PRINCIPALS:

Jennifer King, Ozark Kindergarten Center
Kelly Burns, Ozark Primary School
Shane Vincent, Ozark Upper Elementary
SCHOOL CREED:

I am an OZARK HILLBILLY.
I am a bright individual.
I am unique and special.
There is no one I’d rather be than me.
Today I have the courage to be the best that I can be.
I am responsible for my own actions.
   I have a brain.
   I can learn.
   I am loved.
   I will succeed.
I can because I know I can.
Success begins with me!

HPRD

HILLBILLY PRIDE RUNS DEEP!
To Parents and Students:

Arkansas State Law requires that each student and parent be provided access to the school’s handbook each year. Our handbook contains information that we feel is necessary for the school to continue to provide a quality education for your child. The Law also requires each school district to develop procedures for written notification and documentation of the receipt of such policies by all parents and students.

Please take time to read and discuss the handbook with your child and sign the signature sheets which have been provided to you in a signature packet and return them to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Your signature will indicate receipt of these policies.

For the policies, standards and school compact addressed on these signature pages, please refer to the back of the handbook in the sections labeled P-1 through P-4, standards and compact. The discipline policy and procedure is listed in the table of contents as well as all other pertinent information.

Printed copies of the handbook available upon request.

IMPORTANT NOTE

The District Handbook is available on the school website. Policies are updated regularly and supersede building level student handbook.
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OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL CALENDAR
2019-2020

August 13                      First Day of School
September 2                    Labor Day
September 17                   Parent/Teacher Conferences
                                (Grades 4th-12th)
October 11                     End of 1st Quarter
October 17                     Parent/Teacher Conferences
                                (Grades K-3rd)
October 18-21                  No Classes
November 27-29                 Thanksgiving Break
December 20                    End of 2nd Quarter
December 23-January 6          Christmas Break
January 6                      Professional Development
                                (no classes)
January 7                      Classes Begin 3rd Quarter
February 14-17                 President’s Day (no classes)
March 13                       End of 3rd Quarter
March 19                       Parent/Teacher Conferences
March 20-29                    Spring Break
April 10                       No Classes
May 22                         End of 4th Quarter
May 25                         Memorial Day

**Snow Days (prioritized): May 26, May 27, May 28, May 29, and June 1
Spring Break is mandated by the State and cannot be changed.
OZARK KINDERGARTEN CENTER STAFF

- Principal: Jennifer King
- Secretary: Caren Nichols
- Counselor: Kim Allred
- Nurse: Dianna Bowman
- Classroom Teachers:
  - Whitney Battles
  - Lindsey Carmack
  - Heather McCaulley
  - Micki Musick
  - Linda Oldham
  - Jaime Price
  - Olivia South
- Pre-K:
  - Suzie Smither
  - Amanda Sampley
- Para-Professional
  - Michelle Morgan, Kindergarten
  - Crystal Metzger, Pre-K
  - Shannon Hutchison, Pre-K
- Support Staff:
  - Art/GT/Physical Education: Yury Taff
  - K-2 ALE: Angel Harris
  - Computer Lab: Bailey Gipson
  - Human Services: Chad Haberer
  - Literacy/Dyslexia Specialist: Carmie McChristian
  - Literacy Lab: Karen Schluterman
  - Math Title 1: Sherri Lane
  - Math Instructional Facilitator: Lindsey Pannell
  - Media Specialist: Sarah Boen
  - Music: Julie Wolfe
  - Resource Officer: Shea Reed
  - Special Education: Sarah Boen
  - Speech Therapist: Erica Bullard
- Custodial Staff:
  - Linda Waters
OZARK PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF

- Principal: Kelly Burns
- Dean of Students: Jeff Richard
- Secretary: Dana Coleman
- Counselors: Kim Allred, 1st Grade
  Tracy Morris, 2nd-3rd Grades
- Nurse: Alicia Petersen
- Classroom Teachers:
  o First Grade:
    ▪ Jamie Etienne
    ▪ Shellie Harty
    ▪ Katrina Herriage
    ▪ Stacy Jones
    ▪ Stephanie Sampley
    ▪ Tiffine Shaffer
    ▪ Sherri Somerville
  o Second Grade:
    ▪ Jamie Hall
    ▪ Laurie Hall
    ▪ Celeste Pitts
    ▪ Megan Tedford
    ▪ Kaylen Terry
    ▪ Kerry Trotter
    ▪ Amanda Whitwam
  o Third Grade:
    ▪ Leah Lemley
    ▪ Courtney Russell
    ▪ Melissa Roetzel
    ▪ Tammy Stevens
    ▪ Lindsey Vest
    ▪ Tiffany Warren
- Custodial Staff:
  o Stephanie Bowles
  o Maxine Elder
  o Darryl Stevens
- Support Staff:
  o Art: Tessa Wiggins, Yury Taff
  o ALE K-2: Angel Harris
  o ALE 3-5: Jonathan Doss
  o Gifted/Talented: Lorrie Casey
  o Human Services: Chad Haberer
  o Literacy Dyslexia Specialist:
    Elizabeth Reeves
  o Math, Title 1: Sherri Lane
  o Math Instructional Facilitators:
    ▪ Lindsey Pannell, K-2
    ▪ Kristen Roberts, 3-5
  o Media Specialist: Jennifer Peters
  o Music: Rachel Reeves
  o Physical Education: Kristi White
  o Resource Officer: Shea Reed
  o Special Education:
    ▪ Carlee Mitchell, Resource
    ▪ Brittany West, K-4 High Needs Resource
- Para-Professionals:
  o Lisa Alston, Computer Lab/Intervention
  o Bobbie Biggs, Intervention
  o Nancy Binz, Intervention
  o Nicole Bowen, K-2 ALE Intervention
  o Vanessa Flores, Intervention
  o Janet Haberer, Library
  o Melinda Johnson, Physical Education
  o Karen Lachowsky, Intervention
  o Rebekah McIlroy, High Needs Resource
OZARK UPPER ELEMENTARY STAFF

- Principal: Shane Vincent
- Secretary: Shelly Sanford
- Counselor: Lynn Burns
- Nurse: Dianna Bowman
- Classroom Teachers:
  - Fourth:
    - Rebecca Elms
    - Denise Hitcher
    - Jaysa Irvin
    - Stefan Lyons
    - Sara Whitlock
    - Tina Yother
  - Fifth:
    - Laura Allen
    - Jennifer Brown
    - Erica Griffin
    - Angie Harris
    - Kristi Jenkins
    - Regina Pryor
    - Charlotte Timmerman
- Para-Professionals:
  - Gail Barnes, Intervention
  - Janet Haberer, Library
  - Melinda Johnson, Physical Education
- Support Staff:
  - Art: Tessa Wiggins
  - ALE 3-5: Jonathan Doss
  - Computer Lab: Cindy Warden
  - Gifted/Talented: Lorrie Casey
  - Human Service: Chad Haberer
  - Literacy/Dyslexia Specialist: Carmie McChristian
  - Math Instructional Facilitator: Kristen Roberts, 3-5
  - Media Specialist: Jennifer Peters
  - Music: Rachel Reeves
  - Physical Education: Kristi White
  - Resource Officer: Shea Reed
  - Special Education: Derrica Haney
- Custodial Staff:
  - Randall Huff
  - Jason Powers
RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Definitions

“In loco parentis” means relating to the responsibility to undertake the care and control of another person in the absence of:
1. Supervision by the person’s parent or legal guardian; and
2. Formal legal approval.

“Reside” means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.

“Resident” means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.

“Residential address” means the physical location where the student’s parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a parent, legal guardian, person having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court student, or person standing in loco parentis reside within the District and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parents or guardians parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis for school attendance purposes.

In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District’s schools separate and apart from his or her parents, guardians, or other persons having lawful control of him or her under an order of a court, the person must actually parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis, the student is required to reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance. However, a student previously enrolled in the district who is placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools. A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.

Under instances prescribed in A.C.A. § 6-18-203, a child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education coop to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and his/her child or ward reside outside the district.

Children whose parent or legal guardian relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States
Armed Forces or National Guard may continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation or attend school in the school district where the children have relocated. A child may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.

Legal References:
A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-18-107
A.C.A. § 6-18-202
A.C.A. § 6-18-203
A.C.A. § 9-28-113

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must be a resident of the District as defined in District policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), meet the criteria outlined in policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS or in policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN, be accepted as a transfer student under the provisions of policy 4.4, or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option under Policy 4.5.

Students may enter kindergarten if they will attain the age of five (5) on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment. Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in which he/she is enrolled in kindergarten, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the District. Any student who was enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state or in a kindergarten program equivalent in another country, becomes a resident of this state as a direct result of active military orders or a court-ordered change of custody, will become five (5) years of age during the year in which he or she is enrolled in kindergarten, and meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon a written request to the District.

Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the first grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the first grade and the child’s parent or legal guardian agrees with placement in the first grade; otherwise the child shall be placed in kindergarten.

Any child may enter first grade in a District school if the child will attain the age of six (6) years during the school year in which the child is seeking enrollment and the child has successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public school in Arkansas.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state-accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in grade one (1), and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Private school students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement.
Home school students enrolling or re-enrolling as a public school student shall be placed in accordance with policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The district shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or his/her parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.

Prior to the child’s admission to a District school:
1. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or other responsible person standing in loco parentis shall furnish the child’s social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the department of Division of Elementary and Secondary education.
2. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or other responsible person standing in loco parentis shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child’s age:
   a. A birth certificate;
   b. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child’s date of birth;
   c. An attested baptismal certificate;
   d. A passport;
   e. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child’s parent, or legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis;
   f. United States military identification; or
   g. Previous school records.
3. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or other responsible person standing in loco parentis shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding. Any person who has been expelled from any other school district shall receive a hearing before the The Board of Education at the time the student is seeking enrollment in the District. The Board reserves the right, after a hearing before the Board, not to not allow the enrollment of such students any person who has been expelled from another school district to enroll as a student until the time of the person’s expulsion has expired following the hearing before the Board.
4. In accordance with Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the child shall be age appropriately immunized or have an exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health.

Uniformed Services Member’s Children

For the purposes of this policy:

“Activated reserve components” means members of the reserve component of the uniformed services who have received a notice of intent to deploy or mobilize under Title 10 of the United States Code, Title 32 of the United States Code, or state mobilization to active duty.

“Active duty” means full-time duty status in the active, uniformed services of the United States, including without limitation members of The National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. §§ 1209 and 1210.

“Deployment” means a period of time extending from six (6) months before a member of the uniformed services' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to his or her home station.

“Active duty members of the uniformed services” includes members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211;
“Uniformed services” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services;

“Veteran” means: a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

“Eligible child” means the children of:
• Active duty members of the uniformed services;
• Members of the active and activated reserve components of the uniformed services;
• Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement; and
• Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death.

The superintendent shall designate an individual as the District’s military education coordinator, who shall serve as the primary point of contact for an eligible child and for the eligible child’s parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the eligible child, or person standing in loco parentis. The individual the superintendent designates as the District’s military education coordinator shall have specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs of children of military families and the obstacles that children of military families face in obtaining an education.

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:
1. Be allowed to continue his/her enrollment at the grade level commensurate with his/her grade level he/she was in at the time of transition from his/her previous school, regardless of age;
2. Be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in his/her previous school;
3. Enter the District’s school on the validated level from his/her previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;
4. Be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in his/her previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses and/or programs;
5. Be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in his/her previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
6. Make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
7. Be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student’s guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
8. Be eligible to continue attending District schools if he/she has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

In the event that official copies of an eligible child’s education records are not available at the time the eligible child is transferring, then the District shall:

- Pre-register and place an eligible child based on the eligible child’s unofficial education records pending receipt of the eligible child’s official records; and
- Request the eligible child’s official education records from the sending district.

Legal References:
- A.C.A. § 6-4-302
- A.C.A. § 6-4-309
- A.C.A. § 6-15-504
- A.C.A. § 6-18-107
- A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (c)
- A.C.A. § 6-18-207
- A.C.A. § 6-18-208
- A.C.A. § 6-18-510
- A.C.A. § 6-18-702
- A.C.A. § 9-28-113

STUDENT TRANSFERS

The Ozark School District shall review and accept or reject requests for transfers, both into and out of the district, on a case by case basis at the July and December regularly scheduled board meetings. Complete policy available

SCHOOL CHOICE

Ozark Elementary Schools are school choice schools. For entire policy see Ozark School District Policy.

STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN

The District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to foster children that are afforded other children and youth. For complete policy, please see District Policy.
EXCUSING PUPILS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

CLOSED CAMPUS

The high school, junior high, and elementary campuses are closed during school days. The term “closed campus” means once a student is on campus, he/she will not be allowed to leave without permission from the building principal or his/her designee.

Before excusing students to leave school, the principal should make every effort to contact the parents. When this is not possible, the principal should check on any written excuse or phone calls to be certain they are authentic.

A student may not be interviewed by strangers or an estranged parent except in the presence of the principal or designee. The principal or his/her designee will make an effort to contact the student’s parent or legal guardian.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF STUDENTS

A change in routine arrival or departure of students must be accompanied by written notice or parent call to the homeroom teacher. This note should include specific instructions and directions as necessary. Failure to receive written instructions will result in your child being put on their regular bus or departing in their regular manner. A note from both sets of parents are required if one child is going home with another.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR EMPLOYER

When a student’s address or phone number of a parent’s employment changes, this information should be reported to the teacher and school office immediately. This will also help to ensure you receive messages from school sent by the automated phone message system, School Messenger.

END OF DAY PROCEDURES

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT CHECKING OUT YOUR CHILD EARLY MAY CAUSE THE CHILD TO FALL BEHIND IN HIS/HER CLASS WORK. We ask that everyone please cooperate in this endeavor. Numerous early check-outs will be referred to the principal when the child’s academic progress is endangered. Checking out before 2:00 p.m. will count as a ½ day absence.

TO MAKE THE DISMISSAL TIME RUN AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE, REGULAR SCHOOL PROCEDURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Each day, your child will be sent home the usual way unless we receive a note from you or you call the office to change plans. Please try to call before 2:00 p.m. (K – 667-3021) (1st – 3rd 667-4745) (4th – 5th 667-3464)

Car riders begin loading from building at 3:00 p.m. Buses begin loading at 3:05 p.m. Students riding bikes or walking are dismissed at 3:00 p.m.

If there is an emergency or your child has an appointment and you need to pick him or her up earlier than the regular dismissal time, please come to the office and sign them out and they will be called to the office for you.
DURING BUS TIME, PARENTS ARE ASKED NOT TO DO THE FOLLOWING:
Remove the students from the school bus during bus loading time. (Parents should go to the office.)

CAR RIDERS
In order to provide for a safe arrival and departure for our students being picked up by their parents, we are asking that you please observe the following rules:

1. Drop-off: Please enter from Gibson Street and use both lanes. (Morning drop-off begins at 7:30 a.m.) We ask that all vehicles pull to the furthest point to unload and have students ready to exit from the vehicle. DO NOT UNLOAD STUDENTS IN PARKING LOT UNLESS CAR IS PARKED IN DESIGNATED SPOT AND STUDENT ESCORTED TO CROSSWALK.
2. Pick-up: Please enter from Gibson Street and use both lanes (PM car riders must be picked up by 3:25 p.m.).
3. Kindergarten: Front of building, enter from 12th Street south and exit to 12th Street north. Fire lane must remain clear at all times.

Please observe with caution when entering and leaving the school campus since children, even when escorted by adults can be unpredictable and dart away!

VISITOR PARKING
Please park in designated parking lots at all schools. Please do not park in car or bus loading lanes.

MESSAGES
Emergency messages may be delivered to children. Try to finalize after school plans before school. Remember, we have approximately 900 children in our schools. Messages cause disruptions in classes, and one message per child each day would mean chaos to educational efforts. Transportation changes must be received by 2:30 p.m.

BAD WEATHER
Please, on days of extreme weather conditions (snow, ice, etc.), listen to one of the radio or TV stations to know if school will be closed. The district also has an automated phone message system through School Messenger that will notify parents of school closings. If school is dismissed early because of bad weather, please have a plan worked out with your child as to where he/she needs to go in case you are not home. Failure to do so may cause delays in getting the buses on the road toward home.

VISITORS TO SCHOOL PROPERTY
Arkansas law requires that parents and visitors to school premises shall check in at the school office upon arrival. Visitors must obtain a “Visitor Pass” from the office before they can pick up a child from the classroom. This pass signifies that individuals have gone through proper channels and are authorized to pick up a child. For further explanation, refer to district handbook 4.15 and 4.16. Parents and visitors are not to go directly to the classroom.
ATTENDANCE

Compulsory Attendance Requirements

Every parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or standing in loco parentis of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions:

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
2. The child is being home-schooled and the conditions of policy (4.6—HOME SCHOOLING) have been met.
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or standing in loco parentis of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waver form prescribed by regulation of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
4. The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (b).

The number of absent days will be reported to parents by each teacher at the end of each grading period. The principal’s office will notify parents by mail on the 6th and 10th day a student is absent in the same semester. In compliance with state law, the city attorney’s office will be notified on the 13th day a student is absent.

If any student’s Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student’s IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students’ regular attendance at school is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

Absences for students enrolled in digital courses shall be determined by the online attendance and time the student is working on the course rather than the student’s physical presence at school. Students who are scheduled to have a dedicated period for a digital class shall not be considered absent if the student logs the correct amount of time and completes any required assignments; however, a student who fails to be physically present for an assigned period may be disciplined in accordance with the District’s truancy policy.

Excused Absences

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement to the principal or designee upon his/her return to school from the parent or legal guardian stating such reason. A written
statement presented for an absence having occurred more than five (5) school days prior to its presentation will not be accepted.

1. The student’s illness or when attendance could jeopardize the health of other students. A maximum of six (6) such days are allowed per semester unless the condition(s) causing such absences is of a chronic or recurring nature, is medically documented, and approved by the principal.1
2. Death or serious illness in their immediate family;
3. Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student’s faith;
4. Attendance at an appointment with a government agency;
5. Attendance at a medical appointment;
6. Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal;
7. Participation in an FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity;
8. Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students.
9. Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
10. Absences granted, at the Superintendent’s discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and (12).

Unexcused Absences

Absences not defined above or not having an accompanying note from the parent; or legal guardian; person having lawful control of the student; or person standing in loco parentis, presented in the timeline required by this policy, shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with six (6) unexcused absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

When a student has six (6) unexcused absences, his/her parents, legal guardians, persons with lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified6. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds six (6) unexcused absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

When a student has three (3) unexcused absences, his/her parents, guardians, or persons in loco parentis shall be notified5. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds six (6) unexcused absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

At any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or
district’s administration for special arrangements to address the student’s unexcused absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement’s requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student’s parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.⁶

Students who attend in-school suspension shall not be counted absent for those days.⁷

Days missed due to out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be unexcused absences.⁷

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student’s operator’s license unless he/she meets certain requirements specified in the statute.

Applicants for an instruction permit or for a driver’s license by persons less than eighteen (18) years old on October 1 of any year are required to provide proof of a high school diploma or enrollment and regular attendance in an adult education program or a public, private, or parochial school prior to receiving an instruction permit. To be issued a driver’s license, a student enrolled in school shall present proof of a “C” average for the previous semester or similar equivalent grading period for which grades are reported as part of the student’s permanent record.

Legal References:


TARDINESS

Students arriving at school after 8:00 a.m. or leaving before 2:30 p.m. are considered tardy. Excessive tardies may result in designation as student absence.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In compliance with Act 1333 of 2003, it is mandatory for students and staff of Arkansas Public Schools to participate in a daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag during the first class of each school day. If a student or a student’s parent or legal guardian objects to the student participating in the pledge due to religious, philosophical, or other grounds, the student will be expected to quietly stand by his/her seat while others recite the pledge. If a student or staff member is unable to physically comply with the procedures described in this section, they will be excused by the principal.

REQUIRE A PERIOD OF SILENCE AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL DAY

In compliance with Act 576 of 2013, a public school in this state shall observe a one (1) minute period of silence at the beginning of school each day. During the period of silence a student may, without interfering with or distracting another student: (1) reflect; (2) pray; or (3) engage in a silent activity. A teacher or school employee in charge of a public school classroom ensure that all students remain silent and do not interfere with or distract another student during the period of silence.

Arkansas Code § 6-10-115

PARTIES AT SCHOOL

Parties are limited to three during the school year: Fall Festival, Christmas, and Valentine’s Day. We ask that there be no birthday parties at school. Please do not send birthday party invitations to school with your child due to the disruption to the learning environment. No snacks are to be sent to school unless the teacher requests them. Due to food allergies, all snacks need to be store-bought to include the ingredient label and free of peanut and tree nuts.

FIELD TRIPS

Only local educational field trips may be sponsored for the grades. A local trip is defined as one in the near vicinity of Ozark. Such trips must be educational in nature and be approved by the principal. Students who are not in attendance at school on the day of the scheduled field trip will not be allowed to participate.

ACTIVITIES

The student activity program shall be under the overall supervision of the building principal and under the direct supervision of the classroom teacher. The teacher and principal shall have the authority to set up eligibility requirements for student participation. Eligibility will be based on school attendance, academic grades, and behavior. Activities will be limited to control interruptions of instructional time and students’ absences.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIAL

A student is entitled to express his/her personal opinions in writing. However, the distribution of handwritten, duplicated, or printed material (including advertisements) on school premises must be approved by the faculty sponsor and/or principal. Approval must be requested at least 48 hours before planned time of distribution.
**STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT**

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student’s parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school’s health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.

If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school’s expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student’s emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date.

Date Adopted: January 16, 2012

**WELLNESS POLICY**

New Policy Required by the State

Each building shall establish no more than nine school-wide events which permit exceptions to the food and beverage limitations established by the Federal Wellness Laws. The schedule of events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar. When parents send food for these events, the food must be commercially made.

When bringing a sack lunch from home, parents have the right to send food of their choice to school with their children but they may not provide restricted items to other children at school.

**STUDENT MEALS AND EXTRA MILK**

Breakfast is offered in the cafeteria from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. for $1.35. The cost of lunch is $1.65.

**THERE IS A LIMIT OF FIVE CHARGES FOR BREAKFAST AND FIVE CHARGES FOR LUNCH.** Extra milk for breakfast and/or lunch is offered for 35¢. (Prices are subject to change.)

Staff prices: Breakfast $2.15; Lunch $3.60. Guest prices: Breakfast $2.35; Lunch $3.85

“Take Out” lunches from Pizza Hut, Sonic, McDonald’s, etc... are discouraged. Outside food must be in an unidentifiable package and no carbonated beverages.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS**

The district conducts routine health screenings such as hearing, vision, and scoliosis due to the importance these health factors play in the ability of a student to succeed in school. The intent of the exams or screenings is to detect defects in hearing, vision, or other elements of health that would adversely affect the student’s ability to achieve to his/her full potential.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns eighteen (18) years old.
Except in instances where a student is suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, parents shall have the right to opt their student out of the exams or screenings by using form 4.41F or by providing certification from a physician that he/she has recently examined the student.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-701 (b), (c), (f)  
Date Adopted: February 13, 2012  
Last Revised: April 18, 2016

MEDICATION POLICY

Prior to the administration of any medication to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy.

Unless authorized to self-administer, students are not allowed to carry any medications while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student’s medication to the nurse, or in the absence of the nurse, to the principal’s office. The student may bring the medication if accompanied by a written authorization from the parent or legal guardian. Medications, including those for self-medication, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student’s name, the ordering provider’s name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Students who have written permission from their parent or guardian and a licensed health care practitioner to self-administer either an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both and who have a current consent form on file shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication while in school, at an on-site school sponsored activity, while traveling to or from school, or at an off-site school sponsored activity. Students are prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both does not require him/her to have such on his/her person. The parent or guardian of a student who chooses to not carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both on his/her person shall provide the school with the appropriate medication which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Nonprescription medications may be given to students upon the decision of the principal or the nurse or their designee(s). Such medications must be in the original container, clearly labeled and accompanied by a written authorization form signed by the parents or legal guardians that includes the student’s name, the name of the medication, the dosage, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times).

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school’s intention to dispose of any medication. Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be destroyed by the nurse with a witness present.

Legal References: Arkansas State Board of Nursing: School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities  
A.C.A. § 6-18-707  
Date Adopted: January 16, 2012
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: Varicella (chicken pox), measles, scabies, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B, or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is twenty four hours symptom free and no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school.

To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District’s exposure control plan when dealing with any blood borne, food borne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat).

In accordance with 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the District shall maintain a copy of each student’s immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student’s return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of human host parasites. A student may be readmitted after the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment.

Each school may conduct screenings of students for human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Definitions

“In process” means the student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and is waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional dose(s).

“Serologic testing” refers to a medical procedure used to determine an individual’s immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella.
General Requirements

Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, no student shall be admitted to attend classes in the District who has not been age appropriately immunized against:

- Poliomyelitis;
- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Pertussis;
- Red (rubella) measles;
- Rubella;
- Mumps;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Meningococcal disease;
- Varicella (chickenpox); and
- Any other immunization required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

The District administration has the responsibility to evaluate the immunization status of District students. The District shall maintain a list of all students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or who have an exemption provided by ADH to the immunization requirements based on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds. Students who are not fully age appropriately immunized when seeking admittance shall be referred to a medical authority for consultation.

The only types of proof of immunization the District will accept are immunization records provided by a:

A. Licensed physician;
B. Health department;
C. Military service; or
D. Official record from another educational institution in Arkansas.

The proof of immunization must include the vaccine type and dates of vaccine administration. Documents stating “up-to-date”, “complete”, “adequate”, and the like will not be accepted as proof of immunization. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted. Valid proof of immunization and of immunity based on serological testing shall be entered into the student’s record.

In order to continue attending classes in the District, the student must have submitted:

1) Proof of immunization showing the student to be fully age appropriately vaccinated;
2) Written documentation by a public health nurse or private physician of proof the student is in process of being age appropriately immunized, which includes a schedule of the student’s next immunization;
3) A copy of a letter from ADH indicating immunity based on serologic testing; and/or
4) A copy of the letter from ADH exempting the student from the immunization requirements for the current school year, or a copy of the application for an exemption for the current school year if the exemption letter has not yet arrived.
Students whose immunization records or serology results are lost or unavailable are required to receive all age appropriate vaccinations or submit number 4 above.

**Temporary Admittance**

While students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or have not yet submitted an immunization waver may be enrolled to attend school, such students shall be allowed to attend school on a temporary basis only. Students admitted on a temporary basis may be admitted for a maximum of thirty (30) days (or until October 1st of the current school year for the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and meningococcal vaccinations required at ages eleven (11) and sixteen (16) respectively if October 1st is later in the current school year than the thirty (30) days following the student’s admittance). No student shall be withdrawn and readmitted in order to extend the thirty (30) day period. Students may be allowed to continue attending beyond the thirty (30) day period if the student submits a copy of either number 2 or number 4 above.

Students who are in process shall be required to adhere to the submitted schedule. Failure of the student to submit written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician demonstrating the student received the vaccinations set forth in the schedule may lead to the revocation of the student’s temporary admittance; such students shall be excluded from school until the documentation is provided.

The District will not accept copies of applications requesting an exemption for the current school year that are older than two (2) weeks based on the date on the application. Students who submit a copy of an application to receive an exemption from the immunization requirements for the current year to gain temporary admittance have thirty (30) days from the admission date to submit either a letter from ADH granting the exemption or documentation demonstrating the student is in process and a copy of the immunization schedule. Failure to submit the necessary documentation by the close of the thirty (30) days will result in the student being excluded until the documentation is submitted.

**Exclusion From School**

In the event of an outbreak, students who are not fully age appropriately immunized, are in process, or are exempt from the immunization requirements may be required to be excluded from school in order to protect the student. ADH shall determine if it is necessary for students to be excluded in the event of an outbreak. Students may be excluded for twenty-one (21) days or longer depending on the outbreak. No student excluded due to an outbreak shall be allowed to return to school until the District receives approval from ADH.

Students who are excluded from school are not eligible to receive homebound instruction unless the excluded student had a pre-existing IEP or 504 Plan and the IEP/504 team determines homebound instruction to be in the best interest of the student. To the extent possible, the student’s teacher(s) shall place in the principal’s office a copy of the student’s assignments:

- for the remainder of the week by the end of the initial school day of the student's exclusion; and
- by the end of each school's calendar week for the upcoming week until the student returns to school.²

It is the responsibility of the student or the student’s parent/legal guardian to make sure that the student’s assignments are collected.
Students excluded from school shall have five (5) school days from the day the student returns to school to submit any homework and to make up any examinations. State mandated assessments are not included in “examinations” and the District has no control over administering state mandated make-up assessments outside of the state’s schedule. Students shall receive a grade of zero for any assignment or examination not completed or submitted on time.³

**PARENTAL NOTICE TO ACCESS PUBLIC INSURANCE**

This notice is to inform you of your rights and protections under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as a parent of a child with a disability, so that you can make an informed decision about whether you should give consent to allow the school district to access your or your child’s public benefits or insurance, such as Medicaid, to help pay for health services provided by the school district. This notice must be provided before the school district obtains your consent for the first time and annually thereafter. These rights include:

Your Child’s Confidential Information Cannot be Disclosed Without Your Consent - under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the IDEA, parental consent must be obtained before the school district discloses your child’s personally identifiable information to the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas Medicaid, or Medicaid billing agencies, for the purpose of billing for Medicaid reimbursement. The personally identifiable information that may be disclosed could include: student’s name, date of birth, social security number, Medicaid ID, disability, IEP and evaluations, type of service(s), times and dates services were delivered, and progress notes.

Your Child Has a Right to Special Education and Related Services at No Cost to You – this means that, with regard to services required to provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to an eligible child under IDEA, the school district:

May not require parents to sign up for, or enroll in, public benefits or insurance programs in order for their child to receive FAPE;

May not require parents to incur an out-of-pocket expense such as the payment of a deductible or co-pay amount incurred in filing a claim for services provided, but may pay the cost that the parents otherwise would be required to pay;

May not use a child’s benefits under a public benefits or insurance program if that use would:

Decrease available lifetime coverage or any other insured benefit;

Result in the family paying for services that would otherwise be covered by the public benefits or insurance program and that are required for the child outside of the time the child is in school;

Increase premiums or lead to the discontinuance of benefits or insurance; or

Risk loss of eligibility for home and community-based waivers, based on total health-related expenditures.

You May Withdraw Consent at Any Time – once you have given consent for disclosure of confidential information about your child to the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas Medicaid, or Medicaid billing agencies, you have a legal right under the FERPA and IDEA regulations to withdraw that consent at any time.

If You Refuse Consent, or Withdraw Consent, the School District Must Still Provide Required Services at No Cost to You – if you refuse to provide consent for the disclosure of personally identifiable
information for the purpose of billing Medicaid, or, if you give consent but then later withdraw consent, that does not relieve the school district of its responsibility to ensure that all required services under IDEA are provided at no cost to the parents.

**LIMITED CONTACT REQUESTS**

Parent and/or Guardians who desire limited access to any student in our school should inform the principal in writing as to such limitations.

**PARENT/NONCUSTODIAL PARENT CONTACT**

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or the principal’s designee establishing the parent’s custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered “no contact” or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting visitation may eat lunch, volunteer in their child’s classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school’s principal. Such contact is subject to the limitations outlined in Policy 4.16, Policy 6.5, and any other policies that may apply.

**BUILDING USE**

1. The building will open at 7:30 a.m. Upon arrival, all students will go to the playground, unless they are eating breakfast. In the event of bad weather, kindergarten students will go to the music room, 1st-3rd students will go to the cafeteria, and 4th-5th students will go to the Upper Elementary.
2. There will be no running in or around buildings. This includes classrooms, hallways, restrooms, lunchrooms, and sidewalks. Students lingering in the halls or restrooms will be disciplined appropriately.
3. When you enter the classroom in the morning or after a recess, you should put your jacket or coat away and then go directly to your seat.

**USE OF TELEPHONE**

Elementary students may not use the telephone to ask parents to come for them, to call for forgotten papers, books, notes, or to make after school arrangements, etc. If an emergency arises, school personnel will contact parents.

**RESPECT FOR SCHOOL PROPERTY**

All of us concerned with the school are expected to have respect for our equipment, buildings, and grounds. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property will result in financial liability of the parties involved.

**USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Use of school facilities may be scheduled upon agreement with the principal when time is not in conflict with the school’s primary purposes. Arrangements may be made for clean-up with the school-custodial services by notifying the building principal.
PTO

Our school has a very active PTO. Parents will be notified of meetings and activities by radio or note.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

OSD in partnership with local churches, businesses, and community organization will supply basic school supplies for all students grade K-12. Students are responsible to provide their own backpacks and additional supplies beyond basic school needs.

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Public display of affection (PDA) is not appropriate behavior at school. Failure to comply with the reasonable expectations of the school staff will lead to disciplinary action.

PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE CONFERENCES

Communication between school and home is critical to the success of the child.

Two days are provided for parent-teacher conferences during the school year. Parents are encouraged to attend both conferences. Parents not attending will be contacted by phone, school note, or home visit. If parents wish to request a conference, they may call the school office to schedule an appointment at:

Primary, 479.667.4745; Upper, 479.667.3464; Kindergarten, 479.667.3021.

PERMANENT RECORDS

Permanent school records, as required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the District until the student receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance1. A copy of the student’s permanent record shall be provided to the receiving school district within ten (10) school days after the date a request from the receiving school district is received2.

Legal References:  
A.C.A. § 6-18-901

DESE Rules Governing Student Permanent Records
GRADING AND HOMEWORK

Parents or guardians shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents, guardians, or teachers. If the progress of a student is unsatisfactory in a subject, the teacher shall attempt to schedule a parent-teacher conference. In the conference, the teacher shall explain the reasons for difficulties and shall develop, cooperatively with the parents, a plan for remediation which may enhance the probability of the student succeeding. The school shall also send timely progress reports and issue grades for each nine-week grading period to keep parents/guardians informed of their student’s progress.

Grades K-2 report cards reflect the learning goals of the Arkansas State Standards as required by the state of Arkansas. The purpose of a standards-based report card is to provide feedback that is more detailed to parents regarding progress their children are making toward mastery of specific essential standards which are the foundation for future academic success.

Standard Based Grading

3—Meets Grade Level Standards
2—Approaching Grade Level Standards
1—Below Grade Level Standards

Grades 3-5 will utilize a traditional percentage based grading scale. Student grades will be assigned to reflect student progress in meeting essential grade-level standards as defined by Arkansas State Standards.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Homework is considered to be part of the educational program of the District. Assignments shall be an extension of the teaching/learning experience that promotes the student’s educational development. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized and should be viewed by the students as purposeful.

Policy: 1 day per day absent for make-up work. For further explanation on make-up work, refer to district handbook section 4.8.

Teachers should be aware of the potential problem students may have completing assignments from multiple teachers and vary the amount of homework they give from day to day.

Parents shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

Legal Reference: State Board of Education Rules & Regulations: Accreditation Standards 10.07

Date Adopted: January 16, 2012
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In compliance with Act 35 of 2003, the Ozark School District will notify parents and/or guardians through the school handbook and available conferences of students that will be participating in Academic Improvement Plans starting with the 2004-05 school year. The Academic Improvement Plan shall describe the parents' role and responsibilities as well as the consequences for the student's failure to participate in the plan. Academic Improvement Plans are for students who fail to achieve at the proficient level on the state mandated criterion referenced tests. Students who do not participate in remediation program will be retained.

STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A disservice is done to students through social promotion and is prohibited by state law. The District shall, at a minimum, evaluate each student annually in an effort to help each student who is not performing at grade level. Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student(s). Notice of a student’s possible retention or required retaking of a course shall be included with the student’s grades sent home to each parent/guardian or the student if 18 or older. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be held as necessary in an effort to improve a student’s academic success.

At least once each semester, the Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis, and teacher(s) of a student in kindergarten through eighth (8th) grade shall be notified in writing of the student’s independent grade-level-equivalency in reading.

Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Promotion or retention of students, or their required retaking of a course shall be primarily based on the following criteria. If there is doubt concerning the promotion or retention of a student or his/her required retaking of a course, a conference shall be held before a final decision is made that includes the following individuals:

a. The building principal or designee;
b. The student’s teacher(s);
c. School counselor;
d. A 504/special education representative (if applicable); and
e. The student’s parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis.

The conference shall be held at a time and place that best accommodates those participating in the conference. The school shall document participation or non-participation in required conferences. If the conference attendees fail to agree concerning the student’s placement or receipt of course credit, the final decision shall rest with the principal or the principal’s designee.

Each student shall have a student success plan (SSP) developed by school personnel in collaboration with the student’s parents and the student that is reviewed and updated annually. A student’s SSP shall use multiple academic measures to personalize learning in order for students to achieve their grade-level expectations and individual growth. The SSP will identify if the student is in need of additional support or acceleration. Academic measures to be used in creating and updating a student’s SSP shall include, but are not limited to:
• Statewide student assessment results;
• Subject grades;
• Student work samples; and
• Local assessment scores.

By the end of grade eight (8), the student’s SSP shall:
○ Guide the student along pathways to graduation;
○ Address accelerated learning opportunities;
○ Address academic deficits and interventions; and
○ Include college and career planning components.

Based on a student’s score on the college and career assessment:
▪ The student’s SSP will be updated in order to assist the student with college and career readiness skills, course selection in high school, and improved academic achievement; and
▪ Provide a basis for counseling concerning postsecondary preparatory programs.

An SSP shall be created:
1. By no later than the end of the school year for a student in grade eight (8) or below who enrolls in the District during the school year; or
2. As soon as reasonably possible for a student in grade nine (9) or above who enrolls in the District at the beginning or during the school year.

A student’s individualized education program (IEP) may act in the place of the student’s SSP if the IEP addresses academic deficits and interventions for the student’s failure to meet standards-based academic goals at an expected rate or level and includes a transition plan that addresses college and career planning components. Promotion/retention or graduation of students with an IEP shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP or completion of the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when applicable.

Legal References:
A.C.A. § 6-15-2001
A.C.A. § 6-15-2005
A.C.A. § 6-15-2006
A.C.A. § 6-15-2907
A.C.A. § 6-15-2911
A.C.A. § 9-28-205
ADESE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act
Murphy v. State of Ark., 852 F.2d 1039 (8th Cir. 1988)
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS
The Ozark Elementary School recognizes no student organizations as school sponsored.

TEXTBOOK AND LIBRARY BOOKS
Every student will be furnished textbooks as required in each classroom. When a textbook is issued, the student is responsible for that textbook. Each student can help by not losing or defacing any textbook or by turning in those books that may be found. Books that are lost, destroyed, or otherwise mutilated will be billed to the student to whom they were issued. The same criteria applies to library books the students may check out.

APPEARANCE AND DRESS CODE
The Ozark Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, and unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency.

Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply, however to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event.

The Superintendent shall establish student dress codes for the District’s schools, to be included in the student handbook, and are consistent with the above criteria.

SOLICITATIONS
Solicitation or selling at school are prohibited unless prior school board approval is obtained.

LOST AND FOUND
Lost and found articles are kept in the cafeteria in the northwest corner. If one loses clothing or any other item, he/she may come by the cafeteria and claim the lost article. All unclaimed articles will be discarded at the end of each nine weeks. Labeling of clothing, toys and other items will assist in the return of lost items to the owner.

PERSONAL VALUABLES AND MONEY
Students are responsible for any extra money or valuables or snacks they may bring. Many times students leave these items exposed on their desk or let other students keep or wear jewelry. If these items are lost or stolen, it is almost impossible to relocate them (especially small change and small jewelry items). Money and jewelry should not be left in coat pockets or lying exposed on desks.

All coats, sweaters, lunch boxes etc. must be marked with your child’s name. Students who ride bicycles to school should keep them locked. A lost and found department will hold articles until the end of each nine weeks.
HOME SCHOOLING POLICY

Act 1117 of 1999 requires a parent to submit a written notice of intent to home school to the superintendent at the beginning of school or not later than August 15 or 14 calendar days prior to withdrawing the child from school. The superintendent or local school board may waive the 14 day waiting period.

An exception to the 14 day notification process is made for students under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy. Students who are under such disciplinary action are not eligible for home school unless the superintendent or local school board allows the child to enroll in home school, the disciplinary action has been completed, the semester ends, or the student had been expelled.

The local school district has authority to assess any home school student, who enrolls or re-enrolls in the district, in order to determine educational placement.

MOVIES AT SCHOOL

Showing of movies at school is discouraged except for educational value or as a reward.

VOLUNTEERS

Ozark Elementary Schools has a very active volunteer program. Teachers and the PTO will send out invitations to parents requesting help with school activities. We encourage and appreciate your participation.

A background check maybe required before performing volunteer duties. Refer to District handbook policy 6.4.
EMERGENCY DRILLS

Fire and tornado drills are held periodically throughout the year so that students are reminded of what to do should a disaster occur.

The fire alarm will be sounded for a fire drill. One long ring of the bell will indicate a tornado drill. Student fire marshals selected from the fifth grade will monitor the drills to see they are properly carried out. They will also make periodic inspections of the building for any hazards.

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted not fewer than three (4) times per year with at least one each in the months of September, October, January, and February. Students who ride school buses, shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

An annual active shooter drill and school safety assessment may be conducted for all District schools in collaboration, when possible, with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel. Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate to the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.

Drills may be conducted during the instructional day or during non-instructional time periods.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted to test the implementation of the District's emergency plans in the event of an earthquake or terrorist attack that might include the use of biological or chemical agents. Students shall be included in the drills to the extent practicable.

POSSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES, ETC...

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

To protect the security of statewide assessments no electronic device, as defined in this policy, shall be accessible by a student at any time during assessment administration unless specifically permitted by a student's individualized education program (IEP) or individual health plan; this means that when a student is taking an AESAA assessment, the student shall not have his/her electronic device in his/her possession. Any student violating this provision shall be subject to this policy's disciplinary provisions.

As used in this policy, “electronic devices” means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data. Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student’s (IEP) or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
Before and after normal school hours, possession of electronic devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

The student and/or the student’s parents or guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing electronic devices. Students misusing electronic devices shall have them confiscated. Confiscated devices may be picked up at the school’s administration office by the student’s parents or guardians. Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any electronic devices that have been confiscated A search of a confiscated device shall meet the reasonable individualized suspicion requirements of Policy 4.3

PLAYGROUND

Playground areas will be assigned to each elementary division at the beginning of the school year. There will be a playground teacher or aide on the grounds at each recess. Be aware that this person takes over your homeroom supervising teacher during recess and becomes responsible for your well-being and your discipline. Once you go to the playground, you will not be allowed to enter the classroom or building without the duty person’s permission.

Some playground safety rules to remember:
A. For playing on the swings:
   No double swings.
   Sit down in the swings.
   No twisting in the swings.
   No jumping from swings
   Do not wrap swings around the top bar.
   No pushing others from the front of the swings.
B. For playing on the slide:
   Come down the slide feet first.
   When you slide to the bottom, move to the back of the slide for your next turn.
   Do not put objects or gravel on the slide.
   Do not swing from the bars at the top.
   Do not climb on top of the slide.
C. For playing on the seesaws:
   Sit on the seesaws; do not run up or down the seesaws.
   Tell your partner when you are ready to get off the seesaws.
   Do not “bump” your partner.
   Two at a time only (do not sit in the middle of the seesaws).
D. No Playing tag on the equipment.
E. For playing on the parallel bars:
   No cherry drops
   No hanging by legs.
F. Students are to stay away from the fence on the south side of the campus.

Please do not throw rocks, sand or other hard or sharp objects.

No tackle football, dodge ball, or any contact games such as King-of-the Mountain and riding on each other’s backs. No wrestling.
Because of limited play space and for your safety, please do not bring the following items to school: hardballs, or baseballs, skate boards, footballs, or hard frisbees.

Do not wear items that could cause bodily injury on play equipment (heavy jewelry, decorative items on clothing).

NO USING VULGAR OR FOUL LANGUAGE OR CURSING.

When the bell rings:
• Stop your games or activities immediately.
• Walk to your classroom. Do not run, get drinks and use restroom (upper only).
• No bouncing or throwing balls when walking to the room

CAFETERIA USE/PROCEDURES

The school cafeteria is operated for the pupils’ convenience. Students will find food at the lowest cost possible. Pupils who bring their lunches are expected to eat them in the cafeteria. Milk may be purchased or the student may get a glass of water or juice (with a doctor’s note only). Free and reduced lunches are available to those students who qualify. If you would like to apply please come the office and fill out an application. Emphasis is regularly stressed to the students about a quiet and orderly cafeteria. Good table manners are expected from everyone.

Cafeteria Procedures:

1. Walk to the lunchroom quietly.
2. Talking will be permitted as long as tones remain at an acceptable level.
3. If one throws or spills food or paper items on the table or floor, he/she is responsible for cleaning the area.
4. Students may not go behind the serving line into the kitchen.
5. Breaking line is not permitted.
6. Students are not to leave the cafeteria until dismissed by the duty teacher.
7. Do not skip seats or save seats.
8. Students who bring lunches are asked to sit down and not remain in line.
9. Place paper items in trash barrels.
10. Keep hands and feet to oneself.
11. A student can accumulate up to 5 charges for breakfast and/or lunch. Students may only bring drinks when bringing a lunch from home. Students may purchase extra milk for 35 cents. Carbonated beverages are not allowed.
STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Ozark School District’s resource officer and counselors will work with students to help prevent conflict. The building principals, counselors, and resource officer will work together in deciding intervention and conflict resolutions as needed.

Disregard of Directions
A student shall comply with the directions of all certified and non-certified personnel. A refusal will be considered insubordination and will result in a minimum penalty of a reprimand and a maximum penalty of expulsion.

Disruption and Interferences with School
No student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school’s orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds. Teachers may remove from class and send to the principal or principal’s designee office a student whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher’s ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student’s classmates to learn. Students who refuse to leave the classroom voluntarily will be escorted from the classroom by the school administration.

Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

Student Assault or Battery
A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, or attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person (student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures, vulgar, abusive or insulting language, taunting, threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common understanding, is calculated to: a) cause a breach of the peace; b) materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; c) arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation. Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

The Possession of Firearms or Other Weapons
No student shall:

Possess or transmit to school or any school activity a taser, gun, knife, razor, explosive, or any other object that can be considered a weapon.

Possess or store contraband materials on school property or at school activities.

Minimum penalty: Suspension; Maximum penalty: Expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.
Possession, Use or Sale of Alcoholic Beverages or Other Illicit Drugs
No student shall:
Possess, use, offer for sale, or sell beer, alcoholic beverages, or other illicit drugs on school property.
Minimum penalty: Suspension; Maximum penalty: Expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

Damage of Property
No student shall:
Willfully or intentionally damage, destroy, or steal school property or the property of others.
Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

Truancy
No student shall be truant.
Definition of truancy in the Ozark School District: Any absence without the knowledge or approval of the parents and/or the school administration.
Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Suspension.

Paging Devices
No student shall:
Possess a paging device or cell phone, beeper or similar electronic communication device on the school campus, unless it is required for health or other compelling reasons.
Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Expulsion.

Threatening
No student shall:
Threaten to cause death or serious physical injury to another student or school employee; or threaten to cause substantial property damage.
Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

Behavior in General
The Ozark School District:
Reserves the right to punish students for actions that are not in keeping with order and discipline in the schools; and/or
May hold parents of any student living with parents responsible for damages cause by a minor in an amount not in excess of $2000.
Minimum penalty: Reprimand; Maximum penalty: Expulsion.

TOBACCO POLICY
Since it is generally understood that tobacco use can be harmful to one’s health, it shall be the policy of the Ozark Board of Education that all students shall be aware of the physical/mental effects of the use of tobacco and tobacco products.

Students shall be informed of state laws and regulations regarding the use and purchase of such substances as well as the harmful aspects of the use of such substances. Teachers shall be well informed of this subject matter and use the best instructional material available when teaching about tobacco prevention. Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing
tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by the District, including school buses owned or leased by the District, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy’s prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

Act 1555 of 1999 states: Smoking or use of tobacco in any form on any property owned or leased by a public school district is prohibited. Upon conviction, a violator shall be guilty if a misdemeanor and be subject if a fine of not less than $10.00 or more than $100.00.

Minimum penalty: One hour of tobacco education provided by the counselor or designee.
Maximum penalty: Suspension

GANGS, SECRET SOCIETIES AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A. Gangs, Secret Societies, or other similar groups, whether organized in the community or in other settings, are prohibited on the school grounds and campus at any school-sponsored activity. Gang-related activity (whether genuine or a pretense) that is identified by school officials is prohibited. Gang-related activities include, but not limited to such activities as follows: Wearing apparel associated with gangs, displaying gang insignia, “throwing signs” or other gestures of language (however expressed) associated with gangs, intimidation, and threats.

B. Sexual Harassment
1. Improper sexual advances toward another person at school or at school sponsored activities is prohibited. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following:
   - Verbal harassment or abuse.
   - Pressure for sexual activity
   - Repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications
   - Implied or explicit threats that suggest of demand sexual involvement
   - Inappropriate patting or pinching
   - Intentional brushing against another person’s body
   - Any sexually motivated, unwelcomed touching
2. Any person who alleges sexual harassment may report it directly to the building principal or guidance counselor. Any report or sexual harassment will be investigated.
3. The district will discipline any individual who retaliates against any person who reports alleged sexual harassment or who retaliates against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation proceeding related to a sexual harassment complaint. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment.
4. Anyone in violation of this policy may receive disciplinary action ranging from a minimum of a verbal reprimand to a maximum of expulsion and/or prosecution.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

A. Lockers: The District maintains ownership of school lockers, and school authorities have equal access to such lockers and may inspect them at any time. An Official of the District may search a particular locker or lockers if the official has information forming a reasonable suspicion that the search would produce evidence indicating the student had violated the law or school rules.
B. Person: School Officials may search an individual if an official has reasonable suspicion that the search would produce evidence indicating that the student has violated the law or school rules. An adult witness should be present during the search. A pat down search of the student’s person should be done by a school official of the same sex. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objective of the search. No strip searched will be conducted.

C. After a search and seizure has been conducted and if illegal contraband, dangerous weapons, or stolen property has been found, students may be turned over to local law enforcement agencies.

D. Lockers and automobiles on school property may be subject to search by police using drug sniffing dogs. This search will be conducted with an administrator present.

**POSSSESSION OF A FIREARM / ACTS OF VIOLENCE**

The superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student from school for a period of not less than one (1) year for possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited upon the school campus by state law. For the purposes of this policy “firearm means any devise designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any device convertible to that use. This does not apply to a firearm brought to school for the purpose of participating in activities approved and authorized by the district. Firearms brought to school for such purposes shall be brought to the school employee designated to receive such firearms. The designated employee shall store the firearms in a secure location until they are removed for use in the approved activity. The expulsion will be noted on the student’s permanent record card. The superintendent will have discretion to modify such expulsion for a student on a case-by-case basis.

Parents, guardians, or other persons in loco parentis of an expelled student must sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand current laws regarding parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property. The statement shall be signed by the parents, guardians, or other persons in loco parentis prior to readmitting a student or enrolling a student immediately after the expiration of an expulsion period.

The name of any student committing an act of violence, or possessing a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property, regardless of the enrollment status, shall be reported to the Department of Education. The Arkansas Department of Education shall maintain, and make available to school principals, a registry of the names of students expelled for firearms or violence.

**CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The Ozark School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or the superintendent’s designated staff members who are required to have a state-issued license as a condition of their employment.

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, shall not be excessive, or administered with malice, and shall be administered in the presence of another school administrator or designee who shall be a licensed staff member employed by the District.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a form of discipline for a student who is intellectually disabled, no-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic.
SUSPENSION

A. The Ozark Board of Education authorizes the principal or his/her designee to suspend any student for a maximum of ten (10) school days for violation of the school district’s written discipline policies, subject to appeal to the superintendent or his designee. Prior to suspension, the principal or designee shall inform the student whether orally or in writing about the infraction. The student shall be permitted to tell his/her side of the story. If suspension is warranted, the principal/designee will notify parent(s) or legal guardian of the incident and the duration of the suspension.

B. When a student is suspended, he/she is prohibited from entering the school or the school grounds (except for a prearranged conference with an administrator) for a time period set by the principal or designee. Make-up work while a student is on suspension will not be allowed.

Out-of-school suspension (OSS) shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student’s behavior:
   a) Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
   b) Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
   c) Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

EXPULSION

A. The superintendent of schools may recommend the expulsion of a student for more than ten (10) days for violation of the district’s written discipline policies, subject to appeal to the Ozark Board of Education and to requirements of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. If the principal feels a student’s behavior and/or actions warrants expulsion, then the principal will make a written recommendation to the superintendent. If the superintendent agrees with the recommendation, then he or his designee will give written notice of the incident to the parent or guardian. The notice will be mailed within five (5) school days of the incident and will state the charges against the student, the duration of the expulsion, right to request a hearing with the school board, and the right for legal counsel.

B. A written notice of appeal from the parent, guardian or student must be submitted to the superintendent within three (3) days after receipt of the notice before a hearing will be conducted. A hearing will be scheduled within ten (10) days after the superintendent receives the notice.

C. All school district board meetings entertaining such appeals shall be conducted in executive session if requested by the parent or guardian of the student, provided that after hearing all testimony and debate, the board of directors shall conclude the executive session and reconvene in regular session to vote on such appeal.

D. Deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate;
   where the student’s continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment; or would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student’s behavior:
   · Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
   · Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means
   · Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.
GROUP 1 INFRACTIONS

Drugs. Any student enrolled in the Ozark School District who is caught using, offering for sale or selling beer, alcoholic beverages, or other illicit drugs while on school property or at school sponsored events will be immediately suspended for a period of up to nine (9) days and may be recommended for expulsion.

Weapons, Dangerous Instruments, and Contraband. Any student who possesses, handles, or transmits a knife (including pocket knife), razor, ice pick, explosives, firearms, or any other object which might reasonably be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument of any contraband materials will be suspended for a period of up to nine (9) days and may be recommended for expulsion.

Treatment of school personnel. A student who willfully and intentionally assaults or threatens or abuse any teacher or school employee will be suspended for a period of up to nine (9) days and may be recommended for expulsion.

Bomb Threats. A student who calls in a bomb threat and/or any other threat to the health and safety of students and employees will be referred to the legal authorities and will be recommended for expulsion.
TRANSPORTATION

A. The school board has established policies and regulations governing the behavior of the students riding the buses and established policies for the drivers. At the beginning of each school year, policies for students riding school buses are sent home by every student who rides the bus. The parents sign a statement that acknowledges that they have read the policies. This statement is returned to the student’s homeroom teacher. The bus drivers are responsible for order and discipline on their buses. The drivers will work closely with the building principal in the area of discipline.

B. Buses stop only at scheduled stops that have been selected for safety and convenience. Children should be transported to school and home. They are to get off the bus only at the designated stop. Any problem or question that arises concerning bus drivers, bus stops, or bus route extensions are to be referred to the superintendent.

C. Whenever a bus is used for school activities, the teacher in charge of that group is responsible of the behavior of the students during the trip.

D. The following rules are to be used for guidelines of student conduct while riding the bus:

1. Be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
2. Wait for the bus in a safe place off the roadway.
3. Enter your bus in an orderly manner, and remain in your assigned seat.
4. Follow the instructions of your school bus driver at all times.
5. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
6. Keep aisles clear at all times.
7. Remain quiet and orderly, be courteous to your driver and fellow passengers.
8. Wait for the driver’s signal before crossing the road.
9. Always cross at least ten feet in front of the bus.
10. Never crawl under the school bus.

POLICIES FOR STUDENTS RIDING OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSES

1. Be at the bus stop at the scheduled time. Stand back about ten feet from the bus stop and wait until the door is opened before moving closer to the bus. Do not play on the highway or road. If you miss the bus, do not attempt to hitch-hike a ride or walk to and from the school.
2. While loading or unloading, enter and leave the bus in an orderly fashion and as quickly as possible.
3. While riding the bus, students are under supervision of the driver and must obey the driver at all times. The driver has the authority to temporarily suspend a student.
4. Do not make unnecessary or distracting noises. Conversation should be held in normal tones. Shouting, screaming, whistling, etc., are unnecessary and endanger the entire bus by distracting the driver.
5. No knives or sharp objects of any kind are allowed — neither firearms, weapons of any kind, pets, or other living animals, etc.
6. Do not tamper with any of the safety devices such as door latches, fire extinguishers, etc. Pupils must remain seated while the bus is in motion and must not move while it is stopped except as the driver directs. Pupils are not to put their hands, arms, heads, or bodies out of the windows. Do not yell at anyone outside the bus.
7. Students are not to deface the bus or any school property. Do not write on the bus or damage seats, etc. Do not throw paper or other objects on the floor of the bus nor drink or eat on the bus. There will be no use of tobacco while riding the bus. Keep the aisle of the bus clear from books, lunches, coats, etc. Do not put feet in the aisle.

8. Do not ask the driver to let you off the bus uptown, at the store, or any place except your stop. Only students of Ozarks School District and school employees may ride the bus. Parents attending to school business may ride only if the driver is notified by the administration. Any student suspended from the school will not be allowed on the bus.

9. If you must cross the road or highway to enter the bus, always try to be on the right side of the road waiting on the bus. If you should arrive at the stop just as the bus approaches the stop, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has signaled for you to cross in front of the bus.

10. Pupils who must cross the road after leaving the bus in the afternoon must go to a point on the shoulder of the road ten feet in front of the bus. Cross the road only after the driver signaled you to do so.

11. Pupils may not ride the bus except their own. Students who are getting off the bus at a stop other than their own or who will be visiting another student or relative will be required to present a note with permission from the parent or principal.

12. This is not intended to cover all the “do’s” and “don’ts”, but it is a very specific guide. The driver may find it necessary to interpret these policies in light of his or her own bus needs.

13. The bus driver or the administration will have the authority to determine a stop where there is more than one family in a relatively short distance.

IT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A PRIVILEGE TO RIDE TO SCHOOL ON A BUS
GRIEVANCES AND COMPLAINTS

If a person has a complaint or grievance concerning a policy or staff member of the Ozark School District, the following procedure should be followed:

1. An individual who feels that he/she has a grievance should present the matter orally or in writing to the individual staff member. A conference should be scheduled between the two parties.
2. If the individual feels the complaint or grievance is unresolved after the first step, the person may request a meeting with the building principal.
3. If the individual feels the complaint or grievance is unresolved after the second step, the person may request a meeting with the Superintendent.
4. If the person feels the complaint or grievance is unresolved after the third step, the parent or guardian may request a meeting with the Board of Education. This request must be in writing to the Superintendent a minimum of one (1) week prior to the scheduled Board meeting. The request must state the reason(s) for the meeting.

The decision of the Board of Education shall be final.

DUE PROCESS

All students are entitled to due process in every instance of disciplinary action for which the student may be subjected to penalties except that school officials are not required to conduct formal hearings prior to corporal punishment.

The due process rights of students are as follows:

1. Prior to any suspension, the school principal or his/her designee shall advise the student in question of the particular misconduct of which he/she is accused, as well as the basis for such accusation.
2. The student shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his/her version of the facts to the school principal or his/her designee.
3. Written notice of suspension and the reason(s) for the suspension shall be given to the parent(s) or legal guardian of the student.
4. Any parent(s) or legal guardian of the pupil suspended shall have the right to appeal to the superintendent of schools.
FACULTY/VISITOR ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The Ozark School District is committed to promoting ethical and responsible use of computer and network resources and will not tolerate their misuse. The use of technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such. Access to the Internet and technology is provided for professional, managerial, and educational purposes. Any person using district technology is responsible for its proper use. By accessing and using technology, users acknowledge that inappropriate use is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. The Ozark School District reserves the right to monitor or log all network activity with or without notice, including email, instant messaging, and all web site communications, therefore, users should have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the use of those resources.

Technology infractions include but are not limited to:

Hardware-related infractions:
- Vandalize, deface, destroy or remove computer equipment, parts, cables, accessories, etc.
- Unauthorized dismantling, disconnecting, or removing computer equipment, cables, or peripherals.
- Misuse of computer hardware that results in temporary or permanent damage or possible damage to equipment.

Software-related infractions:
- Unauthorized changing of settings on computers including modification or removal of software, operating systems, security programs, configuration files, etc.
- Intentional introduction of a virus or other destructive elements
- Installation of unauthorized and/or unlicensed software (on-site documentation required).
- Inappropriate use of files including:
  - Unauthorized copying of software programs
  - Unauthorized usage of files or disks
  - Unauthorized downloading of files

Computer Ethics-related infractions:
- Attempting to access systems or files for unauthorized purposes.
- Using or attempting to use unauthorized passwords – system security passwords or other individual’s passwords
- Failure to keep personal passwords secure and private

Internet/email related infractions:
- Unauthorized posting of information/graphics pertaining to Ozark School District, its employees, or students
- Visiting improper or inappropriate websites
- Use of Proxy Sites or Proxy Applications
- Use of chat rooms, cyber cafes, etc.
STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY—AUP

The Ozark School District is committed to promoting ethical and responsible use of computer and network resources and will not tolerate their misuse. The use of technology resources is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such. Access to the Internet and technology is provided for professional, managerial, and educational purposes. Any person using district technology is responsible for its proper use. By accessing and using technology, users acknowledge that inappropriate use is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action. The Ozark School District reserves the right to monitor or log all network activity with or without notice, including email, instant messaging, and all web site communications, therefore, users should have no reasonable expectation of privacy when using those resources.

Technology infractions include but are not limited to:

1. Hardware-related infractions:
   - Vandalize, deface, destroy or remove computer equipment, parts, cables, accessories, etc.
   - Unauthorized dismantling, disconnecting, or removing computer equipment, cables, or peripherals.
   - Misuse of computer hardware that results in temporary or permanent damage or possible damage to equipment.

2. Software-related infractions:
   - Unauthorized changing of settings on computers including modification or removal of software, operating systems, security programs, configuration files, etc.
   - Intentional introduction of a virus or other destructive elements
   - Installation of unauthorized and/or unlicensed software (on-site documentation required).
   Inappropriate use of files including:
     - Unauthorized copying of software programs
     - Unauthorized usage of files or disks
     - Unauthorized downloading of files

3. Computer Ethics-related infractions:
   - Attempting to access systems or files for unauthorized purposes.
   - Using or attempting to use unauthorized passwords – system security passwords or other individual’s passwords
   - Failure to keep personal passwords secure and private
   - Usage of computer for harassment (sexual, racial, personal, bullying etc.)
   - Usage of computer for illegal or unethical activities including plagiarism, copyright violations
   - Usage of computer to convey or access any objectionable materials including topics where are: obscene, racially slurred, vulgar, sexually explicit, violent, etc.
   - Excessive time usage when others are waiting

4. Internet/email related infractions:
   - Unauthorized posting of information/graphics pertaining to Ozark School District, its employees, or students
   - Visiting improper or inappropriate websites
   - Use of Proxy Sites or Proxy Applications
   - Use of chat rooms, cyber cafes, etc.
   - Inappropriate email:
     - Inappropriate mailings to large groups or entire school.
- Non-essential messages including jokes, thoughts of the day, chain emails, political announcements, etc.
- Confidentiality – No email is confidential, personal, or private. All or part of an email can be sent to hundreds of people with just a few mouse clicks. In addition, emails can be subject to open records law. Persons should not post email messages containing inappropriate language or content.

Disciplinary Actions:
All violations will be handled as any other infraction of school board policy.
Disciplinary actions may include:
- Revocation of computer access.
- Financial restitution.
- Suspension, expulsion, academic failure due to lack of course completion, or other penalties as may be appropriate
- Possible referral for prosecution.
TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY

A parent can deny permission for any of the following scenarios:

a. Videotaping of student  
b. Publication of a student’s written and/or art work within a school, on a school website, or on media outlets  
c. Use of student’s name (first, last, or full)  
d. Use of student’s picture  
e. Access to computers and the use of Internet for instructional purposes

To deny permission, the parent or guardian must fill out the “Technology Usage Denial Form” provided in the signature packet available at each campus. This form should be taken to the school in which the student is enrolled.

I. The Ozark Public School District is committed to promoting ethical and responsible use of computer and network resources and will not tolerate their misuse. The use of the internet resources is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such.

II. Access to the Internet provided to students, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel involved in the educational process. Anyone using the Internet system is responsible for its proper use. Proper use is defined as accessing the Internet for educational purposes which include: research, dissemination of information, resource sharing, collaborative projects, debate of current issues, curriculum development, and electronic mail for administrative purposes. All activities associated with the Internet must support the educational mission of the Ozark School District.

III. The Ozark School District does not condone the use of inappropriate material that may be obscene, abusive, offensive, inaccurate, etc. and does not permit the use or such material in the school environment.

IV. Proper supervision of students using the Internet is required to monitor the appropriate use of the Internet system.

V. The district is not responsible for any losses, including lost revenues, or for any claims or demands against the user by any other party.

VI. Improper use of the Internet by any individual will result in immediate termination of that individual’s access to the Internet via Ozark School District resources. Also, anyone in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination of employment for employees, expulsion for students, and possible referral for prosecution.

VII. The Ozark School District reserves the right to monitor or log all network activity with or without notice, including email and all website communications, therefore; users should have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the use of these resources on school premises. In addition, email or electronic documents stored on Ozark Public School servers can be subject to open records law.

VIII. Normally personal computers are NOT allowed to be connected to the school’s network. However, on the case an exception must be made the computer(s) must be checked and approved by the District Technology Department. All Technology Usage Policy requirements must be followed in addition to the following requirements:

a. Legal license is required for all software  
b. District insurance will not cover any expenses associated with loss or destruction of personal computers.  
c. District approved virus software must be running and up-to-date on all personal computers.  
d. Computers must join district domain for centralized management.  
e. Financial restitution will be required when due care is not followed and the infrastructure, State or District, is harmed.  
f. If a computer is found on the school network that has not been approved by the Technology Department, then it may be taken without notice and investigated to see its contents.
An approved network card is required before connection to system
An approved IP address must be obtained from the District Technology Department.

IX. All violations will be handled as any other infraction of school board policy.
   Disciplinary actions may include:
   a. Revocation of computer access
   b. Financial restitutions
   c. Students: suspension, expulsion, and academic failure due to lack of course completion or other penalties may be appropriate.
   d. Employees: up to and including termination of employment.
   e. Possible referral for prosecution.

X. Ozark Public Schools uses a variety of methods to communicate with students, parents, and community members about our building entities and the accomplishments of our students, including school-related websites and media outlets. The following could be seen:
   a. Publication on the Internet of my child’s written and/or art works
   b. Use of my child’s name in school Internet publications.
   c. Use of my child’s picture in school Internet publications.

XI. The following guidelines will be applied to any picture or information published as Ozark School media:
   a. In group photos posted on the web, should names appear, they will not be in any order.
   b. Under no circumstances will a child’s home address or phone number be published on the Internet.
   c. This form does not necessarily mean that your child’s work/image will definitely be featured on the Internet or in a video-tape production.

XII. Any student enrolled in Ozark Public Schools may have his/her written and/or art work on a school’s website or on media outlets.

XIII. By attending and being a member of Ozark Public Schools a student, parent, or employee agrees to abide by the Technology Usage Policy. All violations will be handled as any other infractions of school board policy.
   Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to the following:
   a. Revocations of computer access
   b. Financial restitution
   c. Students: suspension, expulsion, academic failure due to lack of course completions, or other penalties may be appropriate.
   d. Employees: up to and including termination of employment.
   e. Possible referral for prosecution.

INTERNET PUBLISHING STANDARDS
In order to protect our Schools’ image, the privacy of our students the integrity of our network, and the rights of others, certain policies and standards are in place. To view the entire policy, see OSD District Policy.
4.43—BULLYING

Definitions
“Attribute” means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

“Bullying” means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable:
- Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property.
- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in Education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;

Examples of “Bullying” include, but are not limited to, a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:
1. Cyberbullying,
2. Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student’s personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
3. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
4. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
5. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as “fronting” or “chesting” a person,
6. Demeaning humor relating to a student’s actual or perceived attributes,
7. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
8. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
9. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
10. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
11. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
12. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 4.27, is also a form of bullying, and/or
13. Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender (Examples: “Slut”, “You are so gay.”, “Fag”, “Queer”).

"Cyberbullying" means any form of communication by electronic act that is sent with the purpose to:
- Harass, intimidate, humiliate, ridicule, defame, or threaten a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated; or
- Incite violence towards a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated.

Cyberbullying of School Employees includes, but is not limited to:
- a. Building a fake profile or website of the employee;
- b. Posting or encouraging others to post on the Internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a school employee;
- c. Posting an original or edited image of the school employee on the Internet;
d. Accessing, altering, or erasing any computer network, computer data program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords of a school employee;

e. Making repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or transmission, to a school employee;

f. Making, or causing to be made, and disseminating an unauthorized copy of data pertaining to a school employee in any form, including without limitation the printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network;

g. Signing up a school employee for a pornographic Internet site; or

h. Without authorization of the school employee, signing up a school employee for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages.

Cyberbullying is prohibited whether or not the cyberbullying originated on school property or with school equipment, if the cyberbullying results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment or is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

“Harassment” means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person’s constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other’s performance in the school environment; and

“Substantial disruption” means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational Activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event; going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the building principal, or designee, as soon as possible. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the building principal, or designee.
The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

A building principal, or designee, who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall:

1. As soon as reasonably practicable, but by no later than the end of the school day following the receipt of the credible report of bullying.
   a. Report to a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis of a student that their student is the victim in a credible report of bullying; and
   b. Prepare a written report of the alleged incident of bullying;

2. Promptly investigate the credible report or complaint of bullying, which shall be completed by no later than the fifth (5th) school day following completion of the written report.

3. Notify within five (5) days following the completion of the investigation the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis of a student who was the alleged victim in a credible report of bullying whether the investigation found the credible report or complaint of bullying to be true and the availability of counseling and other intervention services.

4. Notify within five (5) days following the completion of the investigation the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person acting in loco parentis of the student who is alleged to have been the perpetrator of the incident of bullying:
   a. That a credible report or complaint of bullying against their student exists;
   b. Whether the investigation found the credible report or complaint of bullying to be true;
   c. Whether action was taken against their student upon the conclusion of the investigation of the alleged incident of bullying; and
   d. Information regarding the reporting of another alleged incident of bullying, including potential consequences of continued incidents of bullying;

5. Make a written record of the investigation, which shall include:
   a. A detailed description of the alleged incident of bullying, including without limitation a detailed summary of the statements from all material witnesses to the alleged incident of bullying;
   b. Any action taken as a result of the investigation; and

6. Discuss, as appropriate, the availability of counseling and other intervention services with students involved in the incident of bullying.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook which may have simultaneously occurred. In addition to any disciplinary actions, the District shall take appropriate steps to remedy the effects resulting from bullying.

Notice of what constitutes bullying, the District’s prohibition against bullying, and the consequences for students who bully shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium, and school bus. Parents, legal guardians, person having lawful control of a student, persons standing in loco parentis, students, school volunteers, and employees shall be given copies of the notice annually. The superintendent shall make a report annually to the Board of Directors on student discipline data, which shall include, without limitation, the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying.

Copies of this policy shall be available upon request.

Legal References:  A.C.A. § 5-71-217  A.C.A. § 6-18-514
I have received a copy of Ozark School District’s Parent/Teacher/Principal/Student Compact for Success. By our signatures, we are entering the following agreement as we work together to ensure our children’s success in school. (Signature pages provided in packet)

Parent Responsibilities

· To hold high expectations for my child
· To attend Parent/Teacher conferences
· To support the teacher’s expectations for my child’s learning and support the school in its efforts to maintain proper student behavior
· To encourage my child’s efforts and promote good character and healthy lifestyle

Teacher Responsibilities

· To hold high expectations of my students
· To communicate with parents about student progress and provide necessary assistance to maximize student success
· To foster a positive learning environment in my classroom
· To explore educational programs and deliver quality instruction using a variety of methods

Principal Responsibilities

· To hold high expectations of teachers, parents and students
· To provide an environment that promotes positive communication between the teacher, parent and student
· To encourage teachers to explore meaningful teaching methods to maximize teacher and student success

Student Responsibilities

· To attend school every day possible and on time
· To come to school with necessary supplies ready to listen and learn
· To complete and return homework assignments and deliver school communication to my parents
· To exhibit good character in all school settings
· To participate and ask questions in school learning activities
SMART CORE/CORE CURRICULUM

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, a Smart Core Information Sheet and a Smart Core Waiver Form will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed waiver form in the student’s permanent record. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the deadline for them to sign and return the waiver form.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum providing they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year. Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district support plan development process to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district’s students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district’s graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means:

· Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
· Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school’s annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;
· Discussions held by the school’s counselors with students and their parents; and/or
· Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district’s students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district’s annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children for all students who meet the definition of “eligible child” in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional 2 units to graduate for a total of 24 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Digital Learning Courses
The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format. In addition to the other graduation requirements contained in this policy, students are required to take at least one (1) digital learning course for credit while in high school.

SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)
1. Algebra I or Algebra A & B* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9;
2. Geometry or Geometry A & B* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10;
* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the graduation requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the Smart Core requirement.
3. Algebra II; and
4. The fourth unit may be either:
   · A math unit approved by DESE beyond Algebra II; or
   · A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.

Natural Science: three (3) units
a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
c. A third unit that is either:
   □ An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
   □ A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units
· Civics - one-half (½) unit
· World History - one unit
· American History - one unit
· Other social studies – one-half (½) Unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit

**Note:** While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit

Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁸

Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

**CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**
All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student’s contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

A student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.⁹

**CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units
· Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit
· Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit
· All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
· (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)
· A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units
a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
c. A third unit that is either:
   · An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
   · A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units
   · Civics one-half (½) unit
   · World history, one (1) unit
   · American History, one (1) unit
   · Other social studies – one-half (½) unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit
Note: While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit

Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.8

Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units
All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student’s contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

a student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.9
Ozark K-5 Parental Involvement Plan
Ozark Kindergarten Center    Elgin B Milton Elementary
700 N 12th Street    1601 Walden Drive
(479)667-3021    (479)667-4775 (Primary)
(479)667-3464 (Upper)
ozarkhillbillies.org

District: Ozark School District
Grade Levels: K-5
Parent Involvement Coordinator: Kim Allred (K-1), Tracy Morris (grades 2-3) & Lynn Burns (grades 4-5).
Title 1 School: Yes
Percent of Free/Reduced Lunch: Kindergarten—5th, 68%.

Parent Involvement Committee Members:
1. Shane Vincent, Upper Elementary Principal
2. Kelly Burns, Primary Elementary Principal
3. Jennifer King, Kindergarten Principal
4. Tina Yother, Teacher
5. Jason Powers, Parent
6. Parent
7. School Board Member
8. PTO President, Parent

1) List various communication strategies used in your school to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction. Communication strategies include but are not limited to the following:
   · Monthly newsletters that include school news, calendar of school events/activities, parent tips related to helping students with study skills, reading, organization, bullying, etc.
   · School website, Facebook & other social media
   · E-mail, texting (remind 101) and school messenger
   · Edline (4th & 5th)
   · Progress reports/report cards at least every four weeks
   · Teacher notes/folders
   · Site-based parent information centers with information concerning school related topics
   · Bulletin boards with information about community resources, school calendar, lunch menu, etc.

2) List the proposed parent meeting, conferences and activities regularly throughout this year and the dates providing flexible meeting times that you have planned to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity to engage in these types of efforts.

To encourage more parental involvement, the following activities have been scheduled for the 2019-2020 year:
   · Open House—August 6th (Kindergarten—5th)
   · District Parental Involvement Meeting
   · NW Counselors Conference/Session on Improving Parental Involvement
   · Book Fair Parent Night
   · Men Make A Difference Day— (1st-5th)
   · Parent Teacher Conferences
   · Third grade Music program
   · Fifth grade Veteran’s Day Music program—November
   · Holiday Day Lunch—December
The school will hold an orientation for parents at each grade level to inform them about the school’s participation in the Title 1 program and to encourage parents to be involved with reviewing and revising of the School’s Title 1 Plan. Teachers will hold conferences individually with parents of children in their classrooms. Parents will be given a summary of the student’s test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching achievement goals. Parents will be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts. Parents will also be given suggestions for coordinating school-parent efforts and explanations of homework and grading procedures. The school will encourage parents to get involved in the following types of activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:

- Reading Buddy
- Classroom Assistance
- Tutor
- Special Parent Lunches
- Book Fair Helpers (1st-5th)
- Awards Day Presentations (1st-5th)
- Family Night (K-3rd)
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Volunteer to assist with various activities/committees
- Foster Grandparent Program (K-3rd)

3) **How will your school provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities?**

The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities through notes home and school newsletters. Teachers will inform parents about volunteer opportunities and explain the requirements. They will encourage parents to become involved. In order to put volunteers at ease, brief training sessions will provide parents with the information they need to make the experience pleasant and successful.

4) **How will your school work with parents to create a School-Parent-Compact?**

School staff, parents and students will develop a school-parent-student compact. This compact will outline how parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state’s high academic standards. The Parent/Teacher/Principal/Student Compact for Success will be included in the student handbook.

5) **How will your school provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan and the Annual Title 1 Meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school’s Title 1, Part A Program?**

The school shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school. The school will involve parents on school improvement
planning committees. To support this process, the school will offer training to both school staff and parents concerning how to contribute to this process in a meaningful way. The school will engage parents in decision making about the allocation of its Title 1, Part A funds for parental involvement.

6) **How will your school provide resources for parents?**

Parents may check out materials and visit the links on the district’s website. Parents will be encouraged to view the Title 1 Plan located in the administration office or media center. The school will provide a Parent Resource Center in each building at hours that are convenient to parents. The school will distribute student handbooks each year that include a copy of the school’s parental involvement plan, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child’s education and information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, email...). A survey for volunteer interests will also be conducted. To promote and support responsible parenting, the school shall, as funds are available, purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting. These materials will be available in the PRC of each building. The school district’s policy handbook will include the school’s process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first and how to develop solutions. The following persons have been designated as parent facilitators and are responsible for maintaining the PRC in their respective buildings: Kim Allred (K-1), Tracy Morris (2-3), and Lynn Burns (4-5).

7) **How will your school engage parents in the evaluation of your parental involvement efforts?**

The school will engage parents in the annual evaluation of the Title 1, Part A program’s parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation using a comprehensive needs assessment filled out by teachers, parents and school staff. The Title 1 committee, made up of parents and school staff will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program, the school’s efforts to increase parental involvement will also be evaluated. The survey will also collect specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth.

8) **How will your school use the parent interest surveys to select, plan and implement parental involvement activities that will be offered throughout the year?**

The school will use the results of the parent survey to plan parental involvement activities. At the end of each year when they hold their annual meeting, the members of the Parental Involvement Committee will evaluate the activities that were suggested.

9) **When will your school plan the Annual Title 1 Meeting that must be conducted separately?**

For each Title 1, Part A School an annual Title 1 meeting will be conducted. A district meeting will be held in the administration building.