of the first marking period, the date and time to be announced each school year. Parents are encouraged to arrange for a conference appointment with the teachers they wish to see and to prepare questions in advance. Extended conferences should be scheduled at a time outside of parent-teacher conference night.

FEES AND INSURANCE

Fees are to be paid within the first two (2) weeks of the school year, unless other arrangements are made. The school establishes fees and charges to fund certain school activities. Some students may be unable to pay these fees. Students will not be denied educational services or academic credit due to the inability of their parent or guardian to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver does not exempt a student from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and/or equipment. Applications for fee waivers may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. A student is eligible for a fee waiver if the student currently lives in a household that meets the income guidelines, with the same limits based on the household size, that are used for the federal free meals program. Families who feel that they may qualify for free or reduced prices for milk and lunches may fill out an application and return it to the school office. Accuracy and honesty are required in filling out this form. Families who qualify for free or reduced lunches will also qualify for free or reduced fees.

Student book rental and other fees are set by the Board of Education annually. Student insurance is optional, with the exception of students participating in athletic teams, cheerleaders, or shop classes. These students are required to carry school insurance or have a signed legal waiver on file in the school office. Insurance waivers will be available at the time of registration.

DRIVER EDUCATION

To enroll in driver education, the student must be between the ages of 15 and 21 and be a legal resident of District #225 or Potomac C.U.D. District #10 (for the duration of the deactivation agreement). The student must turn 15 before the class begins; once the semester has begun, no new students may be enrolled in driver education unless they have begun the course at their previous school. Included are students who attend home school or private school.

Students otherwise eligible to take driver education must receive a passing grade in at least eight (8) courses during the previous two (2) semesters before enrolling in the course. This requirement may be waived only by the Superintendent.

Students may not miss more than three (3) class periods except for the following:

1. A prolonged medical need which is accompanied by documentation and a doctor's note.
2. A death in the family.
3. The Principal may view extenuating circumstances and make exceptions.

If a student misses more than three (3) class periods they will be removed from the class and will have to retake Driver Education the following semester.

If a student has a prolonged medical excuse or death in the family, the student will then make arrangements with the driver education teacher on when and how to make up the thirty (30) hours needed to pass driver education.

Any absences past three (3) that have to be made up will be at the student's/parent's cost. The school will charge the student/parent \$18.00 per hour that has to be made up. This cost is to pay the driver education teachers for their extra time.

P.E. WAIVERS

A student in grades 9-12 may submit a written request to the building principal requesting to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated below

1. Any **11th or 12th grader** who participates in an interscholastic athletic program, not including cheerleading or pompom squads. The student must take an extra class in place of the P.E class for at least one semester or the duration of their interscholastic sport involvement (whichever is longer).
2. Any **11th or 12th grader** who, in order to be granted admission to a specific institution of higher learning must complete specific academic courses not included in the existing state or local graduation requirements. Exceptions cannot be given for general college prep course work.
3. Any **11th or 12th grader** who lacks sufficient course credit or lacks one or more specific courses and must enroll in a class other than physical education in order to meet state and/or local graduation requirements.
4. Enrollment in a marching band program for credit;
5. Enrollment in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;
6. Medical waivers are granted by the school district upon the receipt of valid medical orders from a physician. Medical waivers are for the duration of the medical orders only.

A student in grades 3-12 who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses if:

1. The student's parent/guardian agrees that the student must utilize the time set aside for physical education to receive special education support and services,
2. The student's Individualized Education Program team determines that the student must utilize the time set aside for physical education to receive special education support and services. The agreement or determination must be made a part of the Individualized Education Program; or
3. The student has an Individualized Education Program and is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and the student's parent or guardian documents this participation.
4. A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student's Individualized Education Program.

PE waivers must be signed by parent, student, counselor, and principal and maintained in the student's temporary file.

WORK RELEASE

An Armstrong High School student will be excused from school to employment only if he or she is enrolled in an approved ATHS course which has work-based instruction as a component. Students who leave school early to go to work will not be excused.

STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within fifteen (15) school days of the day the District receives a request for access. A parent/guardian or eligible student (age 18 or older) should submit to the Records Custodian or other appropriate official, **written requests** that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The District Official will make arrangements for access and notify the requester of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should submit to the Records Custodian or other appropriate official, **written requests** that identify the record(s) they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested, the District will notify the requester of the decision and of the requester's right to a hearing. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided with this notification.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of **personally identifiable information** contained in the educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Exceptions which permit disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests, officials of another school in which a student seeks to enroll, to any person specifically required by State or Federal Law.

4. The right to request removal from the student's academic transcript one or more scores received on college entrance examinations. A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to remove certain scores of college entrance exams from their student's academic transcript. Students often take college entrance examinations multiple times in order to improve their results. Test publishers provide the results from each examination taken to the student's high school. Schools must include each of these scores on the student's transcript, which may result in academic transcripts having multiple scores from a single college entrance exam. A parent/guardian or eligible student may not want certain scores to be sent to postsecondary institutions to which the student applies. To request the removal of scores on college entrance examinations, the parent/guardian or eligible student must submit a written request stating the name of each college entrance examination that is the subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be removed.
5. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at the address below concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Directory information may be disclosed without prior notice or consent unless the parent/guardian or eligible student notifies the District in writing before October of the current school year that he doesn't want any or all

of the directory information disclosed. Directory information includes: student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

STUDENT DRIVING

Motor vehicles driven to school and parked on the school lot must be registered in the school office. Student vehicles must be parked facing north or facing south in the designated spaces. **Spaces next to the split-rail fence are reserved for staff members.**

All vehicles will remain on the parking lot during school hours and not be moved unless a written note or phone call from custodial parents authorizes the student to drive to special appointments. The student must receive prior approval from the Principal before leaving school grounds.

Students will not be permitted in the parking lot during school hours or lunch without permission from the Principal or designee.

Student drivers and parents picking up students are asked **not to pull out in front of buses**, but to use the **north drive to exit** the parking area. Violations of rules of the road will be reported to the Vermilion County Sheriff.

Students may not drive to sports practices or games unless prior permission has been given by administration. Athletes are expected to ride team buses to all events off campus. Exceptions may be made by the administration for practices held off campus and in some cases games.

HALL PASSES

Corridor passes will be issued to a student by his/her teacher or the office if it is necessary to be in the halls during class time. Teachers will use discretion in issuing hall passes. Any student in the halls without a pass will be asked to report to the office.

USE OF THE TELEPHONE

Office phones are for school business. With permission, emergency calls or those related to school business may be made from the office phone. To deliver an emergency message to a student during school hours, parents or guardians may call the school office. The message will be delivered to the student as soon as possible. **Ordinarily, the student WILL NOT be called from class to accept a phone call.**

SEVERE WEATHER

In case of severe weather, the official announcement for school closing may be heard over local radio and TV stations. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.** Parents should have a plan for emergency school closings and discuss this plan with their student in advance.

VISITORS

All visitors are asked to report to the school office when entering the building. Parents who wish to see a teacher or student should first report to the office.

In order to ensure the safety and welfare of all, **non-student visitors must be approved in advance by the Principal.** Unauthorized visitors will be asked to leave the premises. Failing to cooperate will cause us to call the Sheriff.

Young children are not permitted to accompany high school students during the school day and must be in the company of their parent when visiting.

CAFETERIA AND LUNCH PERIOD REGULATIONS

The cafeteria is generally designated as the only place within the building where food is to be eaten. No food or drinks should be taken out of the cafeteria and /or consumed in classrooms unless permission is granted by the classroom teacher and waste disposed of properly. All students must report to the cafeteria during lunchtime unless under the supervision of a staff member. The lunch period will be closed campus. Students may not leave the cafeteria without a pass from the cafeteria supervisor or an administrator.

LOCKERS & BOOK BAGS

Hall and physical education lockers are assigned to all students. Book bags and gym bags are to be kept only in the lockers during school hours (with approval from instructor book bags may be taken to 8th period only). Students are responsible to provide their own locks for P.E. lockers. Students are required to keep their lockers locked, to use only their assigned locker, and to report to the office if lockers are not working properly. Students should not reveal their locker combination to anyone. Locker decorations are to comply with all regulations in this handbook. Students will be asked to remove inappropriate locker decorations. **The school will not be responsible for items lost from lockers. School lockers are the property of Armstrong Township High School. School officials reserve the right to open and to examine lockers at anytime.**

LOST OR DAMAGED BOOKS OR MATERIALS

Students will be responsible for the full replacement price for any textbook or school-owned furniture or equipment damaged by the student. Textbooks are checked out to each student at the beginning of the year. Damage or markings in the books should be reported to the teacher at the time the text is issued.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

School sponsored publications and productions are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School authorities may edit or delete material which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission. All student media shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Text that is libelous, obscene, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, socially inappropriate or materially disruptive of the educational process will not be tolerated.

Non-school sponsored publications and posters may be distributed or posted **on school property** provided that the time, place, and manner in which these views are expressed and the views themselves do not conflict with the basic educational mission of the school district or cause substantial interference with the orderly function of the school program.

USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES: EQUAL ACCESS

Application for the use of school premises by non-curriculum related, student-initiated groups must be made in advance to the building Principal. Activities associated with the District's educational program have priority over other organizations; otherwise school premises will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Non-curriculum related student groups may meet on school premises during non-instructional time if approved by the building Principal and according to the following guidelines:

- it is voluntary.
- the school will not participate in or sponsor it.
- school employees can be present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
- it cannot materially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend.

MEDICATIONS AT SCHOOL

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student's health and well-being. When a student's licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a School Medication Authorization Form. Since Armstrong Township High School does not have a school nurse, we will follow these procedures, subject to change by the Board of Education:

Medication is defined as prescription drugs, non-prescription preparations including aspirin, Tylenol, or other non-aspirin analgesics, cough drops, syrups, or throat lozenges. Teachers have been directed not to give any of these to students.

If **prescription drugs** must be taken during the school day, parents or guardians must complete a School Medication Authorization Form, available in the school office. The medication must be brought to school in its original container provided by the pharmacy. Medication will be stored in the office or refrigerated as necessary. The student must come to the office to get the medication. If the student is to carry drugs or equipment on his or her person this must be so indicated on the form. A student may possess an epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen®) and/or an asthma inhaler prescribed for immediate use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form. Withdrawal of consent must be made in writing.

Students who bring their own **non-prescription preparations** must also have written permission on file in the Principal's office in order to carry such items on their person. Non-prescription medication must also be stored in the original container. Students should be cautioned not to share these products with others, nor keep them in their lockers.

CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the school principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

- a. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
- b. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
- c. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
- d. Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan.

For further information, please contact the Building Principal

STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules. If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the building principal. Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means

SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school district.

The school district maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Information can be obtained from the school office.

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD SPECTATOR SPORTSMANSHIP AT ALL ATHLETIC EVENTS

As a spectator, you are a guest of the school. We're happy to have you here. Come again and enjoy our athletes at their finest!

1. Maintain self-control at all times. Good sports conduct is concerned with the behavior of all involved in the game.
2. Show respect for the opponent at all times.
3. Show respect for the officials. Good conduct implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.
4. Know, understand, and appreciate the rules of the game.
5. Recognize and appreciate skill in performance regardless of team membership.
6. Show a positive attitude in cheering, refrain from intimidating or negative cheering.

Certain acts by the spectators will not be condoned. Anyone found in violation of the following may be asked to leave the game by ATHS supervisory personnel.

- use of obscene or abusive language that seeks to offend or intimidate player, official, or spectator.
- throwing objects (coins, pop cans, papers, etc.).
- being on the premises while under the influence of alcohol or chemicals.
- unauthorized entry into any scheduled contest.

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS

Students that wish to participate in extra-curricular activities must follow all guidelines as set forth by the Illinois High School Association. In accordance with Board of Education policy as set forth by Armstrong Township High School Board of Education District #225, all students shall be passing six (6) subjects. This means that a student may only be failing one subject to be eligible. Eligibility status shall be checked on a weekly basis and shall be determined by the Athletic Director or Principal. Any student deemed ineligible shall be suspended from participating in any extra-curricular activities for the week that they are ineligible. If a student fails more than one subject for a semester, that student will be ineligible to participate in extra-curricular events for the following semester.

STUDENT ATHLETE CONCUSSIONS AND HEAD INJURIES

Student athletes must comply with Illinois' Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act and all protocols, policies and bylaws of the Illinois High School Association before being allowed to participate in any athletic activity, including practice or competition. A student athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in a practice or game will be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student who was removed from practice or competition because of a suspected concussion shall be allowed to return only after all statutory prerequisites are completed, including without limitation, the School District's return-to-play and return-to-learn protocols. A student athlete who has been removed from an interscholastic contest for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to that contest unless cleared to do so by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer. If not cleared to return to that contest, a student athlete may not return to play or practice until the student athlete has provided his or her school with written clearance from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois or a certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois.

NETWORK AND INTERNET USER GUIDELINES ARMSTRONG TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

Parents and Students: The purpose of this agreement is to outline the rules for using the computer equipment, local area network, and Internet at Armstrong Township High School. Because of the cost and sensitivity of computer equipment, and because of the unregulated nature of material found on the Internet, the rules for usage must be understood by all parents and students.

Please read the following document with your student. We ask that you sign the "Network and Internet Permission Slip" and return it to the school.

- Access to the Internet is part of the school's curriculum and not a public forum for general use. Armstrong Township High School District #225 is not responsible for the accuracy or the quality of material gained through access to the Internet nor for liability resulting from use of access. *The user will be responsible for any fees incurred by unauthorized use.*
- The use of school computers is a privilege which may be taken away if the student uses computers, the network, or the Internet improperly---or causes damage to computer hardware or software.
- The school will remove any material from school computers that is not conducive to the educational mission of the school. Students will not install unauthorized software or download unauthorized files on school computers.
- The computers are to be used only for school work as directed by the teacher.
- Each student is responsible for good behavior while using computers and/or the network. The same rules that apply with regard to common courtesy and respect for people and property also apply with regard to use of the school computers, network, and the Internet. Improper use will result in possible loss of computer privileges and other disciplinary action as determined by the Principal in accordance with school policies. Improper use includes but is not limited to:
 - **using the Internet or school computers for illegal activity.**
 - **degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance.**
 - **vandalizing equipment or the data of another user.**
 - **gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.**
 - **invading the privacy of individual users.**
 - **using school computers to produce obscene or harassing materials.**
- The student will use the Internet **only under supervision** of teacher or staff member.
- The district has the right to review or monitor all activities, E-mail correspondence, and materials created by students on school computers.

Internet Safety

Each District computer with Internet access shall have a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, and (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall enforce the use of such filtering devices. An administrator, supervisor, or other authorized person may disable the filtering device for bona fide research or other lawful purpose, provided the person receives prior permission from the Superintendent or system administrator. The superintendent or designee shall include measures in this policy's implementation plan to address the following:

1. Limiting student access to inappropriate matter as well as restricting access to harmful materials;
2. Student safety and security when using electronic communications;
3. Limiting unauthorized access, including "hacking" and other unlawful activities;
4. Limiting unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information; and
5. Restricting minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

English Language Learners

The school will offer opportunities for English Learners to develop high levels of academic attainment in English and to meet the same academic content and student academic achievement standards that all children are expected to attain. Parents/guardians of English Learners will be: (1) given an opportunity to provide input to the program, and (2) provided notification regarding their child's placement in, and information about, the District's English Learners programs.

Teacher Qualifications

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

- Whether the teacher has met State certification requirements;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status by which State licensing criteria have been waived;
- The teacher's college major;
- Whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees; and
- Whether any instructional aides or paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information, please contact the school office.

Surveys by Third Parties

Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions. Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the building principal.

Sex Offender & Violent Offender Community Notification Laws

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth.

You may find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at:
<http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>.

You may find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at:
<http://www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/>.

School Visitation Rights

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

Response To Intervention

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are pleased to inform you that we are implementing a practice of early intervention services known as **Response to Intervention (RtI)**. RtI provides high quality instruction/intervention to meet each student's identified needs. RtI involves assessments of your child's learning rate and his/her level of performance (compared to expected performance). These assessments will be used to make important educational decisions. Teams of school personnel will meet regularly to discuss progress and determine which students will participate in intervention groups. Our school district has decided to implement an assessment called the Measures of Academic Progress that will be administered to our freshman and sophomore classes beginning in the fall of 2009.

All general education students will participate in the core academic curriculum (known as Tier 1). Many students will also receive Supplemental Services (known as Tier 2). This means they will spend more time learning a particular skill through specific interventions and accommodations. Tier 2 instructions may be provided by the classroom teacher or a support staff member (school psychologist, school social worker, speech therapist, teacher assistant, etc.) Because students will move in and out of groups as they master skills, parental permission to participate in groups will not be obtained.

Students who continue to struggle will also receive Intensive Services (known as Tier 3). This means your child will receive additional small group instruction and interventions targeted to his/her needs. Again, many different school personnel may provide this intervention, including special education personnel.

Extra time for additional instruction will be occurring during our homeroom period. As always, you will be informed of your child's educational progress over the course of the school year. If your child requires Tier 3 intervention, you may be invited to come to a meeting to discuss your child's educational needs. Students who continue to require Tier 3 intervention for an extended period of time may be entitled to special education services with parental permission. If a parent requests an evaluation for special education, a meeting will be held to discuss the request. However, a student may not be entitled to special education if they have not received Tier 3 intensive instruction.

We are very excited about RtI. We strongly believe by teaching and assessing specific skills explicitly and systematically students will make academic gains. Teaching will become more precise, and concrete data will be used to make decisions about instruction. If you have any questions about the practice of RtI, please contact the building principal.

Armstrong - Potomac Extra-Curricular Code

All extra-curricular activities will be under the code of conduct.

One of the major objectives of formal education is that of teaching citizenship and responsibility for one's actions. The Board of Education and staff of Armstrong Township High School believe this to be of primary importance in today's society. Therefore, any student representing Armstrong-Potomac is obligated to adhere to the following extra-curricular code. Consequences for failure to adhere to this code are outlined in this document.

The student acceptance of participation in athletics or activities involves a commitment on the part of the student to adhere to the extra-curricular code. It is the responsibility of the coach, sponsor and athletic director to inform parents or guardians and the student athletes of this extra-curricular code, and to enforce the code in a fair and consistent manner. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the extra-curricular code and to adjust their behavior accordingly so that it becomes unnecessary for a coach, sponsor and/or athletic director to enforce the extra-curricular code.

This code and the rules within will apply to all participants in any and all extra-curricular activities. This code shall be enforced throughout the school year, from the first day of school through the last day of school. Disciplinary consequences or violations when a student is "out of season" will be levied during the student's next period of competition or performance. Incoming freshmen will be subject to the code as soon as they enter school on the first day or as soon as they are presented the rules by a coach or sponsor. In the case of football, cross-country, volleyball and golf or any activity that begins before the start of school, this code shall be given to those students on the first day of practice. Coaches or Sponsors shall present a set of written rules of the program to all participants, to be signed and kept on file in the office. Penalties shall be cumulative beginning with and throughout the student's participation in extra-curricular activities while attending Armstrong Township High School.

Student Responsibilities

1. Students are expected to dress appropriately for games, meets, matches or performances. Dress codes for school should be followed for extra-curricular events.
2. Students personal grooming should conform to standards acceptable to the IHSA, the school, sponsors and coaches.
3. A student may not be failing more than 1 class and must be in compliance with all other eligibility requirements in order to compete.

4. Students are expected to abide by rules set forth by their coaches or sponsors. These rules will be approved by the Athletic Director and Principal before the start of the season.
5. Student athletes must pass a physical exam by a licensed physician, an advanced practice nurse or physician assistant and a written physical exam form must be on file with the office before the start of participation in any sport. A permission slip to participate in the specific sport or activity signed by the student's parent/guardian must be on file with the office.
6. Student athletes must have approved health insurance or a parent/guardian signed "waiver" form on file with the office prior to participation.
7. A signed agreement by the student not to use any drugs on the IHSA's most current banned drug classes list and an agreement to take part in random testing for these substances.
8. A signed agreement by the student's parent or guardian authorizing random performance-enhancing substance testing and recognizing the dangers of drug use.
9. Students must sign an acknowledgement form stating their awareness of this code and coaches individual rules.

All Inclusive Rules

1. Illegal drugs - use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale. First offense - suspension from interscholastic competition or club events for 30 calendar days beginning with the first scheduled game, meet or contest, unless 1st game, meet or contest has occurred then 30 calendar days from date of incident. If the season concludes before the 30-day penalty can be served, the balance of the suspension shall apply to the next possible season or activity. A second offense shall be one calendar year from time of infraction. A third offense is a total ban from extra-curricular participation for the rest of the student's years in school.
2. Alcohol - use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale. The penalty is the same as for Illegal drug use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale. 30 days for the first offense, one calendar year for a second infraction and a total ban for a third offense.
3. Felonies, crimes against the school or school personnel, vandalism. Penalty - student shall be ineligible for one calendar year. A conviction by a court of law is not a prerequisite to disciplinary measures under this code. A second offense is a total ban from participation for the rest of the student's years in school.
4. Tobacco - use, possession, distribution, purchase or sale; or any type of smoking. - Penalty shall be enforced in the same manner as applied to Drugs and Alcohol. First offense is a 30 calendar day suspension. A second offense is a one year calendar day suspension and a third offense is a total suspension from all extra-curricular participation for the rest of the student's years in school.
5. To assist with proper conditioning, game or match knowledge, participants will be required to continue with practice with their team and follow team/club/organization rules.

In addition, the student must complete the season in good standing with the team/club/organization. If these stipulations are not met, no credit will be given for any time served for the suspension (ie - the student suspension would start over.) Note: permission to practice must have coach/sponsor and AD/Principal consent. If approval is withheld, the suspension days will begin to accrue immediately.

6. School suspension, Alternative Guided Study or out of school, automatically bans practice and play for the length of the suspension. Students may not attend school functions while they are suspended. Other punishment may be administered by the coaches according to their rules.

7. Unacceptable behavior - gross disrespect, confrontation with a school official, director, sponsor, participant from another school. Game/contest official or law enforcement officer. Disciplinary actions may include suspension or removal from any activity for the current season or up to one calendar year.

Violations may be reported by police, staff members, board members or a credible community member. All violations shall be reported to the Athletic Director or Principal, who in turn will notify coaches or sponsors. If an investigation proves a student is in violation of the code, the student athlete will be advised of the charges against him or her and given an opportunity to respond to the charges. The student and their parents will be advised by the administration of any disciplinary action taken as a result of the charges. If the Athletic Director and coaches cannot reach a decision, the matter will be taken to the principal. The student may appeal any decision to the school board for review of the decision. If a situation occurs that is not covered by this code, the administration will make a final decision after consulting with the student athlete, parents/guardians, the Athletic Director and coach or sponsor involved.

Participation is a privilege, not a right!

***Armstrong Township High School District #225
Acknowledgment Form***

Student Acknowledgement and Pledge

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations. In order to help keep my school safe, I pledge to adhere to all School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement and pledge will not relieve me from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

Student Name/Signature

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgement

I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided electronic access to the Student/Parent Handbook and School Board policy on student behavior. I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations.

I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available in the school office.

I understand that my failure to return this acknowledgement will not relieve me or my child from being responsible for knowing or complying with School and School District rules, policies and procedures.

Custodial Parent or Guardian Signature

***This form must be returned to the Principal's Office
on or before the class day following Labor Day.***