Ozark Public School District

Ozark Middle School

Grades 6th – 7th

2011-2012
Dear Parents and Students:

Arkansas State law requires that each student and parent be provided a copy of the student handbook each year. Our handbook contains information that we feel is necessary for Ozark Middle School to continue to provide 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 forms requiring a parent signature and return them to the grade office as soon as possible. Your signature will indicate that you have received these policies.

These are the 8 forms for grades 6 and 7 to sign and return:

A. Handbook receipt
B. Medication forms
C. Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
D. Lunch forms
E. Computer usage agreement
F. Cyberbullying
G. Insurance/ Medicaid Release
H. Agriculture Questionnaire

Sincerely,

Ron Hill
Ozark Middle School principal

____________________________   _________________________
Parent’s Signature                                     Date

____________________________   _________________________
Student’s Signature                                    Date

Parent(s) Name: _________________________________________

Address: ________________________________________________

Phone Number: (House) ___________________________ (Cell) _______________________

E-mail ____________________________________________

A VERY SPECIAL “THANK YOU”
TO
Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative
For the Purchase of Our Student Planners
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Ozark Middle School Faculty and Staff

2011 – 2012

Superintendent: James H. Ford
Assistant Supt.: Bill Gossage
Curriculum Coordinator: Tina Smith
Special Education LEA: Nancy Vitalie

Principal: Ron Hill
Dean of Students: Jeff Richard
Counselor: Danny Spillers

OMS Faculty

Marilyn Stone – Reading & Instr. Facilitator
Lacey Bailie – Language Arts
Stephanie Cavanaugh – Language Arts
Anita Hill – Language Arts
Sherry Pfeifer – Math and Remediation
Diana Rhea – Math
Kari Tedford – Math & EAST Facilitator
Christie Childers – Math
Mary Lou Shaffer – Social Studies
Donna Raible – Social Studies
Pam Moore – Science
Sarah Williams – Science
Shannon Chrisman – Art
Doris Doss – Librarian
Jeff Richard – Girl’s Basketball Coach
Cody Vaught – Boy’s Basketball Coach
Matt Coleman – Football Coach
Julie Rochester – Music /Choir
Kevin Hume – Band
Michael Mankins – Band
Susie Spencer –Speech
Teresa Moon – Special Education
Paige Walker – Special Education
Kendra Joe Mainer – Physical Education

OMS Support Staff

Chad Binz – Technology Coordinator
Aaron Waldrop – Technology Coordinator
Danny Sells – Lead Tech
Chad Haberer – Human Resource Official
Tim Culver – Resource Officer
Kim King – Janitorial Staff
Beverly McCormick – Janitorial Staff
Rhonda Marvel – Head Cook
Carolyn Hutson – Cafeteria
Jessica Barlow – Cafeteria
Sherry Pottorff – Nurse
April Richard –Math & Science Aide
Sadie Qualls–Literacy Aide
Nicole Schaffer-Special Needs Aide
Wesley Williamson – Maintenance
Tony Blizzard – Maintenance

West Building Secretary: Sherry Pottorff
Phone (479) 468-2821

East Building Secretary: Kathy Dunahoo
Phone (479) 468-6111

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT

No person in the Ozark School District shall, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, age, handicap or national origin be unlawfully subjected to discrimination in regard to employment, retention, promotion, transfer or dismissal in any educational program or activity which is under the jurisdiction of the Board.
OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

2011-2012 CALENDAR

August 16-------------------------------District Staff development
August 17-------------------------------First Day for Students
September 5-----------------------------Labor Day, No School
September 15---------------------------Parent/Teacher Conference
September 16--------------------------Staff Development Day
October 14-----------------------------End of 1st Quarter
November 23 –25------------------------Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21---------------------------End of 2nd Quarter
December 22 – January 4-----------------Christmas Holiday
January 5-------------------------------School Resumes
January 16-----------------------------Staff Development Resume
February 20-----------------------------President Day (No School)
March 9-------------------------------End of 3rd Quarter
March 15-----------------------------Parent/Teacher Conference
March 16-----------------------------FLEX Staff Development (1 Day)
March 19-23----------------------------Spring Break
April 6----------------------------Good Friday – (No School)
May 24----------------------------End of 4th Quarter Last Day For Students

Inclement Weather: Listen to KDYN, 96.7 FM, for information on school closing.
PREFACE

The Ozark Public Schools publishes this handbook so that new students may be able to make quicker and better adjustments to their new school and so students already enrolled may become more acquainted with the policies and traditions of the Ozark Schools. It is the responsibility of each student and his/her parents to become thoroughly familiar with all operational procedures contained within this handbook since they serve as the guidelines for student responsibilities, conduct, and consequences of violations.

WELCOME

The Ozark Public School and its employees would like to welcome you to our school district. To you who have been in our school before, we hope that your experiences have been happy and educational. To you who are entering schools for the first time, we hope that you will find our students and teachers friendly and helpful. To all of you, the staff would like to make your years here profitable. We want to offer you the educational opportunities that will best prepare you for the days ahead.

VISITORS Immediately upon arrival all visitors must enter through the front doors and notify the office to receive a visitor’s pass. Do NOT go directly to classrooms.

SCHOOL COLORS: ........................................Purple and Gold
SCHOOL EMBLEM: ........................................The Hillbilly

ALMA MATER

Our own dear Ozark High School, hail to thee. We love thy morals high, the purple, gold, and the standards you set. All pointing to the sky. Thy bonds of friendship and of loyalty, will keep us true till we die. Standards always fair, ever shine like jewels rare, our Alma Mater, Ozark High.

Thy name we love and never cease to cheer. O Alma Mater dear, here we sing and our tribute we bring. Loud let the echoes ring. We love thy walls, thy campus and thy halls. Honor to us ever calls. From our high school dear, comes to us through all the years, Our Alma Mater High.

PHILOSOPHY OF OZARK SCHOOL DISTRICT #14

We believe that the public schools today help perpetuate our democracy; that our schools are for all children and must, therefore, accept each child as he/she is and make every effort to meet his/her specific and individual needs in order to help him/her become as intellectually competent as possible in our ever-changing technical, social and political world. We believe it is imperative that each child be developed to the utmost of his/her physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual capacity.

Our belief is that the public schools should strive to see that each child acquires the basic skills and knowledge on which to base new judgments. We believe that the public schools should seek to develop good work habits and to provide an atmosphere conducive to the learning process. It is our belief that a public school system is essential to the continuation of a free democratic way of life. We further believe that the function of the public schools is to provide students with the necessary information and skills that will enable them to be an effective and useful member in a free society.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Ozark School District is to provide educational opportunities that promote lifelong learning. Our focus is preparing every person to be a productive and responsible citizen. We believe it is our duty and responsibility to provide a safe orderly environment where learning can take place. We strive to teach not only basic skills, but also skills of critical thinking, self-expression, creativity, and decision-making. We firmly believe that each student is important and that everyone can learn.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

In accordance with the stated philosophy of the Ozark Public Schools, the objectives of the Ozark Schools are as follows:

1. To provide learning atmosphere in which students may develop their talents, abilities, needs, interests, and discover their weaknesses.
2. To provide a program which will help students understand the importance of mental and physical health.
3. To provide opportunities for students to develop the ability to work and live cooperatively.
4. To create in the students a favorable attitude toward the democratic process of law and order.
5. To help students understand their present and future role as consumers/producers.
6. To encourage each student to develop a sense of values and worthwhile ideas.
7. To teach students to budget their time with emphasis on the wise use of leisure time.
8. To afford students an opportunity to enjoy a well-rounded life by cultivating his/her appreciation for good literature, art, music, and physical activities.
9. To maintain open communication between the school and the community.
10. To instill in students the idea that in a democratic society, one must accept his/her responsibilities as well as his/her rights.
11. To develop in students an awareness that they must be responsible for their own actions.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** In compliance with Act 1333 of 2003, it is mandatory for students and staff of the Ozark Middle 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/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.

**SCHOOL CONDUCT**

**Who is Responsible for Student Conduct?** Freedom is a Constitutional right, but it does not mean the absence of reasonable rules and regulations, which serve to guide the actions of individuals. Along with freedom comes the responsibility to act in such manner as to insure that all participants may enjoy the same freedom. To obtain the greatest possible benefit to the students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the entire community, it is essential that all work together to insure that all persons are treated equally and with dignity in respect to their rights and responsibilities.

**Students.** Students have a responsibility to pursue their education in the Ozark School District in a manner that shows respect for other students, faculty members, parents, and other citizens. Students share a responsibility to cooperate with and assist the school staff, helping to make their school the best it can be. Each student is responsible for his/her own conduct at all times.

**Parents or Guardians.** Parents or guardians are responsible for exercising the required controls so that their children’s behavior at school will help their own progress and not be disruptive to the school’s education program. They are responsible for alerting school personnel when they have reason to believe that their children are experiencing difficulties at school, so that behavior standards may be maintained.

**Teachers.** All teachers are responsible for the supervision of all students in the school. This includes not only the students who are regularly assigned to the teacher but all other students with whom the teacher comes in contact. Each teacher is expected to maintain the kind of atmosphere that will promote the learning process, and to utilize sound educational techniques. These techniques include conferences with students and parents, referral to counselors at the school or referral to other supportive service personnel of the district (nurse, attendance caseworker, school resource officer, etc.) When the teacher is unable to assist the student in maintaining proper control, the student is to be referred to the appropriate administrator in the school.

**Principals.** The principal of each school is expected to communicate to all students the rules and regulations. The principal is expected to involve representatives of the teaching staff, the student body, and the patrons of the school in developing the student discipline policies. The principal of each school is responsible for conducting continued in-service education for all personnel on a regular basis to interpret and implement established policies. The principal has the right to suspend and may request the superintendent to recommend a student for expulsion to the Board of Education. The principal is expected to inform the parents or guardians of any student whose behavior is in serious conflict with established laws, rules, and procedures.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Suspension** is the prohibition of a student from entering the school grounds (except for a pre-arranged conference with an administrator) for a period of time set by the principal of the school or the superintendent. Suspension will be ten (10) school days or less.

**Expulsion** is the prohibition of a student from entering the school or school grounds (except for a pre-arranged conference with an administrator) for more than ten (10) days and may last until the end of the semester, the end of the current school year, or permanently, depending upon the severity of the offense, with the loss of academic credit. This action shall be taken by the Board of Education only.

**Loitering by Students Suspended from School.** Students suspended or expelled from school are prohibited from being in any school building or on any school grounds during the time of their suspension or expulsion unless a prearranged conference has been scheduled through the principal or his/her designee.
ATTENDANCE

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. In recognition of the need for students to regularly attend school, the district’s policy governing student absences is as follows.

Students shall not be absent, as defined in this policy more than twelve (12) days in a semester. When a student has six (6) absences, his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be notified that the student has missed half the allowable days for the semester. 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 twelve (12) absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

Students with twelve (12) absences in a course in a semester shall not receive credit for that course. If the student fails to receive credit for a sufficient number of courses and at the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences, however, shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly’s intention that students having excessive absences due to illness, accident, or other unavoidable reason be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of allowable absences (unless unable to do so due to unforeseen circumstances), 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 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. Unless a student’s excessive absence is due to an unforeseen circumstance, the District will not accept a doctor’s note for a student’s excessive absence.

Days missed due to in-school or out-of-school suspension shall not count toward the allowable number of days absent.

Office personnel will not collect homework assignments for students unless the student has absent 2 consecutive days. On the third day of the student’s absence, the parent or guardian should call the office by 9:00 a.m. and request homework assignments be collected. Office personnel will have these assignments ready by 3:00 p.m. on the day of the request.

Arrangements for making up missed schoolwork should be made the day the student returns to school. Make up of missed schoolwork must be done within three (3) days under normal circumstances.

1. **School Related Absence:** School related (field trips, extracurricular activities, school business etc.) are not counted per state and federal guidelines on mandatory attendance.

2. Students absent for ten (10) consecutive days may be dropped from the rolls unless the parents/guardians have contacted the school regarding the nature of the absences.

3. Students who are absent during all or part of the school day shall not participate in any school activity on that day or night unless permission has been granted by the principal.

4. **Tardies:** A tardy is an absence from part of a class period without written permission from school personnel. Tardies will be accounted for by individual teachers. Beginning with the 3rd tardy, corporal punishment, or out of school suspension will be assigned.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

1. **Lockers.** The School 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 has violated the law or school rules.

2. **Person.** School officials may search an individual if they have a 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 school official of the same sex should do a pat down search of a student’s person. The scope of the search must be reasonably related to the objective of the search. No strip searches will be conducted.

After a search 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. Lockers and automobiles on school property may be subject to search by police using drug dogs. This search will be conducted with an administrator present.
STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

All students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will contribute to the best interest of the school and not infringe on the rights of others. School staff members have authority, and the responsibility to take customary and reasonable measures to maintain proper control and discipline among students placed under their care and supervision. Such measures may include the use of reasonable force in the exercise of lawful authority to restrain or correct students and maintain order. A student who is well informed concerning his/her rights and responsibilities and the standards of behavior expected should not require disciplinary action. For the information of all students, however, infractions to avoid and recommended disciplinary actions are presented as follows.

Student Acceptable Technology Use Policy (ATUP)

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, and therefore, users should have no reasonable expectation of privacy in the use of these 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 computers for harassment (sexual, racial, personal, bullying, etc).
   - Usage of computers for illegal or unethical activities including plagiarism, copyright violations.
   - Usage of computers to convey or access any objectionable materials including topics which 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 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:

1. Revocation of computer access.
2. Financial restitutions.
3. Suspension, expulsion, and academic failure due to lack of course completion or other penalties may be appropriate.
4. Possible referral for prosecution.
**Telephone Use.** School phones are not to be used by students except for emergency situations. Telephones in the school are for business use. A student should never use a phone without permission of office personnel. Students are expected to be responsible for planning ahead for money needed for school, permission slips, etc. These are not valid reasons for asking to use the telephone. When it is necessary to send a child a message, the school must receive it before 2:45 p.m. We, unfortunately, cannot guarantee the delivery of a message after that time.

**Electronic Communicative Devices:** Use and misuse of cell phones has become a serious problem that threatens the ability of the districts schools to properly and efficiently operate its education program. The school board believes it is necessary to restrict students use and possession of cell phones, other electronic communication devices, cameras, MP 3 players, Ipods and other portable music devices so that the opportunity for learning in the district’s schools may be enhanced. For the purpose of this policy, the use of a cell phone or other communication device includes any incoming call, text message, message waiting or any other audible sound coming from the phone or device. The student and/or the student’s parent/guardian expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing technology equipment. From the time of the first bell until after the last bell, students are forbidden from using cell phones, any paging device, beeper or similar electronic communication devices. It is preferred that such devices be stored in the student’s locker or vehicle in a silent mode of operation. Exceptions may be made by the building principal or his/her designee for health or other compelling reasons. Before and after normal school hours possession of above said 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 students is attending. Students using or possessing other than those devices properly stored in a locker or vehicle, cell phones or other devices after the first bell and before the last bell shall have them confiscated. Confiscated cell phones and other electronic devices may be picked up at the schools administration office by the student’s parent or guardian.

**Electronic Device Policy Abuse Punishment**
- 1st Offense: Confiscation; parent must pick up phone
- 2nd Offense: Confiscation; parent must pick up phone and student will receive corporal punishment
- 3rd Offense: Confiscation; parent must pick up phone and student will receive 3 days of OSS.

**School Dances.** School dances may be held on school property. All dances to be held on school property must be approved by the principal.

**Petitions.** A petition may not be circulated in a school building without prior approval of the superintendent of schools and the building principal. For additional information on distribution of publications refer to the students rights, responsibilities and limitations section of the student handbook.

**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. Written expression to be distributed must be signed by its author. A student who edits, publishes, or distributes handwritten, printed, or duplicated matter among his/her fellow students within the schools must assume responsibility for the content of such publication. Material that is libelous, obscene, or slanderous material; that constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy; material that would interfere with or disrupt the educational process; material that would incite students to commit unlawful acts on school premises, or incite students to violate lawful school regulations, is prohibited in all publications. Student publications (annual, newspaper, newsletters, posters, etc.) must be approved by a faculty sponsor and/or the principal prior to publication. A student who changes material without approval will receive disciplinary action appropriate to the nature of the offense.

A student who wishes to distribute written material on school premises must present the material to the principal at least forty eight (48) hours before the planned time of distribution. Within twenty four (24) hours, the principal will give the student written notice accepting or rejecting the material for distribution. If the student’s material is rejected by the principal, he/she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The student must supply a copy of the material to be distributed, or his/her explanation of the purpose of the distribution, and of the principal’s rejection notice. Within forty-eight (48) hours, the superintendent will accept or reject the material. If the student is dissatisfied with the superintendent’s decision, he/she has the right to present the material to the School Board for its review at its next regular meeting.

**COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**
If a person has a complaint or grievance concerning a policy or staff member of the Ozark School District, the following procedure shall 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 an individual feels the complaint or grievance is unresolved after the first step, the person may request a meeting with the building principal.
3. If an individual feels the complaint or grievance is unresolved after the second step, the person may request a meeting with the Superintendent.
**GUM:** There is to be **NO** gum at school under any circumstances.

**INFRINGEMENTS TO AVOID**

The following activities are considered improper conduct and will subject the student to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school, and/or notification of law enforcement officials. The violation of a rule will occur whether the conduct takes place on the school grounds, off the school grounds at a school supervised activity, function, or event, or en-route to and from school.

Below each rule is a standardized list of disciplinary actions to be taken. Normally, this list will be adhered to in numerical order after each occurrence. However, the administration may exercise more extreme action in more severe situations or in situations in which a student has been involved in other rule infractions. Corporal punishment may be used for any of the following infractions in accordance with the corporal punishment policy. School rules listed under standards of conduct have been placed into five groups. The rules covered under each group have been clearly stated and in most cases will carry the same penalty as any other rule in the group.

**Student Discipline Policy.** Ozark School District will develop and update yearly written student discipline policies in compliance with the guidelines established by the Department of Education. The discipline policies will be written in the school’s student handbook, and the handbook will be adopted by a vote of the Board of Education. The principal will be responsible for distributing the student handbook and keeping written documentation of student and parent receipt of the handbook.

Anyone in violation of school discipline policies may receive disciplinary action ranging from a minimum of a verbal reprimand to a maximum of expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

**GROUP I  INFRACTIONS**

- **Drugs.** Any student enrolled in the Ozark Middle Schools shall not possess, use, offer for sale, or sale alcoholic beverages, prescription drugs, drugs, or drug paraphernalia on school property or at a school sponsored event. All evidence and/or facts related to the incident will be made available to the police.

- **Weapons, Dangerous Instruments, and Contraband.** A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a razor, ice pick, explosives (including fireworks), pistol, rifle, shotgun, pellet gun, or any other object, which might reasonably be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument, or any contraband material.

- **Treatment of School Personnel.** A student shall not willfully and intentionally assault (physically or verbally), or commit battery on any school employee.

- **Threats.** No student shall threaten to cause death or serious physical injury to another student or employee or threaten to cause substantial property damage. Ozark Public Schools will adhere to a “no tolerance” policy concerning threats. This means that there is no such thing as a “teasing” threat of any act of potential violence as far as the school is concerned.

**GROUP I  DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. Immediate ten-day suspension from school and possible recommendation for expulsion. The first offense involving alcohol may be reduced to a suspension of five to ten days. However, a second offense would result in a ten day suspension with a recommendation for expulsion. Notification of proper law enforcement authorities will apply to first and second offenses.

2. The principal, or in the principal’s absence, the principals designee, shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to contact the student’s parent(s) or legal guardians. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent or legal guardian, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call either the principal or designee and leave both a day and an after hour phone number.

**GROUP II  INFRACTIONS**

- **Indecent Exposure.** A student shall not deliberately commit indecent exposure, nor shall a student make improper sexual advances toward another person at school or at school functions.

- **Sexual Activity.** Sexual activity is prohibited at school, at school events or activities, and on school property.

- **Sexual Advances.** Improper sexual advances toward another person at school or on school sponsored activities are prohibited. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following:
  1. Verbal harassment or abuse.
  2. Pressure for sexual activity.
  3. Repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications.
  4. Implied or explicit threats that suggest or demand sexual involvement.
5. Inappropriate patting or pinching.
6. Intentional brushing against another person’s body and/or.
7. Any sexually motivated, un-welcomed touching.

Any person who alleges sexual harassment should report it directly to the building principal or guidance counselor. Any report of sexual harassment will be investigated immediately. The school will discipline any student 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.

GROUP II DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. Five (5) days suspension, parent conference, probation, and report to law enforcement if pertinent.
2. Suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

GROUP III INFRACTIONS

➢ **Tobacco.** The Ozark School District is declared to be a tobacco free environment. The possession or use of tobacco in any form is prohibited. The prohibition applies at all times during the normal school day in school district facilities or on school district property. Possession of tobacco products by Ozark School District students is prohibited at any time the student is on school property during school hours. Non-tobacco products that are designed to mimic real tobacco products are also prohibited. A student found to be in possession of tobacco on their person, in their locker or in their book bag will have the tobacco confiscated and receive either corporal punishment or up to a 3 day suspension. A student caught using tobacco in class or on school grounds a second time will receive a 5 day suspension and a third time will result in a 10 day suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.

➢ **Abuse or Assault by a Student on Another Student.** A student shall not willfully or intentionally assault or threaten to assault, commit battery or abuse any student. Fighting will be defined as physical exchange of blows. A student will not be subject to disciplinary action when it can be determined that the student was acting in self-defense or tried to break off the confrontation prior to fighting.

➢ **Damage, Destruction, or Theft of School Property.** A student shall not willfully or intentionally damage, destroy, or steal school or student property. Parents of any minor student under the age of 18 will be liable for damages caused by said minor.

➢ **Theft and Extortion.** A student shall not steal or attempt to steal the property of another student or any other person nor shall a student obtain or attempt to obtain something of value from another person either by physical force or threat.

➢ **Gangs and Secret Societies.** Gangs and Secret Societies, whether organized in the community or in other settings, are prohibited on the school grounds and campus and at any school sponsored activity. Gang related activity (whether genuine or a pretense) is prohibited. Gang related activities include, but are not limited to the following: wearing apparel associated with gangs, displaying gang insignia, “throwing signs” or other gestures of language (however expressed) associated with gangs, intimidation, and threats.

GROUP III DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

1. Confiscation, corporal punishment, and/or contact parent/guardian. Law enforcement will also be called for any crime on school grounds including fights, theft, etc.
2. Suspension from school of three (3) to ten (10) days, at the discretion of the principal.
3. Suspension from school and/or recommendation for expulsion.

GROUP IV INFRACTIONS

➢ **Truancy.** A student shall not be absent from school without parent and/or school authorities prior knowledge and consent. After arrival on campus, a student absent from their assigned learning station without permission from school authorities shall be considered as truant.

➢ **Disregard of Directions/Commands (Insubordination).** All students shall comply with reasonable directions or request of any authorized personnel.

➢ **Disorderly Conduct.** A student shall not engage in behavior that adversely affects instructional activities or other students.
- **Laser Pointer.** It is unlawful for persons less than 18 years of age to possess a handheld laser pointer without supervision of a parent, guardian, or teacher. Laser pointers will be confiscated and the student in possession of the laser pointer will be subject to disciplinary action.

- **Skateboards or Shoe Skates.** These are not allowed on school property.

- **Profanity, Verbal Abuse, Obscene Gestures.** A student shall not use profane, violent, vulgar, abusive, or insulting language at any time or possess obscene or sexually graphic materials. A student shall not use physical gestures that convey a connotation of obscene or highly disrespectful acts, infringe upon the rights of others, or cause or begin an overt and immediate disruption of the educational process.

- **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. Examples of PDA include, but are not limited to, kissing, hugging, etc.

- **Gambling.** A student shall not engage in any game of chance on school premises at any time.

- **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 of one 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.

  **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.

  **Electronic act means** a communication or image transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, wireless phone or other wireless device, computer, or pager. This shall apply to an electronic act, whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act 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 that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other’s performance in the school environment.

  **Substantial disruption means** that any one or more of the following occur:
  - 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.

School employees who witness or have reliable information that a pupil has been a victim of bullying shall report the incident to the principal. A school principal or his/her designee who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall promptly investigate the complaint or report and make a record of the investigation and any action taken as a result of the investigation. A school employee who has reported violations under the school district’s policy shall be immune from any tort liability that may arise from the failure to remedy the reported incident. Any person or persons who file a complaint will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

  **School administrators shall promptly investigate, make a record of the investigation and any disciplinary action taken**

  *(Act 907 of 2011)*

**GROUP IV DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

1. Corporal punishment and/or contact parent.
2. Three (3) days of out of school suspension and parent conference.
3. Five (5) days of out of school suspension, parent conference.
4. Suspension from school and recommendation for expulsion.
GROUP V INFRACTIONS

Student Dress and Grooming. A student’s right to dress as his or her taste and inclination direct is respected. However, it is insisted that the student’s personal appearance shall not present a health or safety hazard or distract from the educational process in any way.

Examples of inappropriate apparel includes transparent or see-through apparel, clothes with patches or lettering that are controversial, provocative, obscene, suggestive that advertise drugs or alcohol, strapless blouses, halter tops, bare midriffs, bare backs or spandex like shorts or tops. Shorts or dresses/skirts should be at least as long as the end of the fingertips held to the side. Tank top straps must be the width of a dollar bill. Shoes must be worn at all times. No house shoes or pajamas are to be worn to school. Clothes are to be worn as the manufacturer intended – example both overall straps should be fastened, clothes should not be worn wrong side out (unless part of a spirit week or other school event) No hats, caps or bandanas allowed on campus or in buildings without special permission from the principal. No undergarments should be visible at anytime. NO sagging pants, pants must be worn at natural waistline.

Students are prohibited from wearing:
- clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female or male
- while on school grounds of a public school during the regular school and day and at school-sponsored activities
- does not apply to costumes or uniforms in a school-sponsored activity or event

GROUP V DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. Change to acceptable clothing, turn inappropriate clothing inside out, obtain clothes from clothes bank, if none remedies the problem the student will be sent home to change.
2. Second offense will involve obtaining clothes from clothes bank and one (1) day of School Suspension or corporal punishment shall be assigned.
3. A third offense of the dress code will result in a 5 days suspension.
4. A fourth offense of the dress code will result in a 10-day suspension with the possible recommendation for expulsion.

BEHAVIOR NOT COVERED IN STATED POLICIES

The Ozark School District reserves the right to pursue legal or disciplinary action for behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools even though such behavior may not be specified in the preceding written rules.

➢ Cafeteria Use. Students shall comply with the following requests when going to the cafeteria and when using the cafeteria facilities:
   1. Walk.
   2. Do not cut in line.
   3. Leave your area free of trash when you leave the table to take your tray, and utensils to the tray receiving area.
   4. Display good manners and appropriate behavior.

➢ Hall Conduct. Students are responsible for appropriate behavior in the hallways at all times.
   The following are examples of conduct to be avoided:
   1. General Horseplay
   2. Leaving trash in the hallways.
   3. Congregating in groups and/or blocking the flow of traffic, especially at the intersections.

➢ Bus Conduct. Students who have been suspended from school cannot ride the bus until the day they are due back in school. Once students have gotten on the bus, they will stay on that bus until they arrive at their school.

➢ Transportation. Ozark Schools recognize the importance of safety while students are being transported on school buses. Therefore, the following guidelines and regulations have been established to insure the safety of the students:
   1. The bus drivers are responsible for the order and discipline on their buses. They will work closely with the building principals to maintain proper conduct for the safety of the students.
   2. Buses will stop only at scheduled stops that have been selected for safety and convenience. Children should be transported to school or home, and they are to get off the bus only at their designated stops. If a student needs to ride a different bus the parent or guardian should send a note or contact the bus garage or school office.
   3. Whenever a bus is used for school activities, the teacher in charge of that group is responsible for the behavior of the students during the trip.
   4. The following are to be used for guidelines for student conduct while riding the bus:
      a) Be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
      b) Wait for your bus in a safe place off the roadway.
c) Enter the bus in an orderly manner and remain in your assigned seat.
d) Follow the instruction of your school bus driver at all times.
e) Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
f) Keep aisles clear at all times.
g) Remain quiet and orderly; be courteous to your driver and fellow passengers.
h) Wait for the driver’s signal before crossing the road.
i) Always cross at least ten feet in front of the bus.
j) Never crawl under the school bus.

➢ Closed Campus. The Ozark Public Schools campuses are a closed campus. The term “closed campus,” means that once a student is on campus he/she will not be allowed to leave without permission from the school principal or his/her designee. Before excusing a student to leave school the principal will make every effort to contact parents/guardians. Notes are not accepted. A student may not be interviewed by strangers or non-custodial parents 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.

➢ Signing Out/In. Any student that leaves campus before the school day ends must have parent/guardian sign them out in the office. Students arriving late or returning to campus must sign in at the office.

➢ Subversive Behavior. The Ozark School District reserves the right to pursue legal or disciplinary action for behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the schools even though such behavior may not be specified in the preceding written rules.

➢ Persistent Disregard for School Rules. A student who persists in acts of misconduct after reasonable efforts have been made by the school to secure the student’s adherence to the established rules shall be recommended for expulsion. Efforts toward behavior modification will be prior to recommendation for expulsion except when very serious offenses have been committed.

➢ Discipline for Handicapped Students. The Ozark School District will discipline students with disabilities in the same manner the district disciplines other students unless the Individual Education Plan (IEP) requires alternative actions.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment may be administered to students, by certified personnel, in the presence of a school administrator, or his/her designee.

1. It may be administered only for cause.
2. It will not be administered in the presence of other students.
3. It will not be administered with malice, with anger, or in excess. Students will receive no more than three (3) licks with a wooden paddle.
4. Before corporal punishment is administered, the student shall be advised of the reason for his/her punishment in the presence of the witness. The student shall be given an opportunity to state their position if he/she claims innocence. (School officials are not required to hold formal hearings prior to corporal punishment.)
5. If a student refuses to choose a punishment, Out Of School Suspension will be assigned by the principal or the principal’s designee.
6. The principal shall be notified and a written report will be filed in the office on the day of the incident.

SUSPENSIONS FROM SCHOOL (10 Days or Less)

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 discipline policies. Prior to suspension, the principal or designee shall inform the student either 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. 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/designee. Make-up work while a student is on suspension will not be allowed.

EMERGENCY SUSPENSION OF A STUDENT FROM CLASS BY TEACHER

A teacher may dismiss any pupil from class. The teacher shall, when feasible, accompany the student to the office of the principal and shall, as soon as practical, file with the principal a written statement of the reason or reasons for the pupil’s dismissal from class. The principal or his designee shall determine whether to reinstate the pupil in class, reassign them, or take other disciplinary action.
6th GRADE & 7TH GRADE GRADING SCALE

All Ozark Public School teachers shall use the following grading scale.

A…………………….90-100
B………………………80-89
C………………………70-79
D………………………60-69
F………………59 and below

(Grade reflects only educational objectives.)

Progress Reports and Report Cards: Progress reports will be given to students after 4 ½ weeks of each 9-week grading period. Report Cards will be given to students following each grading period, but they are not mailed unless a student brings a self addressed stamped envelope.

Participation in Extracurricular Activities. Students must meet eligibility requirements established by the Arkansas Activities Association. If a student is absent from school for part of a day or all day they may not participate in a school activity unless permission is granted by the principal.

Homework Policy. Students are expected to complete out of class assignments on a routine basis. Homework should not exceed what an average student could reasonably be expected to complete in 90 minutes, all subjects combined. Exceptions can be expected from time to time.

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. The Academic Improvement Plan shall describe the parent’s role and responsibilities as well as the consequences for the student’s failure to participate in the plan. Any student that does not participate in the required Academic Improvement Plan will be retained in the current grade. Academic Improvement Plans are for students who fail to achieve at the proficient level on the state mandated criterion-referenced test.

Admission and Placement of Students

Every parent, guardian or other person having custody or care of a resident child aged five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before September 1, for the 2009-2010 school year, August 15 for the 2010-2011 school year and August 1 for the 2011-2012 school year 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 the home school policy have been met. 3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before September 1 of the 2009-2010 school year, August 15 for the 2010-2011 and August 1 for the 2011-2012 school year and the parent, guardian or other person having custody or charge of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulations of the Department of 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 (16) or seventeen (17) and have met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. 6-18-201 (B)

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of (5) and (21) years whose parents, legal guardians or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court reside within the District and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the district for educational purposes. To enroll in the District, students will need:

1. The child’s social security number, or they may request that the school district assign the child a nine digit number designated by the Department of Education.
2. Proof of age and date of birth by one of the following documents:
   A. Birth Certificate
   B. A statement by the local registrar or a county record 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 parents or guardian.
   F. Previous schools records.
   G. United States Military Identification.
3. Up-to-date immunization or exemption based on:
   a. Presentation of a certificate from an Arkansas health authority stating vaccination is not required due to physical disability.
   b. Parent’s religious tenets object to vaccination.
   c. Child or child’s siblings have had a serious adverse reaction to pertussis antigen which resulted in permanent disability.
SMART CORE/ CORE CURRICULUM: All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the student if they are 18 years of age or older, sign an Informed Consent Form to not participate. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core Curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. The signed Informed Consent Form shall be attached to the student’s permanent transcript. Informed Consent Forms are required to be signed prior to registering for seventh grade classes, or if enrolling in the district for seventh through twelfth grade classes. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to time they are required to sign the consent forms.

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 curriculum must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing.

### Smart Core & Core Curriculum (22 units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smart Core Curriculum (22 units)</th>
<th>Core Curriculum (22 units)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>English—Four (4) Units</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9th Grade English—1 unit</td>
<td>9th Grade English—1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Grade English—1 unit</td>
<td>10th Grade English—1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Grade English—1 unit</td>
<td>11th Grade English—1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Grade English—1 unit</td>
<td>12th Grade English—1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oral Communications—½ unit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Oral Communications—½ unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Natural Science—Three (3) Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>Science – 3 units</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology—1 unit</td>
<td>At least one unit of Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two (2) units from the following three (3) options:</td>
<td>At least one unit of a physical science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td>Mathematics – 4 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Algebra I or its equivalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Geometry or its equivalent</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mathematics—Four (4) Units</strong></td>
<td>All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>One unit must be taken at 11th or 12th grade</td>
<td><strong>A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra I—1 unit</td>
<td><strong>Social Studies – 3 units</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry—1 unit</td>
<td>Civics – ½ unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra II—1 unit</td>
<td>World History – 1 unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond Algebra II—1 unit</td>
<td>U.S. History – 1 unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social Studies—Three (3) Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>Economics – ½ unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civics—½ unit</td>
<td>Physical Education – ½ unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>World History—1 unit</td>
<td>Health and Safety – ½ unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American History—1 unit</td>
<td><strong>Fine Arts – ½ unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economics—½ Unit</strong></td>
<td>Career Focus – 6 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--Economics may be counted as a ½ unit social studies course if taught by a highly qualified social studies teacher OR as a ½ unit career focus elective course if taught by a highly qualified business education teacher.</td>
<td><strong>Fine Arts – ½ unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fine Arts—½ Unit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Career Focus – 6 units</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health and Safety—½ Unit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Physical Education – ½ unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical education—½ Unit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Health and Safety – ½ unit</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Career Focus—Six (6) Units</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fine Arts – ½ unit</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Insurance: The Ozark School District provides a supplemental insurance policy for students. Supplemental insurance will pay after and above what the student’s regular insurance will pay. Supplement insurance may not cover the entire cost of medical bills. The Ozark School District assumes no liability whatsoever beyond the limits of the insurance policy.

GUIDELINES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

1. Prescription medication must be in the original container appropriately labeled by the Pharmacist or by the Physician.
2. Over the counter drugs to be given at school must also be in the original container.
3. Handwritten notes on anything other than this release form are not acceptable.
4. Permission for long-term medication must be renewed at the beginning of each semester.

Medication Policy: Any student in 6th & 7th grades that require medication during regular school hours must comply with this policy. The school provides a secure storage cabinet in the health office. Students are not allowed to have medications of any kind in their possession. ALL medication will be administered by a school nurse or appropriately trained school personnel. Field trips will be handled the same with the medication in a portable case and administered by a school nurse or a designated teacher. Any deviation from this policy requires a written plan developed by the school staff, parents and all teachers involved with this student shall be informed.

PHYSICIAN-PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS: The school requires a written medication administration release form that provides the names, the dose, the times when the medication is to be taken and the diagnosis or reason the medicine is needed, unless the reason should remain confidential. These forms must be renewed at the beginning of each semester. The school is to be notified in writing if the risk of a serious reaction exists, with directions for obtaining the necessary care. The medication must be in the original container appropriately labeled by the Pharmacist or the Physician.

PARENT-PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS: The school allows children with minor illnesses into the classroom, with appropriate attention to recognize contagious disease policies and to pertinent state codes, to take over-the-counter medications when the parent has completed the amount to be given, the time to be taken, and the reason for its administration. The school reserves the right to limit the duration of parent-prescribed medication and/or require a physician statement for continued use of any medication beyond a reasonable time period. Medications will not be permitted in the school unless in the original container and will not be placed in the secure storage cabinet without the students name written with permanent marker.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES/HEAD LICE: Parents who have children with communicable diseases or with parasites shall demonstrate respect for other students by not sending them to school while they are contagious. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being re-admitted to school. If a student is found to have live lice or nits, the student’s parents/guardians will be asked to pick up the child from school and will be given information concerning the eradication and control of head lice. Before an infected student may be re-admitted following an absence due to head lice, the school nurse or designee shall examine the student to make sure the student is free of any lice or nits.

WELLNESS POLICY

The health and physical well being of Ozark School District students directly affects their ability to learn. The School Board believes that it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity. The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and the Department of Education, but also with parents and the community. Therefore, the District shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions, which improve the health and physical activity of our students.

Goals:
In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health and reduce childhood obesity, the District will adhere to the Arkansas Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards in Arkansas Public Schools. Adhering to these Rules will include, but is not limited to District efforts to:

1. Appoint a district school health coordinator who shall be responsible for ensuring that each school fulfills the requirements of this policy.
2. Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum.
3. Enforce existing physical education requirements and engage students in healthy levels of vigorous physical activity.
4. Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers.
5. Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12.
6. Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom or sports performances.
7. Ensure that drinking water is available without charge to all students.
8. Establish class schedules and bus routes that don’t directly or indirectly restrict meal access.
9. Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas.
10. Establish no more than nine (9) school wide events, which permit exceptions to the food and beverage limitations, established by Rule. The schedule of the events shall be by school and approved by the principal. Parents have the right to send food of their choosing to school with their choosing. Food sent to school for events, parties etc. must be commercially made.

11. Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards.

12. Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas’ or the US Dept of Agriculture’s Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la carte foods served in the cafeteria.

13. Restrict access to vended foods, competitive foods and foods of minimal nutritional value (FMNV) as required by law and Rule.

14. Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence of profits from the sale of FMNV.

15. Provide professional development to all district staff on the topics of nutrition and/or physical activity.

16. Utilize the School Health Index available from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students.

**Advisory Committee:**

To enhance the District’s efforts to improve the health of students, a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee (SNPAAC) shall be formed. It shall be structured in a way that ensures age-appropriate recommendations are made which correlate to our Districts grade configurations. The SNPAAC shall have the powers and responsibilities delegated to it by statute and Rule.

**Home Schooling**

A. Parents/Guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children must give written notice to the superintendent of the Ozark School District of their intent to provide a home school for their child and sign a waiver authorizing the release of the State of Arkansas from any future liability for the education of their child:

1. At the beginning of each school year, but no later than August 15; or
2. By December 15, for parents who decide to start home schooling at the beginning of the spring semester.
3. Home school waivers will not be accepted passed the established dates or if disciplinary action is pending. The superintendent may waive this section of the policy.

B. Parents/Guardians moving into the state during the school year who have home schooled their children in another state must give written notice to the superintendent of the Ozark School District of their intent to provide a home school for their child and send a waiver authorizing the release of the State of Arkansas from any future liability for the education of their child within thirty (30) days of establishing residency within the district.

C. Notice must include:

1. The name, date of birth, grade level and the name and address of the school last attended, if any, of each student involved; and
2. The location of the home school;
3. The basic core curriculum to be offered;
4. The proposed schedule of instruction; and
5. The qualifications of the parent/teacher.

D. Parents/Guardians shall deliver written notice in person to the superintendent of the Ozark School District the first time such notice is given.

1. This information may be used only for statistical purposes and test administration.
2. The Ozark School District shall report the statistical data required by this section to the Department of Education each year.

E. Achievement Tests/Enrollment or Re-enrollment in District

1. Each student enrolled in a home school program who is considered to be at a grade level, or no more than two (2) years beyond the normal age for the appropriate grade, for which the state mandates norm-referenced tests for public school students shall be tested using a nationally recognized achievement test selected by the State Board of Education.
2. The administration of the tests required of home schooled students shall by the Director of the Western Arkansas Education Service Cooperative established under 6-13-1001 et seq., or as otherwise designated by the Department of Education.
3. The cost of required testing shall be the responsibility of the Department of Education when the tests are administered by the education services cooperative or the Department of Education designee.
4. The Ozark School District shall have authority to assess any home-schooled students who enrolls or re-enrolls in the district in order to determine proper educational placement.
5. The school district shall utilize, among other means of assessment, the norm referenced test approved by the State Board of Education to assess the student and shall determine placement in the appropriate grade level as indicated by the test results.
6. Any home schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the Ozark School District must attend classes for at least nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation before the student can become eligible to receive a high school diploma from the district.