

# Girard High School

Student Handbook  
2025 - 2026

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## Girard High School Mission Statement

“Girard High School is dedicated to providing all students the opportunity to develop the maximum academic, social, personal, and community skills necessary for productive living and successful integration into society.”

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## Renaissance Card Guidelines

The following criteria will be used for selecting students who will receive a GHS Renaissance Card.

1. The Renaissance Card will be issued for a nine-week period of time.
2. A new set of cards will be issued each quarter to deserving students based on the previous quarter records.
3. Two levels of Renaissance Cards will be issued.

**Trojan Gold Card**--the student must meet all three of the criteria listed below.

**Trojan Crimson Card**--the student must meet two of the three criteria listed below.

1. The student must have no recorded tardies and no more than one recorded absences during the quarter.
2. The student must have no detentions, no suspensions, and no referrals during the quarter.
3. The student must meet the academic standards that would place him/her on a high school honor roll during the quarter.

\*Students who fail a class for the quarter will be ineligible to receive a Renaissance card.

Trojan Gold Cardholders are eligible to participate in all Renaissance cardholders' activities. They will also receive additional special incentives.

A student holding a GHS Renaissance Card will be eligible to participate in the following activities.

The student will be admitted free of charge to all GHS qualified activities (including athletic events) during the term of the card.

The student will be eligible to participate in selected activities sponsored by GHS Renaissance such as:

- Cardholders' names might be entered in a drawing for a variety of privileges or prizes.
- Renaissance might host a reception during the school day for cardholders.
- Cardholders might be allowed special assignment privileges in class.
- Cardholders might be released early for lunch on a particular day and receive other incentives selected during each quarter.

The Cardholder will be responsible for meeting requirements indicated below.

1. To participate in any privilege the cardholder will be responsible to present the card at the time of the event.
2. A cardholder who in any way abuses the use of the card will automatically lose the card and its privileges.
3. If a card is lost it will not be replaced during the quarter of issue.
4. A teacher may override privileges which would take the student from that teacher's class.
5. Any error must be brought to the attention of the Renaissance Committee within one (1) week of the date cards are issued.
6. Continual and/or serious inappropriate behavior may result in a card holder losing his/her card privileges. This decision will be left to the discretion of the building principal.

## Considerations for Finals / Renaissance Card Rewards

- Medical absences accompanied with a doctor's note upon the student's arrival back to school will not be counted towards Finals/Renaissance rewards. (page 8)
- This does not change the overall Girard Attendance Expectations. (Girard Attendance Policy Page 7-8. 9 Days per semester expectation)

## **Finals Exemption Policy**

- To qualify for finals exemption, the student must meet the following criteria:
  1. Must have an A in the class for the semester.
  2. Must have been a Renaissance cardholder at least one quarter of the semester.
  3. Must have no office referrals that result in a discipline consequence during the semester.
  4. Must not have more than 2 absences per semester in the class in which they are requesting exemption. No exceptions.
  5. Must submit a parental permission form to the office by the designated deadline.
- Students who qualify for exemption must be at one of the following locations during the time the final is being given:
  1. off campus.
  2. in a designated study area
  3. in a designated recreation area
- Students will not be allowed in the halls.

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **Graduation Requirements**

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 12<sup>th</sup> GRADE (2026)**

24 Credits are Required to Graduate, and must include the following:

1. **English:** Four (4) English credits are required and students must take an English class each year during high school. English I; English II or English II (Honors); English III or English III (Honors); and English IV or English IV (AP).
2. **Natural Science:** Three (3) science credits with at least one (1) credit in a physical science and one (1) credit in a biological science during 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. Students must take a science class in grades 9 – 11. Courses offered include Physical Science, Biology, Advanced Biology, Principles of Technology, Advanced Animal Science, Chemistry, Advanced Topics in Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, and Physics. Course selection will depend upon factors such as the student's abilities, past academic achievement, post-secondary plans, and interest in the area of science.
3. **Mathematics:** Three (3) math credits are required and students must take a math class in grades 9 - 11. Courses offered include Algebra IA, Algebra IB, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Algebra III, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Probability & Statistics (AP) and Consumer Math. Course selection will depend upon factors such as the student's math abilities, past academic achievement, post-secondary plans, and the student's motivation toward learning.
4. **Social Science:** Three (3) social science credits are required. Students must take World History/Geography (10<sup>th</sup> grade), American History (11<sup>th</sup> grade), and American Government or American Government (AP) (12<sup>th</sup> grade).
5. **Introduction to Business:** One (1) credit of Introduction to Business (9<sup>th</sup> grade) is required.
6. **Physical Education & Health:** One (1) credit is required (9<sup>th</sup> grade).
7. **Fine Arts:** One (1) credit is required (may take this any year).

4-YEAR PLAN (see note below)

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English I  
Math  
Science  
Introduction to Business  
PE/Health  
Elective  
Elective (or Fine Art)

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English II or English II (Honors)  
Math  
Science  
World History/Geography  
Elective  
Elective  
Elective (or Fine Art)

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English III Communications or English III (Honors)  
Math  
Science  
American History  
Elective  
Elective  
Elective (or Fine Art)

**12<sup>th</sup> Grade**

English IV or English IV(AP)  
Math or Elective  
Science or Elective  
American Govt or American Govt AP  
Elective  
Elective  
Elective (or Fine Art)

***NOTE – students must complete one credit of a fine art at any time during high school. Also, students are encouraged to continue taking math and science classes during their senior year.***

**GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS OF 2028**

(Refer to Graduation Requirement Classes Offered Above)

3.5 Credits of English  
0.5 Credit of Speech, Debate or Journalism  
3.0 Credits of Math  
3.0 Credits of Science  
1.0 STEM Elective (additional math, science, advanced CTE course)  
3.0 Credits of Social Studies  
0.5 Credit of Physical Education  
0.5 Credit of Health  
1.0 Business  
1.0 Fine Art  
7.0 Additional Electives (4.5 IPS Driven Electives)

2 Post-Secondary Assets (skills, knowledge or experience outside the class)

Examples of Career and Real-World Assets:

- *Youth Apprenticeships*
- *40 Client-Centered Projects*
- *Industry-Recognized Certifications*
- *CTE Scholar*
- *4-H Kansas Key Award*
- *2 or more HS Activities (Clubs/Sports)*
- *40 or More Community Service Hours*
- *Workplace Learning Directly Related to IPS*
- *Seal of Biliteracy*
- *Eagle Scout or Gold Scout*
- *JROTC*
- *90% attendance in HS*

Examples of Academic Assets:

- *ACT Composite of at least 21*
- *9+ College Credits*
- *ASVAB*
- *SAT Score of at least 1060*
- *IB Exam (score of at least 4)*
- *WorkKeys Level of Silver or higher*
- *State Assessment Score of 3 or 4*
- *Senior Project/Exit Interview*
- *Completing BOR Scholars Curriculum*
- *AP Exam (score of at least 3)*

**Board of Regents Scholars Curriculum:**

- 4 English Credits
- 3 Science Credits (must include Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- 4 Math Credits (4 credits at or above the Algebra I level; if taking Algebra IA and IB, then a 5<sup>th</sup> credit is needed)
- 3 Social Studies Credits
- 2 Foreign Language Credits (we offer Spanish)

Meeting this curriculum does not guarantee a scholarship. Other considerations such as GPA, ACT Test Score and financial need are considered.

**NCAA Division I and II Athletic Requirements** – in addition to minimum GPA requirements, students who will play sports at a Division I or II NCAA college must meet certain course requirements. See the Counselor early to make a plan to meet these requirements.

**NAIA Requirements** – though NAIA institutions do not require specific high school courses to meet eligibility requirements, they do have minimum GPA requirements. See the Counselor if you have questions about NAIA eligibility.

**Early Graduation**

A student who for educational and career or technical reasons wishes to graduate from high school in less time than the normal four-year grade 9-12 sequence may request permission for early graduation. The student and parents shall consult with high school administration and guidance personnel in order to develop a graduation plan.

The student shall request in writing to the USD 248 Board of Education permission for early graduation with reasons supporting his/her plan and request. Examples of reasons to be given consideration are hardship circumstances, vocational opportunities, enlistment in the military occupations, pursuit of a continuous specialized education objective, or college entrance.

A parent or the legal guardian of the student must submit a letter in support of the student's request for early graduation, and such letter is to accompany the student's written request. The request letters to the Board are to be submitted to the superintendent at least six months prior to the anticipated completion of the required high school program.

The student must reasonably be expected to satisfactorily complete all state and local graduation requirements of subjects and credit units or their accepted equivalents in order for consideration to be given to any request.

Each request is to be determined by the Board on the merits of the individual circumstances; one case shall not set a precedent for others.

**Honor Roll Information**

1. Eligibility for placement on the honor roll will be determined by grade point average of grades earned in all classes in which the student is enrolled.
2. A student must be enrolled in at least six classes to be considered eligible for placement on the honor roll.

ALL "A" HONOR ROLL ..... (4.00)  
PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL(3.50 to 3.99) (No grade below a "C")

**Report of Student Progress**

Computerized grade cards are issued every nine weeks by the principal's office. Parents are asked to review the grade cards with the student and to consult with the teacher if they wish.

GRADE CODE: A - Excellent      B - Above Average      C - Average      D - Below Average      F - Failure

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## **Cheating Policy**

Any student(s) caught cheating will receive the following:

1. First infraction: a zero (0) on the assignment and a one hour detention assigned. Student will also lose his/her Renaissance Card Holder privileges.
2. Second infraction: a zero (0) on the assignment and a minimum of a three hour detention.
3. Third infraction: suspension.

## **Academic Letter Plan**

1. PURPOSE: The purpose of the Academic Letter is to recognize, reward, and encourage academic excellence.
2. RATIONALE: Academic Letters should encourage students to try harder and do better in their classes. They should be awarded to students who put in those extra hours striving for academic excellence and who deserve the obvious mark of recognition and award for contributing to the reputation of the school. Exceptional effort and achievement in academics deserve to be recognized and rewarded. The Academic Letter should be a prestigious award through which a student can represent the school and be honored for achievements and contributions.
3. PROPOSAL: The methods and criteria for awarding Girard High Academic Letters are proposed by the Academic Letter Committee.
4. ELIGIBILITY: Seniors shall be eligible for an Academic Letter if they satisfy the selection requirements.
5. SELECTION: The high school principal shall supervise the selection process.
6. CRITERIA:
  - (a) Attained a 3.5 or above GPA on a 4.0 scale, accumulated over grades 9, 10, 11, and the first semester of grade 12.
  - (b) Received a score on either the ACT or SAT placing them at or above the 80th percentile on the national average.
  - (c) AWARD: The Academic Letter shall be a six-inch Old English "G" in school colors with a metal or embroidered symbol affixed to indicate that the letter is an academic award. Seniors shall be awarded the Academic Letter at the Senior Awards program in May.

## **Part-Time Students**

Senior students whose schedules provide for meeting local school district graduation requirements by the end of a semester with a cumulative minimum 3.0 GPA may be excused from school attendance except for those courses which qualify them for graduation to attend college classes provided that:

- (a) Students must attend an accredited institution of higher learning, must be enrolled per semester in at least four classes at Girard High School and six credits per semester at the college. The high school principal may make exceptions if in his opinion the college subjects' difficulty warrant the exception, and,
- (b) The time excused is the end of the school day (5th-6th-7th) periods, during which students will attend on campus or work online.
- (c) Documentation of college class enrollment is available to the principal at or near the beginning of any semester, and,
- (d) The students maintain passing grades in all subjects, and,
- (e) Parents and/or guardians give written approval of such part-time attendance according to the above provisions.

Senior students are also eligible for part time status their senior year through pre-approved work release opportunities. Prior to the start of the second semester of their senior year, students must fill out an application form and return it to the principal's office.

It remains the philosophy of USD 248 to encourage full-time attendance of eligible students on the basis of a belief that the public school experience is valuable and worthwhile.

### **Student Classification**

<u>Class</u>	<u>Units Completed</u>
Sophomore	5
Junior	10
Senior	17 and above

### **Transcripts**

Students requesting a transcript should do so through the counselor's office.

### **Withdrawal Procedure**

Parents should notify the school prior to withdrawal of their child from school, either for transfer or other reasons. The student is then referred to the principal for final conference and withdrawal form. All school property should be returned and any fees paid. The deposit will be refunded only when the student follows the proper checkout procedure and clears all records.

### **Transferring or Dropping Classes**

Students will not transfer from one class to another after the third day of class. Exceptions -- course changes are limited to students needing to satisfy graduation requirements or conflicts of personality which must be resolved without loss of credit toward graduation, as recommended by the high school administration and counselor. Juniors and Seniors may change classes after 1<sup>st</sup> semester to transfer into or out or concurrent classes.

### **Implementation of Interventions**

The USD 248 Board of Education shall implement regular education interventions and strategies to address areas of concern for a child before referring the child for an evaluation unless one of the following conditions is met:

1. School personnel can demonstrate that those interventions and strategies are inadequate to address the areas of concern for the child.
2. The parent of the child requests and gives written consent for an evaluation of the child,

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

### **Girard High School Attendance Policy**

Students who have good attendance generally achieve higher grades, enjoy school more, and are much more attractive to prospective employers after leaving high school. Frequent absences of students from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process for everyone. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained, even by extra after-school instruction.

Consequently, under these circumstances only mediocre success can be achieved in our academic programs. Our school cannot teach students who are not present. The entire process of education requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study in order to reach the goal of maximum educational benefits. Therefore, the USD 248 Board of Education supports the following attendance policy for Girard High School students:

This policy designates nine (9) days absence each semester as the maximum allowed before credit for each subject missed is lost for the semester. The (9) days of absence are to accommodate:

- Personal illness
- Appointments, including doctor, that could not be scheduled outside the school day
- Serious personal or family problems.

After a student has accumulated five (5) absences in all classes or any one class, a parent or guardian will be notified by letter. A letter notifying parents or guardians of loss of credit will be mailed after ten (10) absences. Extenuating circumstances such as hospitalization or home confinement will not be charged against the student's days provided the illness and subsequent hospitalization or home confinement (must be successive days) are verified by a physician. We request written confirmation from a physician upon a student's return to school. It is extremely important that students understand that the 9 days for necessary absences built into the attendance policy are not to be considered 'SKIP DAYS.'

Absence Code:		Finals / Renaissance Reward (pg.2)	Girard Attendance Policy (pg.10-11)
Counts as an absence	A – Absent – Parent verified and Administrator verified.	Counts as an absence	Counts as an absence
	M – Medical – *must have Doctor's note upon arrival back to school* Parent/Administrator verified Doctor verified (Per policy pg.2)	Does not count as an absence	Counts as an absence
	U – Unexcused – Not Parent verified and/or Not Administrator verified.	Counts as an absence	Counts as an absence
	T – Tardy – 3 tardies = 1 absence (pg.14)	Counts against Finals	Counts as an absence (3T=1U)
	S – Field Trip (School sponsored)	Does not count as an absence	Does not count as an absence
	O – Out of School Suspension	Counts as an absence	Counts as an absence

### **USD 248 - Girard High School Policy for Homebound Instruction**

To be eligible to receive homebound instruction, a note or letter from the medical doctor explaining the reason for requesting homebound is required. It should include the date services are to begin and an approximate length of time they may be required.

When the letter is in the hands of the school (principal and/or counselor), they will contact a certified instructor to complete the tasks of the homebound instructor who will meet with the involved faculty at an assigned time on a weekly basis to exchange and discuss assignments, tests, projects, and the student's progress.

The homebound instructor will contact the student to set up meeting times (usually 2 to 3 times per week) depending on the classes, work load, and student needs. The homebound instructor will also deliver assignments and tests collected from the faculty to the student, give instructions, collect any completed work of the student to turn in, and administer any tests as the student becomes ready to take them.

Students not physically attending regular classes are not eligible to attend school sponsored extracurricular activities.

When the student is to return to school a note or letter of release from homebound services from the same medical doctor is required for the student to return to his/her regularly scheduled classes. The main goal of the homebound instructor is to help the student meet the objectives and complete class work. This should facilitate a smooth transition back into the classroom when services are no longer needed.

### **Attendance and Extracurricular Activities**

To participate in any extracurricular activity (game, dance, play, cheerleader, etc.) a student must be in school four class periods of the day (including seminar period) on which the activity is scheduled. Exceptions include funerals, emergencies, and any other absence which the office has excused prior to the absence.

### **Student Procedure after Absence**

Report to principal's office upon return to school after absence with written explanation for absence (medical appointments require written verification from physicians, dentist, etc.) Telephone calls from parent may be acceptable. The student failing to provide notification for reason of absence from parent and/or guardian will be listed as "unexcused" until proper note is provided to the principal's personnel. In cases where the school is not notified the student will also be placed on the attendance log as "unexcused." If students who have been absent do not possess an admit to class, they will be sent to the office by their teacher and will be counted as "tardy" to that class.

Note: For a student to receive an excused absence from school, it must be excused by the parents and the high school administration.

### **Guidelines for Receiving Credit**

Students must satisfy two criteria to be awarded credit for meeting graduation requirements:

1. Students must maintain a passing grade as established by the classroom teacher.
2. Students must meet the attendance policy requirements established by the USD 248 Board of Education.

Students will receive the grade earned for course work upon completion of the first criterion. When both criteria have been met, credit will be received and recorded with their grade on their official high school transcript to be applied toward meeting graduation requirements.

### **Truancy**

Truancy is defined as missing classes on a given day without parental knowledge or approval or school official approval. Known truancy will result in the following additional disciplinary action:

- 1) First occurrence -- student conference with principal and one-hour detention per each hour missed.
- 2) Second occurrence -- student conference with principal & parent/guardian and one hour detention for each hour missed with possible three [3] days suspension from school at Administration discretion.
- 3) Third occurrence -- student conference with principal, parent/guardian, one hour detention for each hour missed, with possible five [5] days suspension from school at Administration discretion.

**PARENTS OR GUARDIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING THE OFFICE WHEN A STUDENT IS ABSENT GIVING REASON FOR ABSENCE.** The reason for absence will be recorded on the student's daily attendance record and will be excused if the parent and the high school administration excuse the absence. THERE ARE NO APPROVED SKIP DAYS.

Students are not to leave school without permission from the principal's office. Students leaving school grounds 'MUST' be excused by a parent/guardian and then sign out in the office before leaving. Failure to sign out will result in an unexcused absence and will be treated as a 'skip' and punishment will be the same.

### **Student Appeal**

A review at the end of the semester by the Girard High School Attendance Review Committee (GHSARC) may be requested by the student or parent/guardian to examine the specific conditions relating to the individual case. (All requests must be in writing and presented to the principal. The parents and the student must attend the hearing.) This committee is to consist of seven teachers. This committee may extend the absence limit or take such action as is required. Parents or guardians will be informed in writing of the results of such hearing.

The student who is suspended from school for a disciplinary reason will have the number of days charged against the total of nine [9] days provided in the policy. However, if the student is suspended for any number of days which cause him or her to reach ten [10] days, he/she 'MAY' receive approval for and an extension.

Note: If a student appeals his/her loss of credit to the GHS attendance committee, s/he must agree to make up all days absent over the attendance policy before credit can be considered for reinstatement.

Note: State statute states that when a student is inexcusably absent for three consecutive school days or five or more school days in any semester, then the student shall be considered to be not attending school as required by law, and the principal shall report all such cases who are 13 to 17 to the County Attorney.

### **Makeup Work Following an Absence**

The school suggests that when it appears a student is going to be absent, the parents contact the school office and explain what the student is able to do as far as school work is concerned. If needed, the office will arrange for homework assignments which may be picked up by the parents or sent home by another student.

Students will be entitled to makeup work upon request to teacher. The request for makeup work must be made on the day the student returns to class not days or weeks later. Time allowed for makeup work to be turned in will be two days for each day absent but not to exceed a two week period. Students who are absent on TEST DAY ONLY will take the test on the day they return to class IF THE TEST HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED.

### **Incomplete Grades**

At the end of the semester, all work shall be completed by the time final exams are finished, with the following exceptions: cases of extended illness or extenuating circumstances will be considered individually. In the event a student receives an incomplete in a course at the end of the semester, (s)he must complete all work within a "two-week" period after the semester, otherwise an "F" will be recorded on the permanent record.

### **Illness and Accidents at School**

A student who becomes ill at school is to report to the Principal's office so we may locate the school nurse. NO STUDENT IS TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT FIRST REPORTING TO THE OFFICE. IF A STUDENT IS TOO ILL TO REMAIN IN SCHOOL, THE SCHOOL NURSE WILL CONTACT THE-GUARDIANS.

Accidents – Any accident/injury in the school building or on the grounds or buses is to be reported to the person in charge and to the school nurse as soon as possible.

Medication – Anyone required to take medication during school hours must have a doctor's note and medication should be taken in the health office or principal's office. Any student with a specific medical problem should inform the school nurse of the nature of the problem.

### **Tardy Policy**

Tardiness is defined as any appearance of a student after the scheduled time a class begins. (Tardiness of more than ten minutes to a class will be considered an absence). Each three tardies to one class per semester will count as one absence. Students who are more than ten minutes late to class will not be admitted unless they have a note from the office.

Beginning with the third tardy to one class, and all tardies thereafter, students are to be sent to the office as soon as possible.

Violation of this policy by students shall be treated as follows:

- 1) Third and fourth tardy to one class per semester - one hour after-school detention.
- 2) Fifth and all tardies thereafter to one class - two after-school detentions.

### **STUDENT DRESS GUIDELINES**

## **Dress Code Policy**

Dress code for USD 248 students in grades 6 through 12.

The Board of Education and the Dress Code Committee believe that parents and students should be responsible for the dress and grooming of students. The Board and Committee also believe that such dress and grooming should be conducive to the safety of all students, good physical hygiene of all students, and best learning situation that can be offered in the schools. This statement is applicable to school attendance only and is not to be interpreted as affecting the authority of the school or sponsor to establish special requirements of dress or appearance for participation in voluntary activities such as extracurricular music, clubs, or athletics. No style of dress will be tolerated which is disruptive of the educational process.

Slacks, jeans, shorts, dresses, skirts and spandex/leggings (when worn under another garment) are acceptable if in good repair. "Cutoffs with neat frayed edges (all edges are the same length, not to exceed one-half inch) are permissible as long as they contain no holes and no slits up the side." Skirts and shorts are acceptable as long as they are appropriate length and style, and not distractive. (As a general guide, skirts should be within 4 inches above the knee, and shorts should have a minimum inseam of 4 inches.) Holes in jeans are not acceptable.

The following ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE: halter tops, short shirts exposing the midriff, see through clothing, tank tops alone, biker shorts alone, spandex or tights alone and plunging necklines. All clothes shall be free of lettering and designs which might be obscene or promote alcohol, tobacco or drugs. Hats, hoods, and/or items worn on or about the head are not permitted in the school building before school and during the school day. Piercing of ears ONLY.

ATTIRE CONSIDERED EXTREME BY THE ADMINISTRATION OR FACULTY WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

Hair--Colored hair is not acceptable unless it is dyed a natural hair color. Hair of multiple colors or unnatural in color is not acceptable. The administration has sole responsibility to determine the appropriateness of "highlighting".

Violation of the dress code will result in:

- 1) First offense - a conference with the principal-the student must conform to the dress code.
- 2) Second offense - one hour detention and conformity to the dress code.
- 3) Subsequent violations will result in a minimum one-day suspension.

**SEEK TO APPEAL** - Students may appeal to the Student Council if they feel they have been unjustly criticized. Further appeal may be made to the Dress Code Committee and finally to the Board of Education. While the policy is under appeal, students must conform to the current dress code. Students who continue to violate the dress code policy will be suspended from school.

## **GUIDANCE**

The counselor is available to assist you in many areas which might concern you during your high school career. Such areas might include: (1) Improving study habits; (2) Helping you solve personal problems which might interfere with school success; (3) Providing information about your abilities, achievements and interests; (4) Assisting with career planning; (5) Solving problems with fellow students or teachers; (6) Planning your high school curriculum; and (7) Planning for additional training or job placement beyond high school. All students are urged to visit the counseling center and make use of the educational information and counseling services available there. The regular testing program for high school students is listed below. The counselor will be happy to show you your test scores and assist you in understanding/using them.

### ACT National Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Deadline	ACT® Test Standby Deadline	Scores Begin to Post
September 6, 2025	August 1	August 19	August 29	September 16
October 18, 2025	September 12	September 30	October 10	October 28
December 13, 2025	November 7	November 24	December 5	December 23
February 14, 2026	January 7	January 21	February 6	February 24
April 11, 2026	March 6	March 24	April 3	April 21
June 13, 2026	May 8	May 27	June 5	June 23
July 11, 2026	June 5	June 24	July 3	July 21

### College Campus Visits

Senior students desiring to visit the university or college campus of their choice, other than a group visit with a sponsor, will be counted absent from classes missed, unless, the student meets the following requirements:

1. Student must complete a College Visit Form through the Counselor's office.
2. Be accompanied by no more than two other senior students.
3. More than one campus visit during school time is not recommended.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Arrival at School

The tardy bell for first period is 8:00 A.M. and all students should be in class by that time.

### Visitors

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time. They are requested to check through the principal's office concerning the location of either student or teacher. Students from other schools or small children are not permitted to visit classes on regular school days. Social visits from out-of-town personnel are not permitted.

### Public Display of Affection

Students displaying improper affection will receive a detention.

### **Enrollment Fees**

All students are expected to pay a yearly enrollment fee of \$30. This fee is required for all of our students. If the fee is not paid in a timely manner the student will not be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activities until the fees are paid.

### **Cafeteria and Lunch**

Lunch cards are issued at the beginning of the school year to new students and to students who have lost their card. Students losing more than three cards in a CURRENT school year will be assessed a \$2.00 replacement fee for each card. Money may be deposited in any amount into the students account before school or at any time during the school day. Checks or cash can be sent and deposited into the students account but checks cannot be cashed and money returned.

Any money left in the account or any charges at the end of the school year will apply to the next school year. Money cannot be withdrawn from a student account without a note from a parent/guardian.

Breakfast is served from 7:40-8:00 a.m. each day. Full price is \$2.15 full, reduced 30¢, with free available to those qualifying. (This will be determined at the June 11<sup>th</sup> school board meeting.)

Lunch prices are \$3.30 full, 40¢ reduced, with free for those qualifying. For families needing financial assistance; free and reduced pricing is available.

A family can apply for free or reduced meals at any time during the school year. Applications are available from the school nurse's office or the school lunch office. Financial information is kept confidential. Students will NOT be allowed to CHARGE more than the equivalent of \$25.00 in meal(s). Students who have charged will be notified at the time of the charge the amount of money owed and told that money will need to be deposited in their accounts to continue receiving meals.

### **Library Media Center Services**

The GHS/GMS Library Media Center will be open each day from 7:40 A.M. to 3:20 P.M. for high school students, Pupils may check out books and materials before school, at specified times designated by teachers, and after school until 3:20 P.M.

### **Driving and Parking Regulations**

Driving a car to school is a privilege. For this privilege, a student must show a willingness to comply with all school regulations.

1. Parking lots are school property.
2. The school is responsible for supervision of the parking areas and the safety of the student.
3. The marked and numbered parking places on the north, east and south sides of the building are designated for faculty and buses. Students are not to use these areas.
4. Students are to park in designated parking areas only.
5. Failure to comply with basic rules of safety in the parking areas may lead to use of them being denied and the assignment of detention.
6. Any car parked in a yellow marked area or unauthorized area may be towed away at student's expense.
7. Failure to park in designated areas will result in a detention on the first offense. Subsequent violations will result in a minimum one-day suspension.

### **Telephone Calls**

All calls for students will be placed through the principal's office. A student will only be called to take a telephone call in case of emergency. Other types of messages will be taken by the school secretary and forwarded to the student.

### **Academic Assistance**

Students who are currently failing a class or multiple classes are expected to attend academic assistance time from 2:05 PM to 3:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday each month. Failure to attend academic assistance will result in two detentions. Medical appointments with written verification from physicians, dentist, etc. will be accepted if a student is unable to attend.

### **iPad Usage:**

iPads will be used to improve the education a student receives at USD 248.

The following infractions will result in a one-hour detention (more severe disciplinary actions may be given depending upon the frequency and severity of the infraction):

1. Student(s) found gaming, using social media, or using a texting application without the teacher's permission (more disciplinary consequences may apply depending on the issue)
2. Taking/hiding another student's iPad
3. Using another student's iPad (without being directed to by a teacher)
4. Participating in any inappropriate or illegal activity with the iPad
5. Sharing Apple ID's, usernames, passwords
6. Sharing files, data, and homework (Cheating Policy may apply)
7. Inappropriate use of the camera
8. Downloading inappropriate applications (more disciplinary consequences may apply depending on the issue)

Student(s) will also be placed with iPad restrictions on their device to prevent similar issues for one semester.

\*\*\*If a student has lost iPad privileges, he/she needs to inform their teacher immediately at the beginning of class.

### **Cellular Phones and Communication Devices**

Cellular phones, pagers, and other communication devices are allowed on the school grounds. However, students will not be allowed to use these devices and should not be visible during school hours. The only exception will be during the lunch break. School staff will confiscate these items and turn them into the principal's office. There is no right or expectation of privacy if such a device is confiscated by school officials. Administration has the right to view the messages if they suspected inappropriate material and/or texting has occurred during school time.

Violation of cellular phone use will result in:

- 1) First offense - a conference with the principal-the student given a warning. However, if the phone is being actively used (texting, internet) the student will be issued one hour of detention time.
- 2) Second offense – two-one hour detentions.
- 3) Subsequent violations will result suspensions and/or loss of privileges for having a personal communication device on school grounds.

### **Theft**

Any student guilty of theft is liable for severe disciplinary action.

### **Hazing Policy**

No student shall engage in nor any staff member knowingly allow a student or students to engage in the hazing of another student. Hazing is:

- (A) harassing another person by exacting unnecessary, disagreeable, or difficult tasks;
- (B) harassing another person by banter, ridicule, or criticism;
- (C) playing abusive or humiliating tricks on another person by way of initiation or acceptance;
- (D) any behavior which coerces, demands, or encourages another person to perform any act which could reasonably be expected to result in bodily harm, disfigurement, or death or who engages in any behavior which is done in a manner which could inflict bodily harm, disfigurement, or death; as a condition of membership in a school organization, team, group, or school activity.

Students who haze other students or participate in the hazing of students shall be subject to suspension from all extracurricular activities from one (1) to thirty (30) days. Each coach or sponsor of that particular activity in which the hazing incident occurred shall, in conjunction with the principal, decide the extent of the punishment. Each punishment is to be determined based upon the individual facts and circumstances of each incident. Punishment determined by one incident shall not set precedence for any other incident.

### **Soliciting**

1. No commercial firms shall be permitted to solicit/advertise to teachers/pupils during school hours except to demonstrate school equipment or materials, which shall have the principal's approval.
2. All special sale projects are subject to the approval of the principal.
3. Commercial schools, colleges, or other agencies shall not be permitted to meet with seniors or solicit prospective students except upon invitation of the local school administration. Counseling of students relative to continuation of their schooling or to job placement shall be handled through the guidance department.

### **School Dance Policy**

1. Students pay in advance and pick up tickets before 12:25 p.m. the day of the dance. Guests must be signed up and paid for at the same time.
2. A master list of all tickets sold will be generated and tickets presented at the door will be checked against the list.
3. The sponsoring club/organization will be responsible for providing sponsors.
4. Everyone must signup in advance.
5. Students must be in the 9th grade or above; no younger students allowed.
6. No outside guest allowed who are 21 years of age or older.

### **Search and Seizure- School Facilities (Locker Search)**

Students have limited control over their lockers, desks, and other assigned areas for the storage of property. Lockers, desks, and other assigned areas including parking lots are the property of the USD 248. These areas and the contents thereof shall be subjected to inspection and searched by school officials at any time without prior notice if there is reasonable suspicion that a search will produce evidence of violations of law or of school rules, or that locker may contain property which school officials reasonably believe may be intended for use in a manner disruptive to the orderly operation of the school. If feasible and if an investigation will not be jeopardized, a reasonable effort will be made by school officials to have affected students present when lockers, desks, and other assigned areas and contents are searched.

### **Search of Person or Property in Possession of Students**

School officials may search students or personal property in their possession or under their control, including motor vehicles on school grounds, if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will produce evidence of violations of law or school rules. General exploratory searches without individualized reasonable suspicion will not be conducted.

### **Possession or Use of Weapons**

Possession or use of a dangerous weapon or use of a weapon on school property or at school functions is prohibited. A student who is found to have brought or to have been in possession of any dangerous weapon, including a firearm or replica firearm, shall be expelled from the district. A student who is found to have used a weapon to inflict bodily harm shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the district.

### **Possession of Explosives, Firecrackers, or Stink Bombs**

Students in possession of or who set off any type of explosive endanger the lives and property of others. Therefore, anyone in possession of explosives or observed setting them off will be automatically suspended from school and referred to local law enforcement authorities.

## **Lockers**

Students are to only use their assigned locker. Students are not to share lockers with other students. Each student is responsible for the contents of his/her locker. Detentions may be issued if students are discovered using lockers other than their own. Lockers are the property of USD 248 and may be searched at the discretion of the USD 248 administration according to Kansas law. Students are prohibited from placing stickers, marking on the lockers (inside or out), or defacing the inside of their assigned locker.

## **Hall Permits**

Students are required to have their note or planner in hand, signed by a teacher, anytime they are in the hall while class is in session. All students are expected to take care of restroom needs during passing periods between classes and before or after school.

## **Tobacco and Electronic Cigarette use on School Premises**

Possession or use of tobacco products of any form, on school property or while traveling to or from any school sponsored activity shall be a violation. Violation of possession or use of tobacco in any form by students will result in:

- 1) First offense -- a four-hour detention
- 2) Second offense -- a one-day suspension on the second offense.
- 3) Third and Subsequent violations -- will result in a minimum three-day suspension.

Violation of possession or use of vapor/electronic cigarette in any form by students will result in:

- 1) First offense – two-day suspension
- 2) Second offense – a four-day suspension
- 3) Third and Subsequent violations – will result in a minimum five-day suspension.

## **Drugs, Narcotics and Controlled Substances**

A student shall not knowingly possess, sell, use, transmit, or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, any controlled substance, or alcoholic beverage of any kind:

- 1) On the school grounds during, before, or after school hours.
- 2) Off the school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.
- 3) Violation of behavior code will result in a minimum three-day suspension and/or expulsion.

Use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a licensed, registered physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

## **Alcohol**

The consumption and/or possession of any alcoholic beverage by students is prohibited in any attendance center, on school grounds, or at any school-sponsored activity. Any student who consumes alcoholic beverage before entering any school grounds or attendance center, at any school-sponsored activity off school grounds or traveling to and from any school-sponsored activity, shall be refused entrance and admission and result in a minimum three-day suspension and/or expulsion.

District personnel may refer students to any medical, treatment, or social service agency when such student is reasonably believed to be abusing or incapacitated by the use of alcohol or other drugs. Immunity from civil liability for any such referrals will be given to district personnel unless such referrals were made in bad faith or with malicious purpose. Violation of any provision of this behavior code may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY POLICIES**

Kansas State High School Activities Association & Girard High School Eligibility Requirements

1. Students must be bona fide and in good standing at Girard High School.
2. Students' conduct and standards must be satisfactory and not discreditable to themselves or their school.
3. Students cannot be nineteen years of age on or before September 1 of the school year in which they are competing.
4. An adequate physical examination of the student must be on file.
5. Students must be passing at least five new subjects (those not previously passed) of unit weight or its equivalency the previous semester. Classes that are being repeated because of failure are not counted as one of the five subjects.
6. A student shall not be permitted to makeup work after the close of the semester for the purpose of eligibility (ex. summer school).
7. **IMPORTANT:** Students must be passing every class each nine-week period. If not, they will be placed on activities suspension for a minimum period of one week and will be ineligible for one week. Students who are on probation will have their grades figured on a weekly basis during the next nine-week period and the subject instructor will decide if eligible for that week's activities. Any student on activities probation and not passing all subjects at the end of any week will be ineligible for all extracurricular activities the next week (Sunday through Saturday). Practice will be at the discretion of the coach or sponsor.
8. In order to participate in any school activity, a student must be in school four class periods of the day on which the activity is scheduled. Exceptions include funerals, emergencies, or any other absence the office has excused prior to the student being absent.
9. Students should take note that if they violate the attendance policy at any time during the semester, their status for eligibility may be reviewed for the purpose of continued participation in any school- or state-sponsored activity.
10. All students must adhere to the Girard High School Athletic Handbook.
11. Students must agree to participate in the GHS random drug testing policy to remain eligible for extracurricular activities.

### **Academic Probation Procedures:**

1. Students must pick up an academic probation form at the office on Friday by 8:00 a.m. and have the card signed by each of their teachers before turning it into the office no later than 3:30 p.m.--the same day--in order to participate in school activities the next week.
2. Students on activities probation absent Friday with an excused absence must pick up a card before school on Monday, have it signed by faculty, and turn in to the office before 8:15 a.m.--the same day.

The above is a brief summary of important eligibility requirements. If there are any questionable items that you do not understand, contact your coach, activities director, or principal.

## **Standard of Conduct**

Girard USD 248 recognizes the use of mood-altering chemicals as a significant health problem for many students, resulting in negative effects on behavior, learning, and the total development of each individual. The misuse and abuse of mood-altering chemicals for some students affects extracurricular participation and development of related skills.

The USD 248 Board of Education, therefore, emphasizes the school's concern for the health of students in areas of safety while participating in activities and the long-term physical and emotional effects of chemical use on their health. The Board of Education wants to emphasize the following:

1. To encourage proper student behavior at all times during the school year (this would cover vacation periods and periods "between seasons.")
2. To promote equity, a sense of order, and discipline among students.
3. To confirm and support existing state laws which restrict the use of such mood-altering chemicals.
4. To establish standards of conduct for most students who are leaders and standard bearers among their peers.
5. To discourage any student behavior which brings discredit to the student or to the school.

## **Statement of Activity Policy**

The following items are unacceptable for any USD 248 student:

1. Exposing one's body in an indecent manner.
2. Conviction of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. Possession or conviction of an open container, alcohol, or drugs.
4. Drinking legally restricted beverages.
5. Conviction of a felony.
6. Any other action that brings discredit to the student or to the school. Any student found in violation of any item will on the first offense of the school year be dismissed from participation in or attendance at activities for a period of six school weeks (thirty school days, with participation in practice at the discretion of the coach or sponsor if applicable). A second offense during the same school year will result in suspension from activities for eighteen school weeks (ninety school days) with no option of attending practice sessions. A third violation during the same school year will result in suspension from activities for the remainder of the school year. Determination of student violation of these items will be based upon witness by and subsequent testimony of a law enforcement official and/or school personnel or by student admission. The signing of a diversionary agreement with any law enforcement agency will be considered a conviction for the administration of this policy.

## **Homecoming Queen Election**

Homecoming queen election: the Senior Class will nominate four senior candidates for football and basketball homecoming queen. The student body will vote for queen in both cases. All senior girls will be eligible for candidacy unless they have been elected queen or are in violation of the school activity policy. In case of a two-way tie, there will not be a runoff election. However, if there is a tie between three or more students, a runoff election will be required.

## **STANDARDS OF NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

### **Girard High School Eligibility Requirements**

Candidates for the National Honor Society are selected by being evaluated in four areas: Scholarship, Service, Character, and Leadership. Each area is assigned a maximum of 24 points and each area is considered to have the same weight in the evaluation process. Candidates who receive a score of 76 or higher will automatically be eligible for admission.

The selection process follows the format below:

1. All juniors & sophomores who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher are considered for admission.
2. Students who are academically eligible are given an Activity / Service evaluation form which they must complete and return to NHS sponsor.
3. A six member faculty committee has the responsibility for evaluating the areas of character & leadership. Committee members have records available to them for the evaluation.

4. Totals are computed and candidates are selected. The committee does a final review to be certain all members are in agreement.

Standards Set Up by the Girard Chapter of the National Honor Society:

1. I will not cheat a member of my class, my school, or my community.
2. I will abide by the laws set up by my school.
3. I will not condone a wrongdoing by my peers and that wrongdoing will be brought to the attention of the proper administration.
4. I will not abuse the use of alcohol, drugs, and other articles. A DUI conviction will be grounds for dismissal.
5. I will not violate any civil or community codes that are established for my well-being and for citizens of the community.
6. I will not do anything that the community or school may have to change its morals to agree with my wrongdoing.
7. I will be honest, law abiding, and keep allegiance to my school.
8. All of these I faithfully promise and swear that I will forever keep with good intentions.
9. I understand that if I violate any of these rules, I will be subject to dismissal.

10. Dismissal Procedures:

- a. Members who fall below standards shall be eligible for dismissal. They will be given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency.
- b. A faculty council will determine when an individual has exceeded the number of warnings.
- c. In all cases of dismissal, a member shall have the right to a hearing before the faculty council. A member dismissed has the right to appeal.

I acknowledge and understand the above standards and will abide by these rules.

### **Transportation to Extracurricular Activities**

Students will be required to use transportation provided by the school district to and from the designated activity. Students may be released to the parent/guardian (only) following the activity if prior coordination through the sponsor or principal is made. This regulation is a safety precaution and should be considered a benefit to our students. All activity buses will be sponsored by an adult, and regular bus rules will be followed.

## **STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

### **Student Detention**

If a student is assigned a detention for policy violation he/she shall serve the detention time as soon as possible. Students will have the option of serving the next two dates unless the student is already assigned a detention, in which case the student will serve the next available date. Disregard for serving detentions will be treated as insubordination and violation of USD 248 school policy. Students who fail to makeup a detention will receive two detentions on the first violation and suspension on the second violation.

### **Suspension and Expulsion**

The USD 248 Board extends its authority to suspend and expel any student as authorized by law to the following certified personnel: superintendent, a principal of an attendance center and/or personnel acting in the capacity of assistant principal, and the director of activities. The Board includes as policy the student handbooks of the various schools, and such published handbooks are a part of this policy by reference.

Students under suspension are not to be in or near school property during term of suspension. However, "in-school" suspensions may be used when faculty and supervisory personnel are available. Examples of reasons for suspension and/or expulsion are: excessive absences/tardiness, truancy, conduct which tends to impair the morale or good conduct of pupils, fighting, smoking or use of tobacco on campus, possession or use of drugs/alcohol, excessive cafeteria or media center rule violations, excessive parking violations, and abusive or insubordinate attitude toward faculty or other USD 248 employees.

## **SEVEN HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEENS**

Stephen R. Covey has done extensive research on the habits of effective people. The following is his list of habits for effective teens.

Habit 1: "BE PROACTIVE"--Take responsibility for our attitudes and actions.

Habit 2: "BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND"--Begin each day with a clear understanding of your desired direction and destination.

Habit 3: "PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST"--Organize and manage time and events around the personal priorities identified in

Habit 4: "THINK WIN-WIN"--Seek mutual benefit in all interdependent relationships.

Habit 5: "SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND AND THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD"--Communicate, listen, and seek to improve relationships among family, peers, and teachers.

Habit 6: "SYNERGIZE"--Practice creative cooperation and teamwork.

Habit 7: "SHARPEN THE SAW"--Develop a systematic program for self-renewal.

## **DISCRIMINATION**

Girard High School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

## **Zero Tolerance Policy for USD 248**

If any student is heard threatening harm or admits threatening to harm another student by use of a weapon, the student will be:

1. Reported to the police.
2. Suspended for a minimum of 5 days.
3. Required to bring parent/s to the principal's office after the 5 days prior to re-admittance.

Reminder: A student bringing a weapon to school will/may be suspended for the entire school year.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Policy No. JGEC, Part E:

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: SEXUAL HARASSMENT/SEXUAL ABUSE

### **NOTICE OF PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS**

What is the District policy concerning sexual misconduct?

The district forbids employee conduct constituting sexual harassment or sexual abuse of students. The District forbids students from engaging in unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or a District employee.

The District encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent sexual harassment and sexual abuse in the public schools.

What is Sexual harassment?

Sexual harassment of a student by an employee includes any welcome or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal (oral or written), physical, or visual conduct of a sexual nature. It also includes such activities as engaging in sexually oriented conversations for purposes of personal sexual gratification, telephoning a student at home or elsewhere to solicit inappropriate social relationships, physical contact that would be reasonably construed as sexual in nature, and enticing or threatening a student to engage in sexual behavior in exchange for grades or other school-related benefit.

Sexual harassment of a student by another student includes unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.

**What is sexual abuse?**

Sexual abuse is defined as "illegal sex acts performed against a minor..." It may include, but is not limited to fondling, sexual assault, or sexual intercourse. Sexual abuse is a form of child abuse that must be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

**What laws address sexual harassment of students?**

Sexual harassment or abuse of students by District employees may constitute discrimination on the basis of sex and is prohibited by Title IX (the federal law prohibiting gender-based discrimination by schools that receive federal funds).

**Will I be informed if my child has been sexually harassed or sexually abused at school?**

The District will notify parents of students involved in sexual harassment by students when the allegations are not minor or of any incident regarding sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee. Notification may be by telephone, letter, or personal conference.

**What will the District do when it learns of sexual harassment or sexual abuse of a student?**

When a principal or other school administrator receives a report that a student is being sexually harassed or abused, he or she will initiate an investigation and take prompt action to intervene.

**What do I do if I am concerned that my child has been sexually harassed or sexually abused at school?**

A student or parent who has a complaint alleging sexual harassment by other student(s) or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee may request a conference with the principal or the principal's designee. The conference will be scheduled and held as soon as possible but within seven calendar days. The principal or designee will coordinate an investigation. Oral complaints should be reduced to writing to assist in the District's investigation.

A complaint may also be filed separately with the Office of Civil Rights:

Regional Director  
Office of Civil Rights, Midwestern Division  
10220 North Executive Hills Boulevard, 8th Floor  
Kansas City, Missouri 64153-1367  
Phone: (816) 880-4200 / Fax: (816) 891-0644 / TDD: (816) 891-0582

**Will my complaint be confidential?**

To the greatest extent possible, complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation.

**What if I am not satisfied by the District's resolution of my complaint?**

If the parent is not satisfied with the District's initial response to the complaint, he or she has seven calendar days to request a conference with the Superintendent or designee, who will schedule and hold a conference. Prior to or at the conference, the parent must submit a written complaint that contains: a statement of the complaint; any evidence to support the complaint; the resolution sought; the students' and/or parent's signature; and the date of the conference with the principal or designee.

If the parent considers the resolution unsatisfactory, he or she may request that the complaint be heard by the Board of Education at its next regular meeting, in accordance with policy KN-R. The Board will hear the complaint in closed meeting, unless otherwise required by the Kansas Open Meetings Act. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Education will decide what action it deems appropriate.

Policy No. JGEC, Part C:

**STANDARD OF CONDUCT INVOLVING STUDENTS:  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT/SEXUAL ABUSE**

The District shall develop and implement a sexual harassment policy to be included in the District improvement plan.

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination in education programs that receive federal financial assistance. 20 U.S.C. 1681; 34 CFR 106.11

#### **Employee-Student Sexual Harassment or Abuse**

Sexual harassment of students in closed such activities as engaging in sexual oriented conversations for purposes of personal sexual gratification, telephoning students at home or elsewhere to solicit inappropriate social relationships, physical contact that reasonably would be construed as sexual in nature, and enticing or threatening students to engage in sexual behavior in exchange for grades or other school-related benefit. Sexual harassment of students by employees can be discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX. 20 U.S.C. 1681-1686.

A District official who has authority to take corrective action on the District's behalf and who has actual notice of teacher-student sexual harassment or abuse shall take corrective measures to address the harassment or abuse.

#### **Sexual Abuse by Employees**

When an administrator learns of facts or a pattern of inappropriate sexual behavior by an employee under his or her supervision that plainly point toward the conclusion that the employee is sexually abusing a student, the administrator shall take appropriate action.

#### **Student-Student Sexual Harassment or Abuse**

When gender-based peer harassment takes place in a context subject to the District's control, and that District exercise substantial control over the harassed, it shall take appropriate action in light of the known harassment.

The District shall not directly discriminate on the basis of sex when addressing peer sexual harassment.

#### **Sexual Harassment by Students**

Students shall not engage in sexual harassment toward another student or a District employee. A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against a student shall result in disciplinary action. Sexual harassment by a student includes unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, whether by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.

#### **Sexual Harassment/Abuse by Employees**

District employees are prohibited for sexually harassing or sexually abusing students. Romantic relationships between students and employees are prohibited.

#### **Reporting Requirements**

Any District employee who receives information about sexual harassment or sexual abuse of a student that may reasonably be characterized as known or suspected child abuse or neglect shall make the reports to appropriate authorities, as required by law.

An employee who suspects or knows that a student is being sexually harassed or sexually abused by a school employee or by another student shall inform his or her principal, immediate supervisor, or designee.

#### **Investigations**

Any allegations of sexual harassment or sexual abuse of students shall be investigated and addressed. Any reports of sexual harassment that are not minor shall be referred to the principal or designee.

Oral complaints shall be reduced to writing to assist in the District's investigation. To the greatest extent possible, complaints shall be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

#### **Notice to Parents**

The District shall notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor. The district shall notify parents of any incident of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee. Notice shall include providing the parents with a copy of the Notice of Parent and Student Rights.

#### **Protection from Retaliation**

The District shall not retaliate against a student who in good faith reports perceived sexual harassment or sexual abuse.

#### **Complaint Process**

For the purpose of the following complaint process, "days" mean calendar days.

#### **Level One**

A student or parent who has a complaint alleging sexual harassment by other student(s) or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee may request a conference with the principal, or designee. The student may be accompanied by the parent or other advisor at the initial conference and throughout the complaint process. The initial conference with the student ordinarily shall be held with a person who is the same gender as the student. The conference shall be scheduled and held as soon as possible, but in any event within seven days of receipt of the complaint. At the conference, the persons bringing the complaint shall be informed of the right to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights.

The principal or designee shall coordinate an appropriate investigation, which ordinarily shall be completed within seven days of the initial conference. The student or parent shall be informed if extenuating circumstances delay the investigation.

Nothing in the complaint process shall have the effect of requiring a student alleging sexual harassment or sexual abuse to report the matter to a person who is the subject of the complaint.

#### **Level Two**

If the Resolution of the complaint at Level One is not to the student's or parent's satisfaction, the student or parent has seven days to request a conference with the Superintendent or designee, who shall schedule and hold a conference. Prior to or at the conference, the student or parent shall submit a written complaint that includes a statement of the complaint, any evidence in its support, the resolution sought, the student's and/or parent's signature, and the date of the conference with the principal or designee.

#### **Level Three**

If the resolution of the complaint at Level Two is not to the student's or parent's satisfaction, the student may present the complaint to the Board of Education at its next regular meeting. The complaint shall be included as an item on the agenda posted with the notice of the meeting. Announcing a decision in the student's or parent's presence constitutes communication of the decision.

**Closed Meeting** -The Board of Education shall hear complaints alleging sexual harassment by students or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by employees in closed meeting, unless otherwise required by the Open Meetings Act.

## Computer/Network/Internet APPROPRIATE USE POLICY

The purpose of district-provided, state-of-the-art computer network technology and/or World Wide Web Internet access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. Students' use of the network/Internet must be consistent with the educational goals of the Girard school district. Access is a privilege, not a right, and thus entails responsibility. It is expected that all USD 248 students will comply with this policy.

Students utilizing district-provided computer network and/or Internet access must have the permission of and must be supervised by district staff. The same general expectations for behavior and communications apply while utilizing district-provided network/Internet access as in a classroom or other area of the school.

Users should be aware that information stored on school-based computers/servers is not private. All content on school-based computers may be reviewed by administrators and staff to maintain system integrity and insure users are acting responsibly.

Users are responsible for adhering to the following general guidelines:

- The Internet will be used in support of education consistent with the policies of the district. Users agree not to intentionally access/transmit materials considered inappropriate, obscene/pornographic, or offensive.
- Users will respect the integrity of the computers and network system. The computer systems and settings are set up by the system administrator and are not to be altered.
- Users will respect the copyright licenses to programs, music, books, data, articles, photography, artwork, etc.
- Users will respect the rights and privacy of others and not gain unauthorized access to resources of others, vandalize the data of others, or bypass the Internet filtering (required by the Federal Children's Internet Protection Act – C.I.P.A) by use of proxy sites or any other means.
- It is the students' responsibility to safeguard their login/passwords to prevent unauthorized access.
- The computer network/Internet is not to be used for email, 'chat' areas, or gaming except for educational purposes and with instructor permission. Use of appropriate language which is not abusive, profane, or offensive is required.
- Personal (non-school owned) computers of any kind are not allowed access to the school network/Internet without permission from the school administration or technology staff.

Users are responsible for adhering to the following specific guidelines:

- Users will adhere to general printing and file-saving instructions.
- Users will use equipment with care and keep the lab/computer area clean and orderly.
- Users will use only software which has been assigned/approved by staff.
- Users will report equipment or software problems to a staff member.
- Users will leave all computer materials and equipment in place in the lab/computer area.
- Users will keep all food and drinks out of the lab/computer area.
- Users will not modify/change any hardware/software.

USD 248 makes no warranties of any kind for the computer network/Internet access it provides. The district is not responsible for any damages users suffer, including data loss or interruptions in service. The district will not be responsible for financial obligations resulting from district-provided access to the computer network and/or Internet.

Consequences:

Disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in accordance with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. Any violation of the above policy may result in loss of district-provided access to the computer network/Internet. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

I have read, and given my parents the opportunity to read, the Girard Computer/Network/Internet Appropriate Use Policy. I realize that I am responsible for my actions, and I understand the consequences for unacceptable behavior. With this statement that I have reviewed the above policy, I pledge my intent to follow the directives listed.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(student)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(parent)

**GAAF Emergency Safety Interventions (See JRB, JQ, JQA, and KN) GAAF**

The board of education is committed to limiting the use of Emergency Safety Interventions (“ESI”), such as seclusion and restraint, with all students. The board of education encourages all employees to utilize other behavioral management tools, including prevention techniques, de-escalation techniques, and positive behavioral intervention strategies.

This policy shall be made available on the district website with links to the policy available on any individual school pages. In addition, this policy shall be included in at least one of the following: each school’s code of conduct, school safety plan, or student handbook.

**Definitions (See K.A.R. 91-42-1)**

“Emergency Safety Intervention” is the use of seclusion or physical restraint when a student presents an immediate danger to self or others. Violent action that is destructive of property may necessitate the use of an emergency safety intervention.

“Seclusion” requires all three of the following conditions to be met: (1) the student is placed in an enclosed area by school personnel; (2) the student is purposefully isolated from adults and peers; and (3) the student is prevented from leaving, or reasonably believes that the student will be prevented from leaving, the enclosed area.

“Chemical Restraint” means the use of medication to control a student’s violent physical behavior or restrict a student’s freedom of movement.

“Mechanical Restraint” means any device or object used to limit a student’s movement.

“Physical Restraint” means bodily force used to substantially limit a student’s movement.

“Physical Escort” means the temporary touching or holding the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back of a student who is acting out for the purpose of inducing the student to walk to a safe location.

“Time-out” means a behavioral intervention in which a student is temporarily removed from a learning activity without being confined.

#### Prohibited Types of Restraint

All staff members are prohibited from engaging in the following actions with all students:

- Using face-down (prone) physical restraint;
- Using face-up (supine) physical restraint;
- Using physical restraint that obstructs the student’s airway;
- Using physical restraint that impacts a student’s primary mode of communication;
- Using chemical restraint, except as prescribed by a licensed healthcare professional for treatment of a medical or psychiatric condition; and

- Use of mechanical restraint, except:
  - Protective or stabilizing devices required by law or used in accordance with an order from a licensed healthcare professional;
  - Any device used by law enforcement officers to carry out law enforcement duties; or
  - Seatbelts and other safety equipment used to secure students during transportation.

#### Training

All staff members shall be trained regarding the use of positive behavioral intervention strategies, de-escalation techniques, and prevention techniques. Such training shall be consistent with nationally recognized training programs on the use of emergency safety interventions. The intensity of the training provided will depend upon the employee's position. Administrators, licensed staff members, and other staff deemed most likely to need to restrain a student will be provided more intense training than classified staff who do not work directly with students in the classroom. District and building administration shall make the determination of the intensity of training required by each position.

Each school building shall maintain documentation regarding the training that was provided and a list of participants.

#### Documentation

The principal or designee shall provide written notification to the student's parents any time that ESI is used with a student. Such notification must be provided within two (2) school days.

In addition, each building shall maintain documentation any time ESI is used with a student. Such documentation must include all of the following:

- Date and time of the intervention,
- Type of intervention,
- Length of time the intervention was used, and
- School personnel who participated in or supervised the intervention.

All such documentation shall be provided to the building principal, who shall be responsible for providing copies of such documentation to the superintendent on at least a biannual basis. At least once per school year, each building principal or designee shall review the documentation of ESI incidents with appropriate staff members to consider the appropriateness of the use of ESI in those instances.

#### Reporting Data

District administration shall report ESI data to the state department of education as required.

#### Local Dispute Resolution Process

The board of education encourages parents to attempt to resolve issues relating to the use of ESI informally with the building principal and/or the superintendent before filing a formal complaint

with the board. In the event that the complaint is resolved informally, the administrator must provide a written report of the informal resolution to the superintendent and the parents and retain a copy of the report at the school. The superintendent will share the informal resolution with the board of education and provide a copy to the state department of education.

If the issues are not resolved informally with the building principal and/or the superintendent, the parents may submit a formal written complaint to the board of education by providing a copy of the complaint to the clerk of the board and the superintendent.

Upon receipt of a formal written complaint, the board president shall assign an investigator to review the complaint and report findings to the board as a whole. Such investigation may be a board member, a school administrator, selected by the board, or a board attorney. Such investigator shall be informed of the obligation to maintain confidentiality of student records and shall report the findings and recommended action to the board in executive session.

Any such investigation must be completed within (30) days of receipt of the formal written complaint by the board clerk and superintendent. On or before the 30<sup>th</sup> day after receipt of the written complaint, the board shall adopt a report containing written findings of fact and, if necessary, appropriate corrective action. A copy of this report adopted by the board shall be provided to the parents, the school, and the state board of education.

Approved: KASB Recommendation – 6/13

## **CIVIL RIGHTS GUIDELINES:**

In compliance with the Executive Order 11246; Title II of the Education Amendments of 1976; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended by the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972; Title IX Regulation 30 Implementing Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and all other Federal, State school rules, laws, regulations and policies, the Girard Schools USD 248 shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, or handicap in the educational programs or activities which it operates. It is the intent of Girard Public Schools, USD #248 to comply with the letter and spirit of the law in making certain discrimination does not exist in its policies, regulations, and operations.

Grievance procedures, for Title IX and Section 504, have been established for students, their parents and employees who feel discrimination has been shown by the Girard Public Schools, USD #248. Specific complaints of alleged discrimination under Title IX (sex) and Section 504 (handicap) should be referred to:

Todd Ferguson, Superintendent/Coordinator  
415 North Summit, Girard, Kansas  
620-724-4325