

GAMEWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Handbook

2019-2020

THE SCHOOL DAY

Students must not arrive before 7:30 am unless on a school bus and should leave promptly upon dismissal unless participating in/or attending a school-sponsored event or activity. All students should be off campus by 3:30.

Students who ride the bus are dismissed from the buses at 7:50 to report directly to class. Car riders should immediately report to the gym upon school arrival and will be dismissed at 7:50.. Once seated, students are to sit according to grade level and remain there until dismissed. Students are allowed electronics in the gym prior to the start of the school day; however, once students are dismissed from the gym in the morning, all electronics and headphones must be turned off and placed in student lockers. Breakfast will be served in the classroom at 7:50 am.

The school day for students is as follows:

7:30	Gym opens for student arrivals
7:50	Dismissal from gym
8:05	Class Begins
8:10	Tardy Bell
3:10	Students dismissed
3:30	Campus closed for unsupervised students
4:00	Office is closed

Students are not allowed to leave the school campus without permission. This includes before and after school hours. Once a student is on campus, he or she is to stay until appropriately dismissed. Upon morning arrival, students should remain in the gym until 7:50, when all students will report to class. For afternoon departure, car riders report to the gym for pick up. . Other areas of the campus are off limits.

EARLY ARRIVALS

For safety reasons, students shall not be present on the school campus before 7:30 am unless accompanied by a parent/guardian for a scheduled meeting. Failure to adhere to this policy will result in administrative contact.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Students who have been absent must bring an explanation note from home. This note should be given to the homeroom teacher on the day that the student returns to school. Students with excessive absences may be asked to provide a doctor's note for the days they are absent. Poor attendance may affect athletic eligibility. Attendance may also be considered in regards to eligibility for dances, rewards, and field trips.

CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY (Students 4400) STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily.

A. ATTENDANCE RECORDS

School officials shall keep accurate records of attendance in each class. Attendance records will be used to enforce the Compulsory Attendance Law of North Carolina.

B. EXCUSED ABSENCES

When a student misses school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian shall be provided to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence.

Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a physician. An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school.
2. isolation ordered by the State Board of Health.
3. death in the immediate family.
4. medical or dental appointment.
5. participation under subpoena as a witness in a court proceeding.
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s).
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal.
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary; or
9. visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian, at the discretion of the superintendent or designee, if the parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting.

In the case of excused absences and short-term out-of-school suspensions, the student will be permitted to make up his or her work. (See also Board Policy 4351, Short-Term Suspension.) The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

C. SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

All classroom activities are important and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if missed. Principals shall ensure that classes missed by students due to school-related activities are kept to an absolute minimum. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school
2. job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in G.S.115C-47(34a)
3. school-initiated and scheduled activities
4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school
5. in-school suspensions

Assignments missed for these reasons are eligible for makeup by the student. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

D. EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process and may be taken into account in assessing academic achievement. Students are expected to be at school on time and to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class. The principal shall notify parents and take all other steps required by G.S. 115C-378 for excessive absences.

Students in grades six through eight must be in attendance at least 170 school days. Students with more than 10 unexcused absences may not be promoted to the next grade level. School attendance committees will review student absences at the end of the first three grading periods and in the middle of the last grading period. The committee shall submit to the principal or designee the names of students who are in danger of not being promoted due to excessive unexcused absences.

Students with excused absences due to documented chronic health problems are exempt from this policy.

Excessive absences may impact eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics. See policy 3620, Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations and policy 3621, Student Athletic Eligibility.

E. TARDIES AND EARLY DISMISSALS

There are times when students must come in late or be dismissed early for appointments or other extenuating circumstances. Please try to make all appointments for students outside the school day. Every minute of instruction throughout the school day is important for student success.

Students who come in tardy should report to the office **with a parent** to sign in. If students need to be dismissed early a parent must report to the office to sign out the student. Students must attend school for 3.5 hours to be considered present for the day.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS

We are happy that students outside our district want to attend Gamewell Middle School. We have high expectations for all of our students as we strive to make our school the best in the state. In order to attend Gamewell Middle School, a transfer must be completed and submitted for approval by the Board of Education. The transfer is signed by the parent by acknowledging the following conditions:

1. You must provide transportation to and from school.
2. You must be in regular attendance, arrive to school on time, and remain for the entire instructional day, and depart campus by 3:30 pm
3. You must make progress in your academic subjects.
4. You must NOT be a discipline/behavior problem.

Falsifying information will result in the student being sent back to their home school. At the time a student's transfer begins to appear to be in jeopardy, the school must attempt interventions to improve the status of the student. Interventions may include but are not limited to conferences with the student, conferences with the parent or guardian, correspondence with the parent or guardian, referrals to Student Services personnel, Parent and Student contracts to improve attendance, academic, behaviors and habitual tardies and/or early releases. These attempts must be documented. A Transfer Revocation Warning Letter (TR 1) must be sent to the student's parents/guardians advising them of the School Board Policy that states the transfer privilege may be revoked if improvement is not made. A copy should be sent to the student's home school.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES

Any student wishing to withdraw must see the Data Manager for a withdrawal form. A formal withdrawal process must be followed. Student records will NOT be released until the process has been completed.

STUDENT SERVICES

CUSTODY

Each year we have a number of students involved in family legal matters concerning parental custody or visitation rights. The office receives requests to limit student activities such as visits, telephone messages or transportation based on court judgments. Parents must provide the school copies of court/legal documents regarding student movement or information concerning custody, visitation, transportation, telephone messages, etc. In the absence of court/legal documents, we must consider parents' rights to be equal. We cannot deny either the access to, or information about the child. All information shared with the school will be kept confidential.

DELIVERIES

According to school board policy, no deliveries of flowers, balloons, food, etc. will be accepted.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an exciting part of the middle school education experience. Field trips are arranged by teachers. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend field trips. For insurance purposes, it is recommended and expected that students ride to and from all destinations on the bus. All excursion monies are non-refundable due to the fact that tour companies will not refund monies once collected and receipted from the school. Please be advised of this when you are making decisions on your child's participation. All non-county employees that wish to chaperone a field trip will, at their expense, be required to have a criminal background check completed before attending such events.

LOCKERS

Each student is issued a locker for books and other school materials. The student is expected to use only this locker. Locker care is the responsibility of the student--no writing on, defacing, or scratching of the locker is permitted. Students may bring their own lock as long as they provide their teacher with the combination. Locker combinations should never be shared--even with friends. Failure to keep the locker orderly and free of debris may result in a warning, parent notification, In School Suspension, or loss of locker privileges. The school administration or administration designee reserves the right to search any locker at any time.

LOST AND FOUND

Students must take responsibility for their personal property. Students are encouraged to have identification on such items as coats, jackets, sweaters, ball gloves, book bags, etc. All lost and found articles will be kept for one week. After that time, they will be disposed of. Students should never carry more money than is needed or more than one can afford to lose. Gamewell Middle School will not be responsible for nor investigate the loss of any personal items brought to the school.

MEDICATIONS

Basic first aid supplies are kept on hand for minor injuries, personal needs, etc. Occasionally, a student may need medication during the school day. If your child must have medication of any type (prescription or over-the-counter) given at school, you may choose to:

1. Come to school and give the medication to your child as prescribed by your doctor or health care provider; OR
2. Provide a Medication Consent Form for both prescription and over-the-counter medications, filled out by the health care provider with complete instructions and directions for administration. This form must be signed by the health care provider AND parent/guardian before the medication can be administered.

Parents who return the Medication Consent Form should also be aware of the following requirements: Prescription medication must be brought to school by the parent/guardian in a pharmacy labeled container with the child's name, dosage, and instructions. Upon request, a pharmacist will prepare two pharmacy containers--one for school and one for home if needed.

A student who is permitted to carry and self-medicate with their inhaler, epi-pen and/or insulin will also need the Medication Consent Form completed.

Over-the-counter medications (cough syrup, Tums, Tylenol, Calamine Lotion, etc.) must be brought to school by the parent in the original containers and labeled with your child's name. This medication will be kept in the office or designated area. The Medication Consent Form must be signed by the health care provider before medication can be administered.

No aspirin or aspirin products are recommended for children under the age of 15.

Once the proper forms are provided, the staff will be able to administer the medications to your child. These criteria are mandates of North Carolina General Statute 115C-375.1. School board policies and procedures have been updated to reflect current law and are to ensure the safety of your child when medications are required to be given at school. You may discuss with your doctor any alternatives to the treatment plan if you do not want medication administered at school. If you have any questions or need assistance for your child at school, please contact the school nurse at your school.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA SERVICES

At Gamewell Middle, we operate under federal and state established guidelines, offering a variety of items at breakfast and lunch to encourage students to develop good eating habits. Soft drinks are not allowed; however, we offer a variety of beverage choices. A la Carte items are available. Moving through the lunch lines quickly and quietly will assure students have sufficient time to enjoy the meal. Deliveries to students of restaurant food are not allowed in the cafeteria.

Students may pay for lunches by the day at lunch or by the week. Pre-paid lunches by the week or month are encouraged. Parents are welcome to use pre-pay services at www.lunchprepay.com Students may charge a lunch; however, no a la carte items will be charged. ALL CHARGES MUST BE PAID THE FOLLOWING DAY. Exception – a note or a phone call from the parent will allow extension of the charges. Students needing assistance may apply for free or reduced meals. Only one application per family is needed. Paid lunches are on a per lunch base rate. If you have a question or concern about anything dealing with the cafeteria, you

should speak with our cafeteria manager. The price of lunch is set by the Caldwell County Board of Education. The prices will be announced at the beginning of the school year.

Breakfast, free to all students, is served daily from 7:50 until 8:05 in the classroom. No breakfast is served on delayed schedules. Lunch is an assigned period of approximately 25 minutes. Students arrive in the cafeteria as a class and sit in assigned areas. Proper etiquette and housekeeping are the responsibility of each person. Each class will maintain expectations and procedures for housekeeping. Students who violate the rules of courtesy and housekeeping may be subject to disciplinary action.

TELEPHONE

Use of the school telephone by students is limited to emergency calls. Telephone messages are discouraged. Only emergency messages will be delivered during class time.

Students and parents are asked to plan ahead in order to decrease the number of calls that come into the office. Students are expected to take care of personal belongings, lunch money, arranging transportation, etc. before coming to school. Parents need to inform students of transportation plans for afternoon pick-up before the student leaves for school. If a student becomes sick while at school he/she will be allowed to call home. If a student needs to call home due to illness, the student will use his/her teacher's classroom phone to call home.

VISITORS

Visitors are to report directly to the office for a visitor's pass. Visits to the school are to be on business basis only – no social calls. Parents must report to the office, sign in before being escorted by a faculty member to a classroom. This applies to before and after school as well.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ATHLETICS

Our school offers an opportunity for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to participate in interscholastic athletics. Students compete in the Northwestern Middle Six Conference and may participate in football (only 7th and 8th), softball, wrestling, basketball, track, baseball, soccer, volleyball, and cheerleading. All student athletes must meet the state and local requirements in matters such as age, residence, and academics (must have passed 3 of the 4 core subjects the previous semester, must maintain a passing average in 3 of the 4 subjects during the season, and must meet attendance requirements set forth by the state of North Carolina). In addition, the student must have an annual physical. All athletes and their parents will be required to sign a contract concerning the role of the coach, athlete, and parent prior to the start of the season as well as a form regarding concussions.

ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to interscholastic sports, several other student activities are available, either on an interest or achievement basis. Student organizations such as the Junior Beta Club, Student Council, Battle of the Books, and STEAM team are examples. Satisfactory behavior is expected of all students who participate. All Board of Education policies and Gamewell Middle School rules extend to any school-sponsored activity. Student created clubs will not be allowed on campus without approval from the administration and the School Improvement Team.

SCHOOL DANCE REGULATIONS

The following regulations will apply to all school-sponsored dances:

1. Dances will be held periodically during the school year.
2. Dances will be for all 6th, 7th and 8th graders.
3. All dances will be held in the school gymnasium or cafeteria.
4. All school rules, including dress codes, are in effect at dances.
5. Only Gamewell Middle School students may attend.
6. Once a student enters the dance, he/she will not be allowed to leave until the dance is over or until the parent/guardian arrives for the student.
7. Persons not attending the dance are not allowed to congregate outside the school.
8. Students must leave the school grounds immediately following the dance.
9. A student will be asked to leave the dance if his/her behavior is inappropriate.
10. The following are not allowed:
 - A. running, horseplay, train lines
 - B. throwing or tossing of another student
 - C. slam dancing, mosh pit, head banging, etc.
 - D. no formal attire such as prom/sequined dresses or tuxedos
11. If a student is placed in ISS two or more times before the first dance or between consecutive dances, they may not attend the dance. Students who have OSS will not be allowed to attend the next dance.
12. A student must be in attendance on the day of the dance.
13. Only non-marking sole shoes will be allowed on the gym floor.

ACADEMICS

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

A comprehensive health education program shall be taught to students from kindergarten through ninth grade. As required by law, the health education program shall include age appropriate instruction on bicycle safety, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, family living, consumer health, disease control, growth and development, first aid and emergency care, mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, and reproductive health and safety education. Please refer to school board policy 3540 for more information.

HOMEWORK

We believe learning is important and that learning should continue after school hours. Homework in no way is to be viewed as punishment, but rather as a way for encouraging and extending learning. There are several reasons for this homework.

- To provide extra practice on learned skills.
- To provide further learning in areas covered in the classroom.
- To provide an opportunity for students to learn good work habits.
- To provide opportunity for growth and responsibility.
- To provide parents with an opportunity to see what their child is studying and how well he/she is doing.

Parents can do their part to improve homework when they:

- Cooperate with the school to make homework effective.
- Provide your child with suitable study conditions (desk or table, lights, books, and supplies).
- Reserve a time for homework, and **TURN OFF THE TELEVISION.**
- Encourage your child, but avoid undue pressure.
- Show interest in what your child is doing, but **NOT** do the work for them.
- Understand the teacher expects homework to be completed and returned.

Students will improve their study habits by observing the following:

- Be sure you understand each assignment before you take it home.
- Form the habit of using a certain time and place for study.
- Choose a quiet, well-ventilated, and well-lighted room.
- Have necessary materials at hand (books, paper, pencils, etc.).
- Try to develop the skill of working independently.
- Spend enough time on each subject.

MAKE-UP WORK

Each teacher will have established guidelines to govern students' make-up of work following absences. This responsibility lies with the student and all work must be completed within a reasonable time following return from absences. Generally, such work would be made up within a time-period equal to the length of the absence.

MEDIA CENTER

Our school Media Center has more than 9,000 books and hundreds of other resources such as computers, magazines, and newspapers. Students are encouraged to use the media center to enhance their learning as well as for leisure reading. Students will be informed of Media Center rules and policies during their first class visit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.)

Students are expected to participate in all activities to the best of their abilities. Students are asked NOT to bring notes from home to excuse them from physical education. A doctor's note will, however, be accepted. Special attention is called to the following: Students must wear appropriate clothing and footwear to participate in PE activities. Students who do not have appropriate attire will be asked to complete a written assignment in an alternate location, which may include the ISS classroom. Students cannot have gum, candy or other objects in their mouths during class. Students are expected to take care of all equipment. Any accidents or injuries must be reported to the instructors. Students are expected to show good sportsmanship at all times.

BAND AND CHORUS

The music dept. at GMS has established a tradition of excellence. In order for this tradition to continue, a student must be committed to the program. A student may drop band or chorus only during the first 10 days of school or at the end of the semester.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

No qualified handicapped person shall, on the basis of handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity which receives or benefits from federal financial assistance.

In order to receive a free appropriate public education, any student who needs or is believed to need special education or related services not available through existing programs may be referred by a parent, teacher, or other school employee to the Building Based Student Support Team. The initial contact person for any student is his/her homeroom teacher.

USE OF SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT BOARD POLICY 4304

(Go to www.caldwellschools.com to view the entire policy)

The Caldwell County Board of Education is committed to promoting the safety of all students, staff, and visitors in its schools. To further this commitment, school personnel may, in accordance with G.S. 115C-391.1 and state and local policies and procedures, employ reasonable restraint or seclusion techniques with students.

Employees from each school who are most likely to be called upon to prevent or address disruptive or dangerous student behavior will receive in-depth training in a specified non-violent crisis intervention program that promotes positive management of student behavior, effective communication skills, therapeutic holds, and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint.

The Superintendent is authorized to adopt regulations to implement the goals of this policy.

ACADEMICALLY/INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED (AIG) SERVICES

Caldwell County Schools provide Academically/Intellectually Gifted services for students meeting eligibility criteria. Contact the AIG Specialist at Gamewell Middle School for additional information.

REPORT CARDS AND MID-TERM PROGRESS REPORTS

Report cards are released every nine weeks. Since this is a major line of communication with parents, report cards must be signed by the parent/guardian and returned to the homeroom teacher. Final report cards are mailed at the end of the school year. Progress reports are issued in the middle of each nine weeks grading period and these must also be signed by the parents/guardian and returned to the homeroom teacher.

The following grading scale has been adopted by the Caldwell County Board of Education:

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

****Note-**Students who do not turn in work or do not complete work, may be required to attend remediation sessions as necessary based on teacher requests. These sessions, scheduled by teachers, may take place in the In School Suspension classroom or during Tribe time in the afternoons.

TEXTBOOKS

Students will receive textbooks in some classes. Students are responsible for the return of all textbooks in the event of transfer or withdrawal from GMS and at the end of the school year. Students will be financially responsible for any lost or damaged textbooks.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Adapted from the Caldwell County Board of Education Policy 4309

(Go to www.caldwellschools.com to view the entire policy)

The Caldwell County Board of Education's Student Code of Conduct serves to notify students and their parents of expected behaviors, to provide a description of conduct subject to disciplinary action and to define the range of possible disciplinary consequences for misconduct. The term "parent" as referenced in student behavior policies includes legal guardian, legal custodian, or other adult caregiver authorized by statute.

The consequences for engaging in behavior prohibited by the Code of Student Conduct will be determined by the principal, in accordance with the school's Student Behavior Management Plan. Students may be subject to a range of consequences, up to and including long-term suspension or expulsion, based on the nature of the offense and whether it constitutes a minor or serious violation, as described in Section D of Board Policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. As permitted by state law, students who engage in conduct prohibited under Section J of the Code of Student Conduct may be subject to a 365-day suspension.

Any behavior that causes deterioration or disrupts the safety, moral or learning environment of the school, or infringes materially on the rights of others will not be tolerated and may subject the student to corrective measures. Such measures shall be determined on the basis of the facts presented in each instance of misconduct by appropriate school officials under the guidance of applicable Board policies, statutes and school rules.

Hall Passes

Students will be escorted to most classes; however, there will be times when students will move on their own from one place to another, i.e., when going to the restroom, to the media center, etc. Teachers will issue a hall pass for these situations. Students are expected to keep up with the hall passes and note their time of return on the hall passes when they re-enter the classrooms.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT (PBIS)

Gamewell Middle School uses PBIS as a framework to define behavior expectations for our students. Gamewell Middle students are expected to:

Be Responsible
Respect
Achieve
Value
Excel

Inappropriate/unacceptable behaviors are categorized into two levels. Matrix marks are considered minor, handled by the teacher or staff member involved using the PBIS system. Matrix marks are reset at the end of each nine weeks. Consecutive matrix marks result in the following consequences:

- 1 Mark- Warning
- 2 Marks- Student Conference
- 3 Marks- Parent Contact and Silent Lunch
- 4 Marks- Silent Lunch
- 5 Marks- Student Reflection (completed in ISS) and Parent Contact
- 6 Marks-CFST Referral and Parent Conference
- 7 Marks- Office Referral and 1 day of ISS
- 8 Marks- Office Referral and 2 days of ISS
- 9 Marks and Up--Office referral and ISS/OSS at administrative discretion

Behaviors/incidences are considered major when they are causing disruption to the education of that particular student as well as to others. Major behavior concerns are referred to school administration. The consequences listed are intended to serve as guidelines for staff using reasonable discretion and appropriate

due process for students who violate board policy or school regulations. Potential consequences include, but are not restricted to, the following:

- Student warning
- Removal of privileges
- Issuance of a discipline referral
- Parent notice
- Referral to student support services
- After-school detention
- Silent Lunch
- Parent Conference
- Restitution
- In-School Suspension
- Out-of-School Suspension
- Long-term suspension or expulsion

STUDENTS WHO HAVE ISS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND EXTRACURRICULAR OR AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS ATHLETIC EVENTS, DANCES, OR AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS. WHEN A STUDENT HAS OSS, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED ON ANY SCHOOL CAMPUS. THEY MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN, NOR ATTEND, ANY SCHOOL FUNCTION AT ANY LOCATION.

MISCONDUCT AND CONSEQUENCES GUIDELINES

Consequences listed for violations are intended as guidelines for administration and students. The administration has the discretion to suspend or discipline students for more or fewer days than listed based on the nature or severity of the offense.

1. Disruptive Behavior/Horse Playing

Students shall not engage in conduct that is disruptive of any school activity, function or process, or is dangerous to the health, welfare or safety of themselves or others including but not limited to putting hands or feet on another student, flicking, slapping, pushing, etc.

- 1st Offense: 1-3 days In-School Suspension
- 2nd Offense: 3-5 days In-School Suspension
- 3rd Offense: 1-3 days Out-of-School Suspension
- 4th Offense: 3-5 days Out-of-School Suspension/with possible placement in Alternative Class

2. Profane or Abusive Language, Pornographic, Vulgar or Obscene Material.

This includes any reference to any gang (symbols, signs, clothing, pictures, etc.). Students shall not use profane, obscene, or abusive language/gestures nor possess material, which offends modesty and decency.

- 1st Offense: 1-3 days In-School Suspension
- 2nd Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension
- 3rd Offense: 1-3 days Out-of-School Suspension

3. Dishonesty: Lying, Cheating, Plagiarism, Forgery, etc.

It is imperative that students conduct themselves with the utmost integrity. Lying, cheating, plagiarism and other dishonest activity will not be tolerated.

1st Offense: Cheating- Student receives a zero on work/test, and parent notification

Forgery -discipline referral and parent notification

2nd Offense: 1-3 days In-School Suspension and parent notification

3rd Offense: 1-3 days Out-of-School Suspension and parent notification

4. **Fighting/Violent Behavior/Communicating Threats (Verbal/Written)**

Fighting, including simple assault, assault and battery, or participating in a simple affray will not be tolerated in school, during school functions, and on school buses. Inviting to fight, inciting to fight, communicating a threat, verbally intimidating, extorting, blackmailing or substantially invading the rights of others, etc., shall be considered abusive. If deemed necessary by the administration, law enforcement will be called.

1st offense: 3 days Out-of-School Suspension

2nd offense: 5-10 days Out-of-School Suspension/police report filed

3rd offense: 10 days with recommendation for long-term suspension/police report filed

5. **Bullying**

Students have the right to learn in a safe environment and not be intimidated or harassed. School bullying undermines the academic mission of a school, jeopardizes the safety of a school, and hostile and dangerous acts of harassment and abuse can victimize the students. Bullying will not be tolerated in any school, at any time. Caldwell County Schools will not allow or tolerate retaliation in any form against any individual that reports a valid complaint of bullying or is a corroborating witness. It is the duty of all teachers, including student teachers, substitute teachers, teacher assistants, and all school staff to maintain good order and discipline in their respective schools, report and intervene in all acts of bullying and provide other information about related behaviors, school safety and discipline problems. It is the expectation that all administrators will properly discipline offenders.

Bullying Defined

Bullying is an act of violence defined as harassing behavior in which someone is perceived to be more powerful (the bully) than another (the victim) and subjects someone to abusive treatment that may be physical, verbal, and/or emotional in nature. These actions are deliberate. They may take place just once, but more often they are repetitive. Types of bullying behavior include:

a. Direct Act (both physical and verbal) - Physical attacks of any type and/or threats of physical attacks include but are not limited to: any unwanted physical touching, contact, or assault (punching, poking, pinching, shoving, hitting, choking, biting, spitting, cornering, threatening play), deliberate impeding or blocking of movements, or any intimidating blocking of movements, or any intimidating interference with normal work or movement, sexual harassment whether physical or verbal.

Verbal assaults include but are not limited to: threatening words spoken to another, name-calling, insulting, taunting, teasing, hurtful slurs, etc.

Indirect Acts (emotional and/or passive-aggressive behaviors) include but are not limited to: deliberately excluding, rejecting, isolating, ranking, or rating an individual, hateful looks, mean gestures, nasty notes or graffiti, starting and/or spreading hurtful rumors about someone, manipulating peer relationships, forcing someone to relinquish money and/or food, demanding servitude, stealing/taking things, deliberately setting up someone to get him/her in trouble, destruction of property (i.e. gym locker, clothing, books, book bags, etc.)

c. Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as email, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging, the publishing of defamatory personal websites, defamatory online personal polling websites, etc., to support conscious, willful, deliberate, repeated and hostile behavior by one or more people to harm others. These behaviors include, but are not limited to: sending or posting cruel or harmful messages or images about an individual or group, threats, sexual remarks, pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech), and harassment. While the district respects the rights of freedom of expression under the First Amendment, students may be disciplined for web site postings that materially and substantially disrupt the educational process or that contain threats which endanger the health, safety, and well-being of others, including district personnel or staff members.

Consequences: Gamewell Middle School consequences will range from in-school disciplinary action to up to five days out-of-school suspension. Repeat violations may result in long-term suspension. When appropriate, bullying incidents will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

6. Gang and Gang-Related Activities

Caldwell County Schools does not support or condone gang membership or gang activity. The Superintendent/designee shall regularly consult with law enforcement officials to identify gang-related items, symbols and behaviors, and provide each principal with this information. The principal shall notify students of the items, symbols and behaviors prohibited by this policy. No student shall commit any act that furthers gangs or gang-related activities. A gang is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of criminal acts and having a common name or common identifying sign, colors, or symbols. ***Conduct prohibited by this policy includes:***

- Wearing, possessing, using, distributing, displaying, or selling any clothing (to include bandanas), jewelry, emblems, badges, symbols, signs or other items which may be evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang
- Communicating either verbally or non-verbally (gestures, handshakes, slogans, drawings, etc.), to convey membership or affiliation in a gang
- Tagging, or otherwise defacing school or personal property with gang or gang-related symbols or slogans
- Requiring payment of protection, insurance, or otherwise intimidating or threatening any person related to gang activity
- Inciting other students to intimidate or to act with physical violence upon any other person related to gang activity
- Soliciting others for gang membership
- Committing any other illegal act or other violation of school district policies that relates to gang activity

Consequences: Before being suspended for a first offense of wearing gang-related attire (when not involved in any other kind of gang-related activity or behavior), a student may receive a warning and be allowed to immediately change or remove the attire if the school administration determines that the student did not intend the attire to show gang affiliation. If gang-related activity is associated with another act of misconduct, evidence of gang activity shall be considered an aggravating factor in determining disciplinary action. For any student who is determined to be a member of a gang, as that term is defined above, violation of this policy may result in stronger disciplinary action, including a disciplinary hearing that may impose alternative placement, long-term suspension or other disciplinary action. In determining such status, the school system may consider relevant information from agencies outside of the school, including the identification of the student by law enforcement as a Validated Gang Member.

7. Stealing or Damage to Property

Students shall not steal or damage school property or the property of others. School property includes textbooks, buildings, equipment, grounds, furnishings, buses, calculators, etc. A fine will be assessed for any damages to school property and students must make restitution as established by the administration.

1st Offense: 1-3 days In-School Suspension

2nd Offense: 3 days Out-of-School Suspension

3rd Offense: 5 days Out-of-School Suspension

4th Offense: 10 days Out-of-School Suspension with recommendation for long term suspension

8. Possession/Use of Tobacco or Tobacco Products (Lighter / Matches)

The Board is committed to creating safe, orderly, clean and inviting schools for all students and staff. To this end, the Board supports state laws that prohibit the sale or distribution of tobacco products to minors and that prohibit the use of tobacco products by minors. For the purposes of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine. Specifically but not limited to Cigarettes, Cigars, Little Cigars, Cigarillos, Dissolvable Products (tobacco products that are not smoked and are often called "dissolvables."), Electronic Cigarettes (Also Referred to as: Vape Pen, e-Hookah, Hookah Pen, JUUL), Chewing tobacco, Snuff, and Waterpipes (Also Referred to as: Hookah, Shisha, Narghile, Argileh). The Board also supports state and federal laws that prohibit the use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the Board.

In support of the Board's commitments and state and federal law, students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product (1) in any school building, on any school campus, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the Board, including school vehicles; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including during school trips.

Nothing in this policy prohibits the use or possession of tobacco products for an instructional or research activity conducted in a school building, provided that the activity is conducted or supervised by a faculty member and that the activity does not include smoking, chewing or otherwise ingesting tobacco.

1st Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension

2nd Offense: 3 days Out-of-School Suspension

3rd Offense: 5 days Out-of-School Suspension

4th Offense: 10 days Out-of-School Suspension with recommendation for long-term suspension

9. Possession of Harmful Substance/Over-The-Counter Drugs

Any substance that may be considered poisonous or that may be harmful to other students will not be allowed on school grounds. This will include chemicals, over-the-counter drugs, and prescription medication, which may be given to a student by another student. Over the counter medicine and prescription medicine are permissible only under county guidelines (See Medication Procedures).

1st Offense: Administrative Decision with probable suspension

2nd Offense: 1-3 days Out-of-School Suspension

3rd Offense: 10 Days Out-of-School Suspension with recommendation for long term suspension

10. **Drugs and Alcohol Use**

To protect the health of all students and staff, the Board of Education prohibits the use of drugs and alcohol on all school properties and vehicles at school events/activities. Students shall not possess, use, sell, distribute or be under the influence of intoxicating liquors, controlled substances, counterfeit substances or drug paraphernalia.

(1) intoxicating liquors, including alcohol, brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, mixed beverages, beer, ale, and wine, and in addition thereto any spirituous, vinous, malt, or fermented beverages, liquids, and compounds, whether medicated, proprietary, patented, or not, and by whatever name called, containing one-half percent (1/2 of 1%) or more of alcohol by volume which are fit for use for beverage purposes (as more fully defined and set forth in Chapter 18A of the General Statutes of North Carolina which chapter is incorporated herein by reference);

(2) controlled substances, including any material, compound, mixture or preparation which contains any quantity of hallucinogenic substance or substances having a depressant effect on the central nervous system (as more fully defined by the North Carolina Drug Commission, and set forth in Chapter 90, article 5 of General Statutes of North Carolina, which chapter is incorporated herein by reference);

(3) counterfeit controlled substances, being any substance which is by any means intentionally represented as a controlled substance (as more fully defined by the North Carolina Drug Commission, and as set forth in Chapter 90, Article 5 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, which chapter is incorporated herein by reference)--such said "intoxicating liquors," "controlled substances," and "counterfeit controlled substances," as heretofore defined, being herein after referred to as "unauthorized intoxicants."

(4) drug paraphernalia, being any accessories used in conjunction with taking illegal drugs or preparing them for use. Further, use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule when used by the person for whom the drug was prescribed. This medicine shall be placed in the office of the principal or his/her designee with the following information listed: date, name of substance, dosage, and times to be administered.

POSSESSION OR USE OF A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE OR DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

1st Offense: Notify law enforcement. 3-10 days Out-of-School Suspension and possible referral for long term suspension. Administration may require that offenders complete an alcohol and/or drug abuse education and/or intervention program at the student's/parent's expense. The student may also be prosecuted under the juvenile or criminal laws of this state.

2nd Offense: Notify law enforcement. For a second offense during a student's public school career, a 10-day out-of-school suspension, and a recommendation for long term suspension.

SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF A PROHIBITED SUBSTANCE OR DRUG PARAPHERNALIA.

1st Offense: Notify law enforcement. 10 days Out-of-School Suspension and a recommendation to the superintendent that the student be expelled. Serious consideration shall be given by school and law enforcement officials to initiating a juvenile petition or a criminal prosecution. However, the student may apply for re-admission to the regular school program after one calendar year under the following conditions:

The student enrolled in and successfully completed an alcohol and/or drug abuse intervention program at the student's/parent's expense;

The student and his/her parents agree to mandatory drug testing of the student upon re-admission and during each semester with the understanding that in the event of a positive drug or alcohol test the student will be subject to expulsion.

2nd Offense: 10 days Out-of-School Suspension and a recommendation to the superintendent that the student be expelled. If expelled, the student will not be readmitted.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND/OR HARASSMENT

Conduct of a sexual nature, whether written, verbal, physical, or visual is prohibited in the school setting. This includes but is not limited to holding hands, arms around each other, "shanking," etc. Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual misconduct is any other conduct of a sexual nature that is not considered harassment.

Written Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension
Verbal/Visual Offense: 1- 3 days Out-of-School Suspension
Touching Offense: 3 - 10 days Out-of-School Suspension

POSSESSION/USE OF WEAPONS

No student shall use, possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any gun, (including BB gun, air rifle, or air pistol), rifle, pistol, dynamite cartridge, bomb, grenade, mine, powerful explosives defined in N.C.G.S. 14-284.1, knife (including pocket knife), razor blades, dirk, dagger, slingshot, cane, switch-blade knife, blackjack, metallic knuckles, club, stick or any other substance, material, or instrument which may cause bodily harm or is used against another, while on school property or used at any school function, wherever held. Possession shall include but shall not be limited to any item located within any vehicle on school property or at any school function wherever held.

1st Offense: Notify law enforcement. 5-10 days Out-of-School Suspension with possible recommendation for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion.
2nd Offense: Notify law enforcement. 10 days Out-of-School Suspension with a recommendation for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion.

THREATS TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Threats to school safety including false fire alarms, bomb threats, written or verbal threats regarding violence in the school setting towards the school population expose others to unnecessary danger and anxiety. Because these actions violate state statutes they are strictly prohibited.

All incidents shall be reported to law enforcement agencies and/or the fire marshal for their investigations and action. A mandatory, 10-day out-of-school suspension with a recommendation for a long-term suspension may result from a threat to school safety or false alarm/bomb threat violation.

DISRESPECT/INSUBORDINATION TO SCHOOL STAFF

The school's staff is assigned the difficult responsibility of maintaining order and providing an instructional environment that promotes learning. Their ability to perform these tasks shall not be diminished by disrespectful acts, intentional disobedience or assault. Students must be respectful toward teachers at all times and accept school personnel as acting in the place of parents in school situations. Disrespect is a lack of respect, rudeness, or impoliteness to a teacher, administrator, or other school personnel in a position of authority. Insubordination is resistance to authority, refusal to obey, or rebellion. If an incident occurs, the student is immediately removed from the classroom or school setting.

1st Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension
2nd Offense: 1-3 days Out-of-School Suspension
3rd Offense: 4-10 days Out-of-School Suspension with a possibility of Recommendation for Long-Term

Suspension/Expulsion

ASSAULT/BATTERY ON SCHOOL STAFF

The school's staff is assigned the difficult responsibility of maintaining order and providing an instructional environment that promotes learning. Their ability to perform these tasks shall not be diminished by disrespectful acts, intentional disobedience or assault. Students must be respectful toward teachers at all times and accept school personnel as acting in the place of parents in school situations. Assault is a violent physical or verbal attack or a threat or attempt to inflict offensive physical contact or bodily harm on a person that puts the person in immediate danger of or in apprehension of such harm or contact. Battery is an offensive touching or use of force on a person without the person's consent.

1st Offense: 5-10 days Out-of-School Suspension with a possible recommendation for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion and the possible notification to law enforcement officials.

2nd Offense: 10 days Out-of-School Suspension with a recommendation for Long-Term Suspension/Expulsion and the notification of law enforcement officials.

FIREWORKS OR EXPLOSIVES Fireworks and explosives by their design are dangerous to all. Their possession or use on school properties or at school events is prohibited.

1st Offense: 1-3 days In-School Suspension

2nd Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension

3rd Offense: 1-5 days Out-of-School Suspension

GAMBLING

Students shall not gamble or participate in related games of chance involving payoffs of any kind.

1st Offense: 1-3 days In-School Suspension

2nd Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension

3rd Offense: 1-3 days Out-of-School Suspension

DRESS CODE/PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Regulation Code: 4309-R Student Code of Conduct (Dress Code Grades 6-12)

SECONDARY STUDENT DRESS CODE (Grades 6-12)

Pupils are expected to be properly dressed commensurate with the activities being conducted. Board Policy 4309 states, "The Board believes the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affect their academic performance and their interaction with other students. The Board requests that parents outfit their children in clothing conducive to learning."

The following dress code applies to students at **ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN CALDWELL COUNTY:**

- The length of dresses, skirts and shorts must reach at least **mid-thigh**. **Mid-thigh** is determined by the top of the inseam to the knee.
- Pants, shorts, and skirts must be worn at the waist.
- Undergarments must not be exposed.

The following clothing and/or items are not allowed:

o Spaghetti strap tops without shirts underneath	o Pants or shorts that have holes above mid-thigh.
o See-through clothing	o Spike bracelets or necklaces
o Shirts with low necklines	o Bedroom shoes/slippers
o Tops that expose the front, back, and/or side of the torso, including slit sides, completely bare shoulders, halter tops, muscle shirts, half shirts, etc.	o Pajamas

- Headgear, hats, hoods, and bandanas are not to be worn in the school building during the instructional day. Items worn may be confiscated by the administration.
- No clothing, jewelry or accessories with letters, initials, symbols or wording that is obscene, threatening, dangerous, offensive, inflammatory, distracting, disruptive or detrimental to the instructional process is allowed. This includes attire that displays alcoholic beverages, drugs, and tobacco products or attire that promotes violence, hatred or intolerance
- Shoes are to be worn at all times.
- Sunglasses are not to be worn in the school building.
- Students are not permitted to bring blankets to school.

School officials have the authority and responsibility to determine whether a student's appearance satisfies the intent of this policy. **Anything that disrupts the learning environment will be deemed unacceptable.** The administration will ask the student to change or adjust clothing as necessary. The administration has the final authority to deem attire as appropriate. Students are required to follow the dress code outlined in their school handbook.

Students will be allowed to call a parent/guardian to bring a change of clothes. If students are unable to obtain appropriate attire they will be required to go to ISS. If there are multiple incidences of inappropriate dress the student will be placed in ISS based on administrator discretion.

LEAVING CAMPUS

Once students officially arrive at school, it is expected that they will remain until the end of the day or until they have been officially excused by the administration upon request by the parents. Parents expect students to remain at school unless they are aware students are leaving. Failure to have the proper permission will result in the following punishment:

- 1st Offense: 3 days In-School Suspension
- 2nd Offense: 3 days Out-of-School Suspension
- 3rd Offense: 5 days Out-of-School Suspension

CUTTING CLASS

Failure to attend homeroom, class, assembly, or club meeting after once appearing on campus is considered cutting class. Any student found in the building or grounds without a hall pass, in a location other than specified on the pass, or off the most direct route to class or destination is considered to be cutting class. Any student who is more than 10 minutes late to the next class without an excused note will be considered cutting class.

- 1st Offense: 1 day In-School Suspension
- 2nd Offense: 2 days In-School Suspension

3rd Offense: 3 days Out-of-School Suspension
Subsequent offences will result in suspension.

CELL PHONES

Students who bring cell phones on school premises must turn them off and place them in lockers before reporting to homeroom each morning. Students will not be permitted to access cell phones again until the closing of the school day. Students should keep locks on lockers to prevent theft and/or damage. Theft and damage of cell phones left in lockers will not be investigated by administration.

1st Offense: Take to locker immediately OR Teacher keep until end of class (noted on matrix)
2nd Offense: Taken/ kept until end of day in teacher's classroom
3rd Offense: Parent must pick up phone from administration.

DRINKS IN THE CLASSROOM

No drinks other than water in a clear container will be allowed in the building during the instructional day with the exception of scheduled events. No liquids will be allowed near computers. Water fountains are available for student use during class changes and at other times with teacher permission.

BUS BEHAVIOR AND REGULATIONS

School bus transportation is a privilege that may be withdrawn for inappropriate behavior. Classroom-type behavior is required while students are in transit. Students need to remember the bus driver is in complete charge of the bus and its occupants at all times. Care and cleanliness of the bus are the responsibility of each student. Willful damage or abuse is grounds for disciplinary action including damage payment. All school rules apply to students from the time they leave home in the morning until they return in the afternoon. This includes riding the bus, at the bus stop, and walking to and from the bus stop. In addition to school rules, the following bus rules will be enforced strictly and consistently: Bus behavior notes will be sent home to inform as to the behavior and consequence.

B e Responsible	Be at the bus stop on time. The driver will not wait for tardy passengers
R espect	Follow driver directions and speak nicely. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated
A chieve	Go directly your bus after school and promptly find your seat
V alue	Report any vandalism to your driver
E xcel	Keep Bus Clean- Food, Drinks and Candy should not be consumed on the bus

The principal or assistant principal may suspend a student from riding a school bus for violating the rules. Any student removed from the bus must be picked up by 3:30 P.M. Students must ride the bus they are assigned, and they must get on and off their bus at their assigned stop unless they obtain special permission from the administration. Any request to ride another bus or get off at another bus stop must be made in writing by a parent/guardian. Bring the note from a parent/guardian in the morning for approval/verification to the front office. Then take the approved note to the bus driver.

1st Offense: 1-3 days off the bus

2nd Offense: 3-5 days off the bus

3rd Offense: 5-10 days off the bus/Recommendation for permanent suspension from the bus.

ITEMS NOT ALLOWED ON CAMPUS

The following items are examples of items that tend to create a class/school distraction and are not allowed to be used during school hours. This list is not comprehensive; however, any item that causes a disruption to the learning environment are not allowed and may be confiscated by school personnel. The school administration will not investigate cases of lost or stolen electronic devices.

Any other electronic noisemakers, electronic games, and electronic pets

Anything sexually explicit (example: magazines, condoms, etc.)

Skateboards

Excessive amounts of money

Laser pens

Aerosol cans, glass containers

Squirt guns or squirt bottles

Trading cards

Rubber Bands

Portable Speakers

Fidget Spinners

1st Offense: Temporary confiscation.

2nd Offense: Temporary confiscation with item returned only to parent or guardian.

*Any item not picked up by an adult by the last day of school will be disposed of.

The Caldwell County School System will not be responsible for expensive clothing/personal items or large amounts of money.

HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES

The Caldwell County School System supports the inclusion of celebrations, rewards and incentives in the classroom and recommends that parents and teachers include healthy food choices in these activities.

STUDENT DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

The Caldwell County Board of Education and school officials recognize that all students have Constitutional rights, including the property right to an education. Therefore, due process rights for parents and students are guaranteed by the Caldwell County School System. The exercise of discipline in the Caldwell County schools will be characterized by fairness and the maintenance of collaborative and informative relationships with parents and the community. Disciplinary actions shall be handled first at the classroom level. Teachers are expected to handle disciplinary matters with proper interventions including parental involvement. Keeping the parent informed is a top priority of the school system. If it is necessary to remove a student from the classroom, the teacher will inform the student of the infraction before referring the student to the administration. The administrator will investigate the facts, review information and/or confer with the teacher, interview the student, and when necessary, consult with the parents. The administrator will then determine what action is warranted.

Due Process Procedures Governing School Suspensions:

- provide the student notice of charges.
- allow the student an opportunity to present his/her side of the story.

- notify the parent or guardian verbally, if possible.
- give an explanation of the evidence against the student if he/she denies the charges.
- verbally notify the student of action to be taken.
- notify the parent or guardian in writing of actions taken and reasons.
- provide the opportunity for the parent/guardian to schedule a conference with the school principal/designee.

(Note: The first four steps may be delayed until later if the student poses a continuing danger to himself/herself or others or presents an ongoing threat of disruption to the school. This includes fighting, vulgarity, sexual harassment, or anything that shocks the conscience).

STUDENT GRIEVANCES

The Caldwell County Board of Education believes that students and parents have the right to an orderly, equitable resolution of problems that may arise affecting them and the school system. The student/parent shall start at the teacher/principal level using established procedures to resolve matters of concern (see Policy 3410). The Board of Education will not consider any such matter until all administrative remedies have been exhausted.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

PURPOSE: The In-School Suspension (ISS) program is punishment for unacceptable behavior. ISS assists the student in examining his/her behavior and the consequences of personal decisions. The program provides a practical alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) and fills an important role in the school's discipline plan.

PROCEDURES:

1. Assignment to ISS will be by the principal or designee.
2. Parents/Guardians will be advised in writing or a phone call when students are assigned to in-school suspension. If a parent is unable to be contacted by phone, the notification letter will be sent home with the student to be signed. The student will remain in ISS until the signed letter is returned.
3. Assignment will be from 1 - 3 days depending on the offense.
4. Days spent in ISS count as days in attendance.
5. Students assigned to ISS for any part of the school day will NOT participate in any extracurricular activities such as assemblies, athletic events, field trips, concerts, dances, CIS events, etc. until they have served their suspension.

If a student leaves early, the missed time will be made up. Violation of the ISS guidelines, or a disruption to the learning environment will result in an increase in the number of days assigned to ISS or a student being suspended out of school with the remaining ISS days to be finished once the student is allowed to return to school.

Caldwell County Schools is pleased to offer an alternative to out of school suspension. Students in grades 6-12, when deemed appropriate candidates for this program, may participate in A.S.A.P. (A Suspension Alternative Program) for short-term out of school suspensions (one to ten days) in lieu of being home during this time. This program will consist of community service, counseling and an opportunity to complete academic assignments. Upon successful completion of the program, the student's OSS will be converted to "supervised activities", which shows the student as present. Benefits to the student and family include keeping up with academic assignments, contributing to the community, counseling services and increased supervision during the period of suspension.

SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety is a top priority for school administrators and teachers. Each school has a Crisis Management Plan that addresses major crises, such as bad weather, armed intruder on campus, chemical spills, etc., and defines the steps that should be taken to ensure the safety of all children. Law enforcement and emergency agencies work closely with school administration to prevent or prepare for the incidents that would threaten the safety of students. As our culture and environment continue to change, crisis response is modified to meet the most current demands in society. For more information, contact the School-Community Relations Office, 728-8407, ext. 120

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The Caldwell County School system utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for controlling insects, rodents, and other pests. Parents have the right to be notified in advance of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To view Policy 4302 in its entirety and to download a notification request form, go to www.caldwellschools.com/Parents and Students/Integrated Pest Management.