



2017-18

Student Code of Conduct Handbook



Zeeland Public Schools  
Revised August, 2017

# **Student/Parent Handbook**

for

## ***ZEELAND PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL***

*Welcome to Zeeland High School. All the members of the staff are pleased to have you as a student and will do our best to help make your experience as productive and successful as you wish to make it.*

East:

Jessica Knoth, Principal

748-3101 [jknoth@zps.org](mailto:jknoth@zps.org)

Tim Ritsema, Athletic Director

748-3124 [tritsema@zps.org](mailto:tritsema@zps.org)

West:

Greg Eding, Principal

748-4501 [geding@zps.org](mailto:geding@zps.org)

Mark Werley, Athletic Director

748-4541 [mwerley@zps.org](mailto:mwerley@zps.org)

Campus Wide:

John Holwerda, Assistant Principal

748-4502 [jholwerd@zps.org](mailto:jholwerd@zps.org)

### ***FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS:***

East High School	748-3100	West High School	748-4500
East Attendance	748-3109	West Attendance	748-4510
East Athletics	748-3122	West Athletics	748-4540
East Guidance	748-3137	West Guidance	748-4515
East Security	748-3106	West Security	748-4507

### ***ZEELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT***

Food Service:	Luanne Wolting	748-3126	<a href="mailto:lwolting@zps.org">lwolting@zps.org</a>
Technology:	Mark Washington	748-4525	<a href="mailto:mwashing@zps.org">mwashing@zps.org</a>
Transportation:	Dave Meeuwsen	748-3425	<a href="mailto:dmeeuwse@zps.org">dmeeuwse@zps.org</a>

**Adopted by the Board of Education on June 18, 2012. REVISED 8/23/2017**  
**Portions of this handbook have utilized the NEOLA service as a source of policy and verbiage.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Equal Education Opportunity	2
Foreword	1
Homebound Instruction	5
Injury and Illness	5
Mission of the School	1
Parent Involvement	2
School Day	4
Student Rights and Responsibilities	4
Student Well-Being	5
<b>SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
Armed Forces Recruiting	12
Advertising Outside Activities	15
Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Disease and Pests	8
Control of Non Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases	9
Early Dismissal	6
Emergency Closings and Delays	14
Enrolling in the School	5
Emergency Medical Authorization	7
Fire, Lock Down, and Tornado Drills	13
Immunizations	7
Individuals with Disabilities	9
Limited English Proficiency	9
Lost and Found	15
Meal Service	13
Preparedness for Toxic and Asbestos Hazards	14
Review of Instructional Materials and Activities	13
Scheduling and Assignments	6
Student Fees, Fines, and Supplies	12
Student Fundraising	12
Student Sales	15
Student Records	9
Student Valuables	13
Transfer Out of the District	7
Use of Electronic Devices	15
Use of Media Center	14
Use of Medications	7
Use of School Equipment and Facilities	14
Visitors	14
Withdrawal from School	7

## **SECTION II - ACADEMICS**

Athletic Awards	19
College and Financial Aid Information	18
Computers, Technology and Networks	19
Course Offerings	16
Course Drop Policy	28
Dual Enrollment	19
Field Trips	16
Government Sites	19
Grades	16
Graduation Requirements	17
High School Programs	21
Homework	19
Promotion, Placement and Retention	17
Recognition of Student Achievement	19
Recommended College Preparatory Classes	18
Senior Exam Policy	18
Student Assessment	20
Student Change Policy	27
Testing-Out Process and Procedures	18
Top Seniors	19

## **SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

Athletics	23
Non School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities	23
School-Sponsored Clubs and Activities	22
Student Athlete Handbook	23
Student Employment	23

## **SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT**

Attendance Philosophy	24
Excessive Absences	24
Code of Conduct	26
Discipline	37
Due Process Rights	38
Explanation of Terms Applying to the Student Discipline Code	28
Excused Absences	24
Prearranged Absences	25
Prearranged College Visits	25
Reporting Student Absences	25
Search and Seizure	40
Student Attendance at School Events	26
Student Concerns, Suggestions, and Grievances	41

Student Discipline Code	28
Student Rights of Expression	40
Tardiness	25
Test Makeup and other Schoolwork for Excused Absences	26
Unexcused Absences	24
<b>SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION</b>	
Bus Rules	44
District Responsibilities	42
Parent Responsibilities	42
Student Crossing Procedures	44
Student Responsibilities	42
Transportation Board Policy	41
Transportation Responsibility	41

<b>NOTE:</b>	<p>This Student/Parent Handbook is based in significant part on policies adopted by the Board of Education and Administrative Guidelines developed by the Superintendent. Those Board Policies and Administrative Guidelines are incorporated by reference into the provisions of this Handbook. The Policies and Administrative Guidelines are periodically updated in response to changes in the law and other circumstances. Therefore, there may have been changes to the documents reviewed in this Handbook since it was printed in June, 2012. If you have questions or would like more information about a specific issue or document, contact your school principal, or access the document on the District's website: by clicking on <a href="http://neola.com/zeeland-mi">http://neola.com/zeeland-mi</a> and finding the specific policy or administrative guideline in the Table of Contents for that section.</p>
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## FORWARD

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal.

This handbook summarizes many of the official policies and administrative guidelines of the Board of Education and the District. To the extent that the handbook is ambiguous or conflicts with these policies and guidelines, the policies and guidelines shall control. This handbook is effective immediately and supersedes any prior handbook and other written material on the same subjects.

This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules as of May 21, 2012. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after May 21, 2012 the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

## MISSION OF THE SCHOOL

*Zeeland Public Schools, with family and community, prepare students for a lifetime of learning.*

### **BELIEF STATEMENTS**

*At Zeeland Public Schools, we believe in...*

#### **Committing to Achievement:**

1. By holding high expectations for all students and staff;
2. With challenging and relevant curriculum in all areas of school life;
3. By developing higher-level thinking and self-directed learners;
4. While celebrating success.

#### **Creating Effective Learning Environments:**

1. With safe and nurturing schools that encourage active participation by all;
2. By recognizing change as an opportunity for growth;
3. While providing the necessary resources in an efficient and responsible manner.

#### **Building Relationships:**

1. Through active engagement and cooperation among students, staff, families, and community;
2. While recognizing our community's pride in its schools, staff, and students.

## EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

It is the policy of this District to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin, while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer listed below:

Calvin DeKuiper  
Superintendent Zeeland Public Schools  
616-745-3002 / cdekuipe@zps.org

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedures as described in Board Policy 2260. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is very important to the success of our students. Please see the Districts Parent Involvement Policy 2112 at <http://neola.com/zeeland-mi> for more information regarding parent involvement.

1. **Parent-Teacher Communication** - The faculty and staff of Zeeland High School (ZHS) realize how important it is for parents to have current information about their student's progress. Therefore, we would like to outline the most effective ways of communicating with ZHS teachers:
  - a. **E-mail** - All ZHS teachers provide their e-mail addresses at the beginning of the school year. E-mail addresses are also available on the school web site or in the main office. In order to make certain there are no entry errors, please e-mail the teacher so they can save your correct address. Also, feel free to e-mail your questions throughout the school year. You can expect a response within a day. The staff directory is located on the ZPS webpage: [www.zps.org](http://www.zps.org), Serving Parents, Staff Directory.
  - b. **Parent Portal** - A web-based tool parents can use to view their student's information. It can be used from any PC connected to the Internet, is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is secure. Parents may view only the student information for their household and is easy to use. This is also a way to view your student's grades and attendance. Because of this it has become unnecessary to mail home report cards. Please contact your student's guidance counselor if there are questions in this matter. Simply click on the description for the information you would like to view. PARENT PORTAL is for you! To sign up for parent portal, visit [www.zps.org](http://www.zps.org), Serving Parents, and click on the Parent Portal option to fill out the application or stop by your student's school. If you are signed up but have problems viewing your student's information, please contact Barb VanGinhoven at 616.748.3023.
  - c. **Parent/Teacher Conference** - This is a chance to have a brief (5 minute) face to face contact with your student's teachers. Conferences take place in the teachers classrooms either.
  - d. **Personal Contact** - Please try to meet with your student's teachers during their planning time throughout the school year. These meetings need to be arranged in

advance, directly with the teacher. Times vary depending on the teacher's class schedule.

- e. **Telephone Calls / E-mails** - Feel free to call /E-mail your student's teacher. You can expect a response within 24 hours. A list of the staff's phone and e-mails can be found at the following link: <http://www.zps.org/adsearch/>

## 2. **Student/Parent – Teacher Communication**

- a. ***Make an Appointment*** – This shows the teacher that you are serious and that you respect and understand his/her schedule. Be on time and be flexible in terms of the appointment time.
- b. ***Bring other students with you*** – If you know there are fellow classmates that feel the same as you do about an issue, bring them with you. There is strength in numbers.
- c. ***Be Prepared!*** Make sure you think through what you want to say. Write down questions or concerns and have a copy for you and the teacher to use as a guide for the discussion.
- d. ***Choose your language carefully.*** Do not put others on the defensive. Use “I” statements and try to phrase concerns with sensitivity. For example, instead of saying, “Reports are a boring waste of time,” try, “Is there another way that I may satisfy the requirements of this assignment? May I do a video instead?”
- e. ***Suggest solutions.*** Do not go to the teacher with problems that you have no solutions for. Do not expect the teacher to come up with the answers. Offer solutions and recommend resources.
- f. ***Be diplomatic, respectful, and tactful.*** Teachers are PEOPLE with feelings just like you. Do not be confrontational.
- g. ***Focus on Your Need!*** Do not focus on what you think the teacher is doing wrong. The more the teacher knows you the more he/she will be willing and able to help. The more defensive a teacher feels, the less likely he/she will be to help you.
- h. ***Don't forget to LISTEN!*** The teacher will have something to say. Allow for open dialogue between you.
- i. ***Bring your sense of humor!*** Allow yourself to laugh at your own misunderstandings or mistakes.
- j. If the meeting was not the success you had hoped it would be, ***seek assistance from another adult*** – counselor, teacher, assistant principal, principal or anyone that you trust and who is likely to support you and advocate for you.

## SCHOOL DAY

<u>Monday-Friday</u>		<u>Two Hour Delay</u>		<u>Homeroom Day</u>		<u>Assembly Day</u>	
<b>1st Hour</b>		<b>1st Hour</b>		<b>1st Hour</b>		<b>1st Hour</b>	
7:45 - 8:43		9:45 - 10:23		7:45 - 8:32		7:45 - 8:34	
<b>2nd Hour</b>		<b>2nd Hour</b>		<b>2nd Hour</b>		<b>2nd Hour</b>	
8:51 - 9:51		10:31 - 11:11		8:40 - 9:27		8:42 - 9:33	
<b>3rd Hour</b>		<b>3rd Hour</b>		<b>3rd Hour</b>		<b>3rd Hour</b>	
9:59- 10:57		11:19 - 11:57		9:35 - 10:22		9:41 - 10:30	
<b>A Lunch</b>	<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>A Lunch</b>	<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>Homeroom Day</b>		<b>A Lunch</b>	<b>4th Hour</b>
10:57 - 11:27	11:05 - 12:03	11:57 - 12:27	12:05 - 12:43	10:30 - 11:30		10:30 - 11:00	10:38 -11:27
<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>B Lunch</b>	<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>B Lunch</b>	<b>A Lunch</b>	<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>B Lunch</b>
11:30 - 12:28	12:03- 12:33	12:30 -1 :08	12:43 - 1:13	11:30 - 12:00	11:38 -12:25	11:03 - 11:52	11:27 - 11:57
<b>5th Hour</b>		<b>5th Hour</b>		<b>4th Hour</b>	<b>B Lunch</b>	<b>5th Hour</b>	
12:36 - 1:34		1:16 - 1:54		12:03 - 12:50	12:25 - 12:55	12:00 - 12:49	
<b>6th Hour</b>		<b>6th Hour</b>		<b>5th Hour</b>		<b>6th Hour</b>	
1:42 - 2:40		2:02 - 2:40		12:58- 1:45		12:57 - 1:46	
				<b>6<sup>th</sup> Hour</b>		<b>Assembly</b>	
				1:54- 2:40		1:54- 2:40	

### STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The rules and procedures of the school are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students can expect their rights to freedom of expression and association and to fair treatment as long as they respect those rights for their fellow students and the staff. Students will be expected to follow teachers' directions and to obey all school rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure due process (a fair hearing) before a student is removed because of his/her behavior.
2. Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in school and will be provided information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arise. Many times it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, the mail or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. Parents are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

3. Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate in the educational program. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from their teachers or counselors. Note adult students (age eighteen (18) or older) must follow all school rules, as well as students that are residing at home should include their parents in their educational program.

### **STUDENT WELL-BEING**

1. Student safety is a responsibility of the staff. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire, lock down and tornado drills and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify any staff person immediately.
2. State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in the School office. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled.
3. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with proper documentation by a physician to the School Office.

### **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

1. All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures.
2. A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

### **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

1. The District shall arrange for individual instruction to students of legal school age who are not able to attend classes because of a physical or emotional disability.
2. Parents should contact the school administration regarding procedures for such instruction. Applications must be approved by our Special Education Director, Holly Boehle. The District will provide homebound instruction only for those confinements expected to last at least five (5) days.
3. Applications for individual instruction shall be made by a physician licensed to practice in this State, parent, student, or other caregiver. A physician must: certify the nature and existence of a medical condition; state the probable duration of the confinement; request such instruction; present evidence of the student's inability to participate in an educational program.

## **SECTION I - GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **ENROLLING IN THE SCHOOL**

1. In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides, unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy.

2. New students under the age of eighteen (18) must be enrolled by their parent or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents must provide copies of the following:
  - a. an original birth certificate or similar document,
  - b. court papers allocating parental rights and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate),
  - c. proof of residency, or school of choice,
  - d. proof of immunizations,
  - e. enrollment packet and/or transcripts from previous school
3. Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.
4. Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. Our guidance department will assist in obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.
5. Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the direction of the District Liaison for Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.
6. New students eighteen (18) years of age or older are not required to be accompanied by a parent when enrolling. When residing with a parent, these students are encouraged to include the parents in the enrollment process. When conducting themselves in school, adult students have the responsibilities of both student and parent.
7. A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Michigan may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for a hearing to review the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

### **SCHEDULING AND ASSIGNMENT**

1. Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs and available class space. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled through the guidance department. Students may be denied course enrollment due to a lack of available space or the need to pass prerequisites. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation should be approved with a pass or schedule change.
2. Foreign students and foreign-exchange students (from recognized and approved student programs) are eligible for admission on the same basis as other non-resident students.

### **EARLY DISMISSAL**

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without the student signing out in the office and school officials getting permission from the student's parent or guardian. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) without written permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

### **TRANSFER OUT OF THE DISTRICT**

1. Parents must notify the guidance department about plans to transfer their child to another school. Transfer will be authorized only after the student has completed the arrangements, returned all school materials, and paid any fees or fines that are due. School records, may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact the guidance department for specific details.
2. School officials, when transferring student records, are required to transmit disciplinary records including suspension and expulsion actions against the student.

### **WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without the written consent of his/her parents.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waivers, the principal may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the building principal.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION**

1. The Board has established a policy that every student must have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form completed and signed by his/her parent in order to participate in any activity off school grounds. This includes field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extra-curricular activities, and co-curricular activities.
2. The Emergency Medical Authorization Form is provided at the time of enrollment and at the beginning of each year. Failure to return the completed form to the school will jeopardize a student's educational program.

### **USE OF MEDICATIONS**

1. In those circumstances where a student must take a prescribed medication during the school day, the following guidelines are to be observed:

- a. Parents should, with their physician's counsel, determine whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.
  - b. The Medication Request and Authorization Form 5330 F1, F1a, F1b, and F1c must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours.
  - c. All medications must be registered with the principal's office.
  - d. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured.
    - i. Medication may be conveyed to school directly by the parent or transported by transportation personnel (bus driver and/or bus aide) at parental request. This should be arranged in advance. A two to four (2-4) week supply of medication is recommended.
    - ii. Medication MAY NOT be sent to school in a student's lunch box, pocket, or other means on or about his/her person, except for emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions.
    - iii. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of a school year.
    - iv. The parents shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time, and the child has the responsibility for both presenting himself/herself on time and for taking the prescribed medication.
    - v. A log for each prescribed medication shall be maintained which will note the personnel giving the medication, the date, and the time of day. This log will be maintained along with the physician's written instructions and the parent's written permission release.
2. **Asthma Inhalers and Epi-pens** - Students, with appropriate written permission from the physician and parent, may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms. Epinephrine (Epi-pen) is administered only in accordance with a written medication administration plan developed by the school principal and updated annually.
  3. **Nonprescribed (Over-the-Counter) Medications** - Note: Zeeland Public Schools does not claim to give medical advice in regards to allowing students to take over the counter medications. Therefore, the school will side on the conservative position of requiring that all students must have a physician's prescription or order in order to allow students to take non-prescription medication at school.
  4. If a student is found using or possessing a nonprescribed medication without parent authorization, s/he will be brought to the school office and the parents will be contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until authorization is received.
  5. Any student who distributes a medication of any kind to another student or is found to possess a medication other than the one authorized is in violation of the school's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.
  6. Before any prescribed medication or treatment may be administered to any student during school hours, the Board shall require the written prescription and instructions from the child's physician accompanied by the written authorization of the parent. Both must also authorize any self-medication by the student. Before any nonprescribed medication or treatment may be administered, the Board shall require the prior written consent of the parent along with a waiver of any liability of the District for the administration of the medication. The parent must also authorize any self-medication by his/her child.

## CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PESTS

1. Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.
2. Specific diseases include; diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.
3. Any removal will only be for the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines.

### **CONTROL OF NONCASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

1. In the case of noncasual-contact, communicable-diseases, the school still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. The school will seek to keep students and staff persons in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.
2. Non casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex (condition), HIV (Human-immunodeficiency), HAV, HBV, HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C); and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.
3. As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at school and students or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.
4. Non casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex (condition), HIV (Human-immunodeficiency), HAV, HBV, HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C); and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.
5. As required by Federal law, parents will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at school and students' or staff members have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

1. The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.
2. A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact our district's Special Education director, Holly Boehle at [hboehle@zps.org](mailto:hboehle@zps.org) or at 748-3012 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

### **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extra-curricular programs of the District. It is, therefore the policy of this District

that those students identified as having limited English proficiency will be provided additional support and instruction to assist them in gaining English proficiency and in accessing the educational and extra-curricular program offered by the District. Parents should contact Rachel Trobridge at [rtrobrid@zps.org](mailto:rtrobrid@zps.org) to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs offered by the District.

## STUDENT RECORDS

1. The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information.
2. Neither the Board nor its employee's shall permit the release of the social security number of a student, or other individual except as authorized by law (see AG 8350). Documents containing social security numbers shall be restricted to those employees who have a need to know that information or a need to access those documents. When documents containing social security numbers are no longer needed, they shall be shredded by an employee who has authorized access to such records.
3. Directory information: Each year the Board will provide public notice to students and their parents of its intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information". The Board designates as student "directory information":
  - a. A student's name
  - b. Address
  - c. Telephone number
  - d. Date and place of birth
  - e. Photograph
  - f. Major field of study
  - g. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
  - h. Height if member of an athletic team
  - i. Weight, if member of an athletic team which requires disclosure to participate
  - j. Dates of attendance
  - k. Date of graduation
  - l. Awards received
  - m. Honor rolls
  - n. Scholarships
  - o. Telephone numbers for inclusion in school or PTO directories
  - p. School photographs or videos of students participating in school activities, events or programs.

Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the District to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the District within ten (10) days after receipt of the District's public notice. The District may disclose "directory information" on former students without student or parental consent. Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may wish to consult the Board's policy 8330 at <http://neola.com/zeeland-mi>. Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by (FERPA) and Michigan law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside

individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parents, or the adult student, as well as those individuals who have matriculated and entered a postsecondary educational institution at any age.

4. Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.
5. Students and parents have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the building principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.
6. Parents and adult students have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student's privacy. A parent or adult student must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be informed of their right to a hearing on the matter.
7. Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the District has violated FERPA.
8. Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, his/her parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:
  - a. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or his/her parents;
  - b. mental or psychological problems of the student or his/her family;
  - c. sex behavior or attitudes;
  - d. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
  - e. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
  - f. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  - g. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or his/her parents; or
  - h. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).
9. Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, the Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.
10. Further, parents have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.
11. The Superintendent will provide notice directly to parents of students enrolled in the District of the substantive content of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in this policy. In addition, the Superintendent is directed to notify parents of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:
  - a. Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information for otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and

- b. The administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.
12. The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents and/or eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpc)

13. Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:

FERPA@ED.Gov; and  
PPRA@ED.Gov.

### **ARMED FORCES RECRUITING**

1. The School must provide at least the same access to the high school campus and to student directory information as is provided to other entities offering educational or employment opportunities to those students. "Armed forces" means the armed forces of the United States and their reserve components and the United States Coast Guard.
2. If a student or the parent or legal guardian of a student submits a signed, written request (Form 8330 F13) to the Board that indicates that the student or the parent or legal guardian does not want the student's directory information to be accessible to official recruiting representatives then the school officials of the school shall not allow that access to the student's directory information.
3. The Board shall ensure that students and parents and guardians are notified of the provisions of the opportunity to deny release of Directory information. Public notice shall be given regarding right to refuse disclosure to any or all "directory information" including in the armed forces of the United States and the service academies of the armed forces of the United States.
4. Annually the Board will notify male students age eighteen (18) or older that they are required to register for the selective service.

### **STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND SUPPLIES**

1. Zeeland Public Schools charges specific fees for some noncurricular activities and programs. Such fees or charges are determined by the cost of materials, freight/handling fees, and add-on fees for loss or damage to school property. The school and staff do not make a profit.
2. The District will provide all basic supplies needed to complete the required course curriculum. The student and/or his/her family may choose to purchase their own supplies if they desire to have a greater quantity or quality of supplies, or desire to help conserve the limited resources for use by others. The teacher or appropriate administrator may recommend useful supplies for these purposes. (See Policy 6152)
3. Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship.
4. Students using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. The fine will be used to pay for the damage, not to make a profit.

5. Late fines can be avoided when students return borrowed materials promptly. Their use may be needed by others.
6. Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of grades and credits.

### **STUDENT FUNDRAISING**

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities will be allowed to solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules will apply to all fund-raisers.

1. Students involved in the fund-raiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
2. Students must not participate in a fund-raising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the student's counselor.
3. Students may not participate in fund-raising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
4. Students who engage in fund raisers that require them to exert themselves physically beyond their normal pattern of activity, such as "runs for ....", will be monitored by a staff member in order to prevent a student from over-extending himself/herself to the point of potential harm.
5. Students may not participate in a fund-raising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the Principal.

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School cannot be responsible for their safe-keeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

### **REVIEW OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES**

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in the school. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the principal prior to coming to the School. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

### **MEAL SERVICE**

1. The Board believes the development of healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating cannot be accomplished by the District alone. It will be necessary for the school staff, in addition to parents and the public at large, to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits. Parents interested in being involved should contact our food service at 748-3128.
2. The school participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee. Ala carte items are available. Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the school's cafeteria. No students, except for seniors shall be allowed to leave school premises during the lunch period without specific written/verbal permission granted by the principal.

3. Applications for the school's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program are distributed to all students. If a student does not receive one and believes that s/he is eligible, contact our food service at 748-3128 or see the main office for an application.

### **FIRE, LOCK DOWN AND TORNADO DRILLS**

1. The school complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building. The alarm signal for fire drills consists of fire alarms and lights.
2. Tornado drills will be conducted during the tornado season using the procedures provided by the State. The alarm signal for tornadoes is different from the alarm signal for fires and lock down drills and consists of a verbal explanation via the intercom system.
3. Lock down drills in which the students are restricted to the interior of the school building and the building secured will occur a minimum of two (2) times each school year. The alarm system for a school lock down is different from the alarm system for fires and tornadoes and consists of verbal instructions via the intercom.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND DELAYS**

1. If the school must be closed, or the opening delayed, because of inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify the following radio and television stations: WHTC - AM (1450), WJQ - FM (99.3), WOOD - AM (1300). All information should be available by 6:00 a.m. This information can also be accessed via our website at [www.zps.org](http://www.zps.org). Parents and students are responsible for checking available resources for information on emergency closings or delays.
2. Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

### **PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC AND ASBESTOS HAZARDS**

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's *Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy* and asbestos management plan will be made available for inspection at the Board offices upon request.

### **VISITORS**

1. Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome at the school. In order to properly monitor the safety of students and staff, each visitor must report to the office upon entering the school to obtain a pass. Any visitor found in the building without a pass shall be reported to the principal. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, s/he should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School, in order to schedule a mutually convenient time.
2. Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

### **USE OF THE MEDIA CENTER**

The library is available to students throughout the school day. Passes may be obtained from a student's teacher or from the librarian. Books on the shelves may be checked out for a period of three (3) weeks. To check out any other materials, contact the librarian.

### **USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

Students must receive the permission of the teacher before using any equipment or materials in the classroom and the permission of the Principal to use any other school equipment or facility. Students will be held responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

The lost and found area is in the main office. Students who have lost items should check there and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity at the close of each semester.

### **STUDENT SALES**

No student is permitted to sell any item or service in school without the approval of the building principal. Violation of this may lead to disciplinary action.

### **USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

#### **Statement on Student Technology:**

Zeeland Public Schools encourages the use of student technology when that use enhances the educational experiences of our students. Zeeland Public Schools discourages the use of student technology when that use distracts the user from the classroom experience, disrupts the educational experience of others, or compromises the integrity of the classroom. Students and parents should also be aware that electronic items are often targeted for theft.

1. Electronic devices such as, but not limited to, Cell Phones/Radios/Recorders CD/DVD/ and MP-3 players, are allowed to be used by students in common areas of the school buildings and grounds; before or after school, between classes, and during lunch times. ***Students may not use electronic devices in restrooms or locker rooms for any reason.*** Electronic devices must be turned off prior to entering class and may be confiscated if they are being used without permission of the teachers during scheduled class time, disrupt normal school business and/or instruction, or as deemed necessary by school personnel. Electronic devices may be used in the classroom with permission of the class instructor. Prior approval from the instructor must be given for a student to use any electronic device during class time and is at the sole discretion of the instructor.
2. **iPads** - Please consult your iPad policies and procedures manual for questions concerning the use and care of the iPad. Students are responsible for the care and all information acquired and stored on the iPad, while in their possession. While games, music, videos, and sound use are allowed in school; students are **not** allowed to play music or videos out loud anywhere on campus without permission from a teacher or administrator. Please refer to our ZPS Parent and Student iPad Handbook for more information: [ipad Handbook](#)

### **ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the principal. The principal will try to respond to requests for approval within twenty-four (24) hours of their receipt. The school has a central bulletin board located in the main hall which may be used for posting notices after receiving permission from the principal.

## SECTION II - ACADEMICS

### COURSE OFFERINGS

For a complete list off all our class offerings, please visit <http://sites.zps.org/counseling> and select “Curriculum Guide”.

### FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extra-curricular program. No student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent. Attendance rules apply to all field trips.

### GRADES

1. Zeeland High School has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that may indicate work in progress or incomplete work. The purpose of a grade is to indicate the extent to which the student has acquired the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas in determining a grade and will so inform the students at the beginning of the course work. If a student is not sure how his/her grade will be determined, s/he should ask the teacher.
2. The school uses the following grading system:

A	100-93.50	C	76.49-72.50
A-	93.49-89.50	C-	72.49-69.50
B+	89.49-86.50	D+	69.49-66.50
B	86.49-82.50	D	66.49-62.50
B-	82.49-79.50	D-	62.49-59.50
C+	79.49-76.50	F	59.49 and below

3. **Weighted-Grading/Advanced Placement** - Zeeland High School offers a number of advanced academic programs. The purpose of these programs is to provide challenging college preparatory programs for students. In recognition of the rigorous academic standards that Advanced Placement courses represent, one bonus point will be added to a student’s grade: A = 5.0, B = 4.0, C = 3.0, D = 2.0, F = 0.0
4. **Grade Point Average** - To calculate a grade point average (GPA), assign a weighted point value to each course grade and divide by the total number of credits. For partial-credit

courses use the fractional value of the grade. For example, a half credit course with an earned grade of C would be  $.5 \times 2 = 1$ . Then add this to the other grades earned for total points earned. This total is then divided by the total credits earned for the GPA. This can be done by grading period, semester, year, or for a series of school years.

5. **Grading Periods** - Students shall receive information via Infinite Campus for progress reports (every 4.5 weeks) and report cards (every 9 weeks) indicating their grades for each course of study for that portion of the academic term. Please refer to the parent portal in Infinite Campus for these postings.
6. When a student appears to be at risk of failure, notification will be provided to the parents so they can talk with the teacher about what actions can be taken to improve poor grades.

### **PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND RETENTION**

1. A student's progress toward graduation and receiving a diploma is determined by completing required coursework, earning the necessary credits and taking the State mandated tests. A student is only promoted when the necessary requirements are met or the student has completed the goals and objectives of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or in a personal curriculum. It is the student's responsibility to keep in contact with his/her counselor and teachers to ensure that all requirements are being met. Information about credit and course requirements is available in the Guidance Office and a counselor will be pleased to answer any questions.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Normally, a student will complete graduation requirements in four (4) years. In order to receive a diploma and graduate, a student will need to meet the school requirements for basic course work, and earn the total number of minimum credits. A student enrolled in special education may have modifications to the required curriculum and/or state mandated tests. Such an exemption is made by the IEPC Team. The student may still need to earn the required credits indicated by the IEP or in a personal curriculum. For more information about the different methods by which credits can be earned, refer to Policy 5460 in the Board Policy manual, a copy of which is accessible electronically at <http://neola.com/zeeland-mi>.
2. A minimal total of 22 credits are to be successfully completed in grades 9 through 12. All students are encouraged to exceed this minimum. Of the credits needed for graduation, 4 may be elected; the other 18 are required. The required credits are as follows:

<b><u>English Language Arts</u></b>	<i>4 credits</i>
1.0 Credit of English 9	
1.0 Credit of English 10	
1.0 Credit of English 11	
1.0 Credit of English 12	

<b><u>Social Studies</u></b>	<i>3 credits</i>
1.0 Credit of Civics/Economics	
1.0 Credit of US History	
1.0 Credit of World History	

<b><u>Mathematics</u></b>	<i>4 credits</i>
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- 1.0 Credit of Geometry
- 1.0 Credit of Algebra 1
- 1.0 Credit of Algebra 2
- 1.0 Additional Math or Math related credit taken in the senior year

**Science** *3 credits*

- 1.0 Credit of Biology
- 1.0 Credit of Physics or Chemistry
- 1.0 Credit of Science Elective

**Applied, Performing or Visual Arts** *1 credit*

**Physical Education/Health** *1 credit*

- .5 Credit in PE 9/Health
- .5 Credit in PE Elective

**World Language** *2 credits*

*\*One semester class = .5 credit*

*One year class = 1 credit*

\*Graduation requirements will be changing for the class of 2021 in science.

- Biology in 9th grade
- Chemistry in 10th grade
- Geophysical Science in 11th grade

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) allows for a small number of alterations to graduation requirements, agreed upon by the school, parent(s), and student. These alterations are known as a Personal Curriculum (PC) and are designed to enhance a student's overall educational experience. Information can be found in the Curriculum Guide at <http://sites.zps.org/counseling> or by speaking with a guidance counselor.

**RECOMMENDED COLLEGE PREPARATORY CLASSES**

These recommendations are designed to assist high school students in selecting courses of study during grades 9-12 which will prepare them for academic success at a college or university. High school students who satisfactorily complete the course program outlined below and acquire the requisite skills will greatly increase their chances for success at a university or college.

1. **Recommended Courses of Study by the Michigan Universities President's Council:**
  - a. **English** (4 years)
  - b. **Mathematics** (4 years)
  - c. **Biological and Physical Sciences** (3-4 years)
  - d. **Social Sciences/History** (3-4 years)
  - e. **World Languages** (2-3 years)
  - f. **Performing, Visual or Applied Arts** (1 year)
  - g. **Physical Education/Health** (1 year)

## **SENIOR EXAM POLICY**

If a senior meets the following criteria in the second semester of their senior year, they may be exempt from taking the final exam. It is up to each individual teacher whether or not to offer this policy.

1. A maximum of 5 absences per class for the semester. This includes both excused and unexcused absences.
2. If a B average or above is maintained for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in that class.

## **TESTING-OUT PROCESS AND PROCEDURES**

Students who desire to test out of a class must file a test out request with the Counseling Office by the published deadline in April. Please see your counselor for more information.

## **COLLEGE AND FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

See the Zeeland High Schools Counseling website <http://counseling.zps.org> for more information regarding colleges and financial aid.

## **GOVERNMENT SITES**

Michigan Department of Education <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>

U.S. Department of Education <http://www.ed.gov>

Explore careers, find a job <http://www.mitalent.org>

## **DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Any student may enroll in a postsecondary program providing s/he meets the requirements established by law and by the District. Any interested student should contact their guidance counselor to obtain the necessary information.

## **RECOGNITION OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

1. Students who have displayed significant achievements during the course of the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include but are not limited to academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship, and volunteerism. Recognition for such activities is initiated by the staff and coordinated by the building principal.
2. At the conclusion of each semester, students who have received a 3.5 grade point average or above, will be placed on the honor roll and receive a special certificate. The grade point average is based on the final semester grade in each class. Students must be a full time student to qualify. Pins are awarded for additional academic years. Wearing a gold honor cord at graduation recognizes seniors who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and above after the 7<sup>th</sup> semester.

## **TOP SENIORS**

At the completion of the 7<sup>th</sup> semester, the cumulative grade point averages will determine class rank. The top seniors will be honored for their accomplishments.

## **ATHLETIC AWARDS**

Requirements for athletic awards are developed by each head coach with the approval of the Athletic Director. These requirements will be reviewed with interested students by the appropriate coach.

## HOMework

The assignment of homework can be expected. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for the State mandated test and graduation. Homework will not generally be used for disciplinary reasons but only to enhance the student's learning.

## COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

At Zeeland High School, student access to Computer Information Technology is provided to assist in each students' educational growth and aid student, teacher, and parent communication. Further information is available in the Parent and Student iPad Handbook which can be viewed at [iLearn@zps.org](mailto:iLearn@zps.org)

The following are expectations of all Zeeland High School Computer Information Technology users:

1. Will only utilize technology in the school that facilitates learning and promotes educational information exchange consistent with the goals of ZHS.
2. Will adhere to any established classroom rules and obtain permission where and when it is required.
3. Will refrain from malicious use of technology resources to disrupt computer use by others or to harass or discriminate against others.
4. Will report any observed misuse of Computer Information Technology to the supervising teacher or an assistant principal.
5. Will respect the privacy and use privileges of others on this campus and for sites accessible through the network.
6. Will not intentionally seek information, modify files or data, and obtain passwords or anything else with malicious intent or with the intent to breach the privacy of another user or infiltrate unauthorized computer systems.
7. Be responsible for all material received via the Internet including any inappropriate material such as pornography, malicious software or inappropriate files.
8. Will properly use hardware and software and will report existing or created problems to someone in authority.
9. Will adhere to copyright guidelines in the use of hardware and software and in the transmission or copying of files, or information on the Internet to and/or from other sources.
10. Be aware that their data or e-mail files **are not private** and are subject to review when deemed necessary.
11. Will obtain permission from a school official before accessing an outside e-mail account for the sole purpose of sending/receiving school related information.
12. Will log onto the Network using only their personal ZEHS/ZWHS e-mail account.

13. Will be responsible for the use of their accounts and access privileges and are prohibited from publishing or discussing passwords or leaving accounts unattended.
14. Will not attempt to use, harm or destroy another user's account, or any information on another user's account.
15. Will be held responsible for the use of her/his account and/or access privilege. Any problems that arise from the use of a student account are the responsibility of the account holder.

A violation of the Technology Use Policy may result in consequences. These consequences might include: a short-term or long-term loss of all computer privileges; an In School or Out of School Suspension; or being dropped from a class. Extreme violations may result in expulsion. Please see the Administrative Guidelines 7540.03 at <http://neola.com/zeeland-mi>.

### **STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

1. **MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM – No Cost, given mid-April**  
Purpose: The MME is the state assessment administered to all students enrolled in grade 11 and is a requirement for graduation from Zeeland High Schools. The MME consists of three major components: the SAT college entrance examination, the WorkKeys job skills assessments in reading, mathematics, and locating information, and M-STEP summative assessments in science and social studies. The combined MME assessment measures student proficiency of the Michigan high school standards, benchmarks, and core content expectations.
2. Additional group tests are given to students to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These tests are used to help the staff determine instructional needs.
3. Classroom tests will be used to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess how well the students have achieved specific objectives.
4. Any high school student who wishes to test-out of a course in which s/he is not enrolled may do so by taking a cumulative exam for the course and receiving a grade of at least C+ or by demonstrating mastery of the subject matter as determined by the assessment used in lieu of a final examination. Credit for a course earned by a student through this process may be used to fulfill a course or course-sequence requirement.
5. Students may receive credit toward high school graduation who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State mandated curriculum requirement, provided the course meets the same content requirements as the high school course, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.
6. Vocational and interest surveys may be given to identify particular areas of student interest or talent. These are often given by the guidance staff.
7. If necessary, intelligence tests, speech and language evaluations, individually administered achievement tests, and other special testing services are available to student's needing these services.
8. Students will not be required, as part of the school program or District curriculum, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information of a personal nature in accordance with Board policy and Federal guidelines.
9. Depending on the type of testing and specific information requested, parent (or student) consent may need to be obtained. Zeeland High School will not violate the rights of consent and privacy of a student participating in any form of evaluation.
10. College entrance testing information can be obtained from the Guidance Office.

## HIGH SCHOOL AP PROGRAMS

1. Zeeland High School offers a number of advanced academic programs. The purpose of these course offerings is to provide challenging, thought-provoking, college preparatory programs for students who are capable and desirous of exploring a subject area in greater depth and at an accelerated pace. Students enrolled in these advanced academic programs also have the opportunity to prepare themselves to participate in the “Advanced Placement” (AP) program of the College Board. The AP program enables capable students to take an AP examination in May each year that may grant them college credit. These exams are administered through the local high school, and the exam fee is paid by the student.
2. Descriptions of these advanced academic courses are included in the course description guide under each department heading. Zeeland High School offers AP courses in the following departments:
  - English: AP English Literature
  - English: AP English Language
  - Language: AP Spanish Language
  - Social Studies: AP Macro & Micro Economics
  - Social Studies: AP United States History
  - Social Studies: AP World History
  - Social Studies : AP Government
  - Social Studies: AP Psychology
  - Mathematics: AP Calculus
  - Mathematics: AP Statistics
  - Music: AP Music Theory
  - Science: AP Biology
  - Science: AP Environmental Science
  - Science: AP Physics 1
  - Science: AP Chemistry
  - Art: AP Art
3. **Enrollment in AP courses** - Students planning to enroll in these advanced academic courses in the future should follow the recommended sequences of courses listed in the appropriate departmental course listings. Questions regarding the advanced academic program should be directed to the counseling department. A student’s grade point average and rank in class will be affected by taking Advanced Placement courses.
4. **Rigorous Academic Schedule** - Despite early acceptance into colleges, most universities expect students to continue with a rigorous schedule through the second semester of their senior year. A recent study by the U.S. Department of Education found that participation in rigorous, college-level courses such as AP courses was the best indicator of whether a student would successfully complete a bachelor’s degree.
  - a. 45% of students who have taken an AP course, 61% of students who have taken two AP courses and 78% taking 3 or more AP’s are completing their bachelor’s degrees in four years or less.
  - b. Only 29% of students who enroll in colleges without having taken AP are completing their bachelor’s degrees on schedule.
  - c. 60% of all recent high school graduates entering a community college last year needed to take at least one remedial course at the community college.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY**

Because the courses a student selects dictate the classes offered and the staff hired to teach those classes each year, students are only allowed to request a change to their schedule for a very limited number of reasons. Students should only see their counselor about their schedule during registration for the following situations:

- The student does not have six classes listed on his/her schedule.
- The student is missing a class required for graduation.
- The counselor indicated that he/she would like to meet with the student to discuss the schedule.
- The student signed up for a Tech Center program in the spring and no longer plans to attend.
- The student is requesting a change of an elective class. (Please note: Many classes do fill up, and this may not be a possibility.)

The following reasons are NOT grounds for requesting a schedule change:

- The student does not want to travel to the other high school.
- The student wants/does not want a specific teacher.
- The student wants a particular lunch period.

All schedule changes must be completed by the end of the 5th full school day each semester. Only staff initiated schedule changes will be considered after this 5-day period. This gives students more than enough time to experience the course, review the course syllabi, get advisement from their teacher/counselor, and understand the rigor and demands of the course.

Second semester schedule changes are even more limited. If requesting to change a core academic (English, math, science, social studies, foreign language) class at semester, students must complete a "Schedule Change Request Form" available in the Counseling Office. Submitting this form by the established deadline does not guarantee a schedule change – only that the request will be reviewed.

## **COURSE DROP POLICY**

All students are expected to maintain a full schedule of six courses. However, under rare circumstances, where a medical condition would warrant dropping a course or reducing a schedule, documentation from a medical doctor (MD) will be required. Students who drop for a medical reason may be given a WP (withdrawal pass) on their transcript. Students dropping a course, for any other reason beyond medical or changing schools, will receive a WF (withdrawal fail).

## **SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Zeeland High School provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A student's use of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's extracurricular participation. The Board authorizes many student

groups that are sponsored by a staff member. Please contact main office at either building for a current list of clubs.

All clubs follow the same guidelines spelled out in the athletic code.

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements.

### **NONSCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

1. Nonschool-sponsored student groups organized for religious, political, or philosophical reasons may meet during noninstructional hours. The application for permission can be obtained from the principal. The applicant must verify that the activity is being initiated by students, that attendance is voluntary, that no school staff person is actively involved in the event, that the event will not interfere with school activities and that nonschool persons do not play a regular role in the event. All school rules will still apply regarding behavior and equal opportunity to participate.
2. Membership in any fraternity, sorority, or any other secret society as proscribed by law is not permitted. All groups must comply with School rules and must provide equal opportunity to participate.
3. No nondistrict-sponsored organization may use the name of the school or school mascot.

### **ATHLETICS**

Zeeland High School provides a variety of athletic activities in which students may participate providing they meet any eligibility requirements that may apply. A student's use of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and participation. For further information, contact the Athletic Director.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK**

The rules governing interscholastic athletes and co-curricular participants are set forth in the Athletic Code of Conduct. The rules are in addition to the rules established in the Student Code of Conduct. The rules governing athletes begin at the time a student enrolls in middle school and high school and apply until the student athlete graduates. Athletic participation is a privilege, not a right. Student athletes are required to conform to athletic policies throughout their middle school and high school career to promote the philosophies consistent with our mission. A student may be disciplined for violation of the Student Code of Conduct and Athletic Code of Conduct Handbook arising out of the same incident. The responsibility for the enforcement of the Athletic code of Conduct rests with the coaches of the various teams, subject to the authority of building administrators and the Board of Education. Coaches are responsible for reviewing the Athletic Code of Conduct with the student athletes. The student will be required to sign a statement indicating that he/she is familiar with the athletic code of conduct before the season begins. For a list of available sports, the rules of eligibility, physical forms, or to view the athletic code of conduct, please refer to the appropriate athletic web site:

Zeeland East Athletic Web site: [www.zeelandeastports.com](http://www.zeelandeastports.com) or Zeeland West Athletic Web site: [www.zeelandwestports.com](http://www.zeelandwestports.com)

### **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

The school does not encourage students to take jobs outside of school that could interfere with their success in school. If a student believes that s/he must maintain a job in addition to going to

school, s/he must first make contact with his/her counselor to discuss any legal requirements and obtain any needed documents.

## **SECTION IV - STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **ATTENDANCE PHILOSOPHY**

Zeeland High School takes the position that for a student to progress in school, regular attendance is essential. The Michigan School Code states that it is the responsibility of parents to insure that their children regularly attend school until the age of 18. Zeeland High School seeks to develop students academically and socially and prepare them to be responsible in their adult lives. A crucial component of the student's success in high school is daily attendance. Absences, regardless of the reason, negatively impact the student's ability to master the subject matter, to receive direct instruction from teachers, and to participate in the exchange of ideas with other students.

#### **EXCESSIVE ABSENCES/TARDIES**

##### **ABSENCES**

**TIER 1 - Attendance Support for all students**

The main office at each building will run attendance reports every 2 weeks and determine what Tier of support will be provided to the student. All medical-related notes (ie: doctor, dentist, court related, etc. ) will not be counted toward their attendance absences. Main office staff and/or administration from each building will contact parents each time their student is unexcused from a class. Students will be referred to their home SRC (Steve Harrington at East and Dawn Post at West) once they reach 6 unexcused absences, in any one or more classes, per semester. In SRC, the student will complete an attendance behavior plan and will work with SRC to resolve the attendance concerns.

Students marked as Miscellaneous Approved (MA) will be followed up after 6 accumulated absences in any one class. Followed up action may include parent contact with the possible request for documentation for the absence.

**TIER 2 - Targeted Attendance Support**

Students who are unable to change their attendance behavior after Tier 1 interventions and reach 9 unexcused absences, in any one or more classes, per semester will be referred to the Dean of Students (Katie Howard at East and Rich Bouvier at West). The Deans will determine necessary action to resolve the attendance concerns.

**TIER 3 - Intensive Attendance Support**

Students who have chronic unexcused attendance behavior and reach 12 unexcused absences, in any one or more classes, per semester will be referred to the Assistant Principal (John Holwerda at both East and West). The Assistant Principal will review the case and determine the necessary actions to resolve the attendance concerns.

## **TARDIES**

### **TIER 1 - Tardy Support for all students**

Students will be referred to their home SRC (Steve Harrington at East and Dawn Post at West) once they reach 6 unexcused tardies per semester in a class. In SRC, the student will complete a tardy plan and will work with SRC to resolve the problem behavior.

### **TIER 2 - Targeted Tardy Support**

Students who accumulate 9 unexcused tardies per semester will be referred to the Dean of Students (Katie Howard at East and Rich Bouvier at West). The Deans will determine necessary action to resolve the problem behavior.

### **TIER 3 - Intensive Tardy Support**

Students who accumulate 12 unexcused tardies per semester will be referred to the Assistant Principal (John Holwerda at both East and West). The Assistant Principal will review the case and determine the necessary actions to resolve the problem behavior.

## **PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES**

If a student will be absent for more than 3 days, a pre-arranged absence form must be completed. Applications must be completed one week prior to the absence. Forms are available in the Attendance Office. Assignments are to be made up in advance or completed to each teacher's satisfaction. Each classroom teacher, plus an administrator and a parent must sign the form. Before taking your son/daughter out of school please be aware of the following information: All work is to be made up upon the student's return unless other arrangements are made. Any quizzes, tests, or exams are to be completed upon return. The student has the responsibility to do this. Students and parents must realize that not all missed work such as lectures, lab experiments, etc., will be able to be made up and that the teaching staff, because of their schedules, may have limited time for help in making up missed work.

## **REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES**

When a student is absent from school due to illness or other valid reasons, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that the parent or guardian calls the ZEHS Attendance Office at 748-3109 or the ZWHS Attendance Office at 748-4510, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. on the day of the absence. After 2:45 p.m. and until 7:30 the following morning, the same number may be called to leave a recorded message. If a parent or guardian fails to report an absence the day of the absence on or before 7:30 a.m. the following day, the absence will be unexcused. **Only one late call is allowed per semester.** Written notes are not accepted. If truancy difficulties have emerged, parents are encouraged to call the Attendance Office to check on their son or daughter's attendance.

## **TEST MAKE-UP AND OTHER SCHOOLWORK FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Students who are excused from school shall be given the opportunity to make up work that has been missed. It is the student's responsibility to approach teachers about missed assignments. Make-up work due to one excused absence must be completed within 1 day after returning to school, or according to arrangements made with each teacher. For more than one day, students will be given the number of days of excused absence within which to make up work. If a test is

missed due to an excused absence, the student must make arrangements with the teacher to take the test. If any type of standardized test is missed, the student should consult with his or her counselor to arrange for taking the test.

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS

1. The school encourages students to attend as many school events held after school as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students who are participating in the event.
2. However, in order to ensure that students attending evening events as nonparticipants are properly safe-guarded, it is strongly advised that students be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone when they attend the event. The school will not be able to supervise unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.
3. The school will continue to provide adequate supervision for all students who are participants in a school activity. Students must comply with the Code of Conduct at school events, regardless of the location.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

A major component of the educational program at Zeeland High School is to prepare students to become responsible workers and citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

1. **Expected Behaviors** - Each student shall be expected to:
  - a. abide by national, State, and local laws as well as the rules of the school;
  - b. respect the civil rights of others;
  - c. act courteously to adults and fellow students;
  - d. be prompt to school and attentive in class;
  - e. work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, disability, or ethnic background;
  - f. complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
  - g. help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
  - h. act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the school.
2. **Dress and Grooming** - While fashion changes, the reason for being in school does not. Students are in school to learn. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted. Personal expression is permitted within these general guidelines. Students should consider the following questions when dressing for school:
  - a. Does my clothing expose too much? (no)
  - b. Does my clothing advertise something that is prohibited to minors? (no)
  - c. Are there obscene, profane, drug-related, gang-related, or inflammatory messages on my clothing? (no)
  - d. Would I interview for a job in this outfit? (yes)
  - e. Am I dressed appropriately for the weather? (yes)
  - f. Do I feel comfortable with my appearance? (yes)
3. If a student has selected a manner of appearance that is beyond mere freedom of expression and disrupts the educational process or presents risk to themselves or others,

they may be removed from the educational setting. The following styles or manners of dress are prohibited but not restricted to:

- a. Items that promote drugs, alcohol, or tobacco;
  - b. Items with profane or sexually suggestive writing/pictures/images;
  - c. Items that exhibit involvement in gangs or other organization deemed to be in conflict with school policies and practices;
  - d. Items that conflict with district policy, or state law;
  - e. Non-prescription sunglasses within classrooms;
  - f. Going without shoes;
  - g. Muscle shirts, shirts showing navel or cleavage, halter tops, tank tops, tube tops, mesh shirts, see-through attire, mini skirts, spandex clothing, cut-off shorts, running shorts, bathing suits, clothing with bare midriffs, revealing or suggestive clothing;
  - h. Beach clothing;
  - i. Chains, handcuffs, and other metal paraphernalia;
  - j. Hats worn in the school cafeteria or classroom or any type of head covering;
  - k. Coats worn in classrooms (exceptions will be made where appropriate);
  - l. Pants worn so undergarments are visible.
4. Students who are representing Zeeland High School at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. Usually, this applies to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, and other such groups.
  5. **Gangs** - Gangs which initiate, advocate or promote activities which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or which are disruptive to the school environment are not tolerated.
  6. Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities which are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.
  7. Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures which symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities which are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified and posted by the building principal.
  8. **Care of Property** - Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The school will not be responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school. The school may confiscate such items and return them to the student's parents.
  9. Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student does damage to or loses school property, the student or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or damage. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will also be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE**

1. The Board of Education has adopted the following Student Discipline Code. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action. The Board has also adopted the list of behaviors and the terms contained in the list.
2. It is the school staff's responsibility to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. History has shown that certain student actions are not compatible with a "safe" and "orderly" environment. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the School's staff and administration. Due process ensures that disciplinary action is imposed only after review of the facts and/or special circumstances of the situation.

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS APPLYING TO THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE

Each of the behaviors described below may subject the student to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from school.

### 1. **Use of drugs**

- a. A student's use or sale of a performance-enhancing substance is a violation that will affect the student's athletic eligibility and extracurricular participation.
- b. The Department of Community Health periodically distributes to the District the list of banned drugs based on bylaw 31.2.3.1 of the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Use of any drugs or substances appearing on this list will affect the student's athletic and extracurricular participation.
- c. The school has a "Drug Free" zone that extends 1000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity, possession, sale, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. If caught, the student could be suspended or expelled and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.
- d. The sale, distribution, possession, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs that has a negative effect on the school environment is prohibited. Attempted sale or distribution is also prohibited. This includes nonalcoholic beers and wines, and the like. Many drug abuse offenses are also felonies. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter medication to another student.

### 2. **Use of Breath-Test Instruments**

- a. The principal may arrange for a breath test for blood-alcohol to be conducted on a student whenever s/he has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage.
- b. The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property with at least one (1) other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.
- c. The purpose of the test is to determine whether or not the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. The amount of consumption is not relevant, except where the student may need medical attention.
- d. If the result indicates a violation of school rules as described in this handbook, the student will be disciplined in accordance with disciplinary procedures described in this handbook. If a student refuses to take the test, s/he will be advised that such denial will be considered an admission of alcohol use with the consequent discipline invoked. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

### 3. **Use of tobacco**

- a. Smoking and other tobacco uses are a danger to a student's health and to the health of others. The school prohibits the sale, distribution, use, or possession of any form of tobacco ( ) or electronic cigarettes or similar devices during school time or at any school activity. This prohibition also applies when going to and from school and at school bus stops. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion. "Use of tobacco" shall mean all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, or pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco, in addition to papers used to roll cigarettes. The display of unlighted

cigars, cigarettes, pipes, other "smoking" paraphernalia or tobacco products on one's person is also prohibited by this policy.

4. **Student disorder/demonstration**

- a. Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression, but the expression may not infringe on the rights of others. Disruption of any school activity will not be allowed. If a student (or students) feels there is need to organize some form of demonstration, s/he is encouraged to contact the Principal to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity. Students who disrupt the school may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

5. **Possession of a weapon**

- a. A weapon includes, but is not limited to, firearms, guns of any type whatsoever including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, razors, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons and explosives. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Criminal charges may be filed for this violation. Possession of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion. It makes no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a weapon was brought on District property by a student other than the one who possessed the weapon, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action.

6. State law may require that a student be permanently expelled from school, subject to a petition for possible reinstatement if s/he brings onto or has in his/her possession on school property or at a school-related activity any of the following:

- a. any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines, or device that can be converted into such a destructive item
- b. any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade over three (3) inches long fastened to a handle
- c. any similar object that is intended to invoke bodily harm or fear of bodily harm (e.g. air gun, blow-gun, toy gun, etc.)

7. **Use of an object as a weapon** - Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, jewelry and so on. Intentional injury to another can be a felony and/or a cause for civil action. This violation may subject a student to expulsion.

8. **Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence** - Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

9. **Purposely setting a fire** - Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony and may subject the student to expulsion.

10. **Physically assaulting a staff member/student/person associated with the District** - Physical assault at school against a District employee, volunteer, or contractor which may or may not cause injury may result in charges being filed and subject the student to expulsion. Physical assault is defined as "intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence."

11. **Verbally threatening a staff member/student/person associated with the District** - Verbal assault at school against a District employee, volunteer, or contractor or making bomb threats or similar threats directed at a school building, property, or a school-related activity will be considered verbal assault. Verbal threats or assault may result in suspension

- and expulsion. Verbal assault is a communicated intent to inflict physical or other harm on another person, with a present intent and ability to act on the threat.
12. **Extortion** - Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law. Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.
  13. **Gambling** - Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that activity. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.
  14. **Falsification of school work, identification, and forgery** - Forgery of hall/bus passes and excuses as well as false I.D.'s are forms of lying and are not acceptable. Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.
  15. **False alarms, false reports, and bomb threats** - A false emergency alarm, report or bomb threat endangers the safety forces that are responding, the citizens of the community, and persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.
  16. **Explosives** - Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, pipe bombs, bottle bombs, stink bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.
  17. **Trespassing** - Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. If a student has been removed, suspended, or expelled, the student is not allowed on school property without authorization of the Principal. In addition, students may not trespass onto school property at unauthorized times or into areas of the school determined to be inappropriate. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.
  18. **Theft** - When a student is caught stealing school or someone's property, s/he will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value to school that is not needed for learning without prior authorization from the building principal. The school is not responsible for personal property. Theft may result in suspension or expulsion.
  19. **Disobedience** - School staff is acting "in loco parentis," which means they are allowed, by law, to direct a student as would a parent. This applies to all staff, not just teachers assigned to a student. If given a reasonable direction by a staff member, the student is expected to comply. Chronic disobedience can result in expulsion.
  20. **Damaging property** - Vandalism and disregard for school property will not be tolerated. Violations could result in suspension or expulsion.
  21. **Persistent absence or tardiness** - Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or have a legitimate excuse. It is also important to establish consistent attendance habits in order to succeed in school and in the world-of-work. Excessive absence could lead to suspension from school.
  22. **Unauthorized uses of school or private property** - Students are expected to obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use shall be subject to disciplinary action. This includes use of the internet and communication networks in a manner not sanctioned by policy and administrative guideline. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.
  23. **Refusing to accept discipline** - The school may use informal discipline to prevent the student from being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the usual discipline for an infraction, the refusal can result in a sterner action such as suspension or expulsion.

24. **Aiding or abetting violation of school rules** - If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, they will be disciplined and may be subject to suspension or expulsion. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.
25. **Displays of affection** - Students demonstrating affection between each other is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Such behavior may result in suspension from school or possibly expulsion.
26. **Possession of Wireless Communication Devices (WCDs)**
  - a. A student may possess a wireless communication devices (WCDs) or other electronic communication devices (ECDs) and electronic storage devices (ESDs) in school, on school property, at after school activities, and at school related functions provided that during school hours, school events, and on a school vehicle its use is not disruptive or distracting to the educational process, the scheduled activity, or other participants.
  - b. Except as authorized under Board policy, use of WCDs and electronic storage devices in school, on school property, at after school activities and at school-related functions will be subject to disciplinary action.
  - c. The school prohibits the use of any video device from any restroom, locker room or other location where students and staff “have a reasonable expectation of privacy.” A student improperly using any device to take or transmit images will face disciplinary action up to and including suspension, loss of privileges, and may be recommended for expulsion.
  - d. “Sexting” is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the WCD.
  - e. Taking or transmitting images or messages during testing is also prohibited. If a student is caught transmitting images or messages during testing, s/he may fail the exam and receive days of Alternate Day Assignment or be suspended. S/He also faces automatic withdrawal from the class depending on the severity of the incident. Loss of privileges is an accompanying penalty, and expulsion is a possibility, even on the first offense.
27. **Violation of individual school/classroom rules** - Each learning environment has different rules for students. Individual rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules, all of which will be consistent with the policy of the school. Persistent violations of rules could result in suspension or expulsion.
28. **Violation of bus rules** - Please refer to Section V on transportation for bus rules.
29. **Disruption of the educational process** - Any actions or manner of dress that interferes with school activities or disrupts the educational process is unacceptable. Such disruptions also include delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic, and performing arts events.
30. **Harassment** –
  - a. Harassment of students is prohibited, and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate conduct by other students as well as any other person in the school environment, including employees, Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors and volunteers. It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy applies to all activities on school property and to all school sponsored activities whether on or off school property.

- b. Harassment is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical or emotional well being. This would include harassment based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status or disability. This policy, however, is not limited to these legal categories and includes any harassment that would negatively impact students.
- c. Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods (e.g., internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), computer or wireless hand held device), may be subject to District disciplinary procedures. Such behavior is considered harassment whether it takes place on or off school property, at any school-sponsored function, or in a school vehicle if it is considered to have a negative impact on the school environment.
- d. Any student that believes s/he has been/or is the victim of harassment should immediately report the situation to the teacher, the principal or assistant principal. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with AG 5517.
- e. Every student should, and every staff member **must** report any situation that they believe to be improper harassment of a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.
- f. If the investigation finds harassment occurred it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employee, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for Board members.
- g. Retaliation against any person for complaining about harassment, or participating in a harassment investigation, is prohibited. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment. Intentionally false harassment reports, made to get someone in trouble, are also prohibited. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.
- h. The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been harassment, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

**Harassment:**

submission to such unwelcomed conduct or communication is made either an explicit or implicit condition of utilizing or benefiting from the services, activities, or programs of the School District;

submission to, or rejection of, the unwelcomed conduct or communication is used as the basis for a decision to exclude, expel or limit the harassed student in the terms, conditions or privileges of the School District;

the unwelcomed conduct or communication interferes with the student's education, creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. This may include racial slurs, mocking behavior, or other demeaning comments.

- 31. **Sexual Harassment**, may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. verbal harassment or abuse;
  - b. pressure for sexual activity;

- c. repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications;
- d. unwelcome touching;
- e. sexual jokes, posters, cartoons, etc.;
- f. suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, or safety,;
- g. a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;
- h. remarks speculating about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history.

[Note: An inappropriate boundary invasion by a District employee or other adult member of the School District community into a student's personal space and personal life is sexual harassment. Further, any administrator, teacher, coach, other school authority who engages in sexual or other inappropriate physical contact with a student may be guilty of criminal "child abuse" as defined in State law. M.C.L. 722.621 et. seq.]

**32. Hazing**

- a. The Board of Education believes that hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational process and prohibits all such activities at any time in school facilities, on school property, and at any District-sponsored event.
- b. Hazing shall be defined for purposes of this policy as performing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to perform any act of initiation into any class, group, or organization that causes or creates a risk of causing mental, emotional, or physical harm. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- c. Hazing – any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:
  - 1. illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs;
  - 2. physical punishment or infliction of pain
  - 3. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
  - 4. dangerous activity;
  - 5. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;
  - 6. forced detention or kidnapping;
  - 7. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates.

[Note: If the school club or organization does not have an official and approved initiation procedure, and if no school staff are involved in the activity, there is a significant likelihood that the activity may result in violation of this policy.]

**33. Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior toward students:**

- a. It is the policy of the District to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students.
- b. This policy protects all students from bullying/aggressive behavior regardless of the subject matter or motivation for such impermissible behavior.
- c. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, including Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors, and volunteers, is strictly prohibited. This prohibition includes written, physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, including hazing, gestures, comments, threats, or actions to a student, which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm, reasonable fear for personal safety or personal degradation.

- d. Demonstration of appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment or bullying is expected of administrators, faculty, staff, and volunteers to provide positive examples for student behavior.
- e. This policy applies to all "at school" activities in the District, including activities on school property, in a school vehicle, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, or where an employee is engaged in school business. Misconduct occurring outside of school may also be disciplined if it interferes with the school environment.
- f. **Procedure**
  - i. Any student who believes s/he has been or is the victim of bullying, hazing, or other aggressive behavior should immediately report the situation to the Principal or assistant principal. The student may also report concerns to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator or Board official. Complaints against the building principal should be filed with the Superintendent. Complaints against the Superintendent should be filed with the Board President.
  - ii. Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be aggressive behavior directed toward a student. Reports shall be made to those identified above. Reports may be made anonymously, but formal disciplinary action may not be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report.
  - iii. The Principal (or other administrator as designated) shall promptly investigate and document all complaints about bullying, aggressive or other behavior that may violate this policy. The investigation must be completed as promptly as the circumstances permit and should be completed in three (3) school days after a report or complaint is made.
  - iv. If the investigation finds an instance of bullying or aggressive behavior has occurred, it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employees, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any official position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement or other appropriate officials.
  - v. The individual responsible for conducting the investigation shall document all reported incidents and report all verified incidents of bullying, aggressive or other prohibited behavior, as well as any remedial action taken, including disciplinary actions and referrals, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall submit a compiled report to the Board on an annual basis.
- g. **Non-Retaliatiion/False Reports**
  - i. Retaliation or false allegations against any person who reports, is thought to have reported, files a complaint, participates in an investigation or inquiry concerning allegations of bullying or aggressive behavior (as a witness or otherwise), or is the target of the bullying or aggressive behavior being investigated, is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Such retaliation shall be considered a serious violation of Board policy, independent of whether a complaint of bullying is substantiated. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as bullying/aggressive behavior.

- ii. Making intentionally false reports about bullying/aggressive behavior for the purpose of getting someone in trouble is similarly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.
- h. **Definitions** - The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been bullying, hazing, harassment or other aggressive behavior, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it immediately and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.
  - i. **Aggressive behavior** is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively impact a student's educational, physical, or emotional well-being. Such behavior includes, for example, bullying, hazing, stalking, intimidation, menacing, coercion, name-calling, taunting, making threats, and hitting/pushing/shoving.
  - i. **At School** is defined as in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises. It also includes conduct using a telecommunications access device or telecommunications service provider that occurs off school premises if either owned by or under the control of the District.
  - j. **The definition of Bullying** is defined as any gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts – i.e. internet, telephone or cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand held device) that, without regard to its subject matter or motivating animus, is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm one (1) or more students either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following:
    - i. substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one (1) or more students;
    - ii. adversely affecting the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress;
    - iii. having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a student's physical or mental health; and/or,
    - iv. causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.
  - k. Bullying can be physical, verbal, psychological, or a combination of all three. Some examples of bullying are:
    - i. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling; taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, unwelcome physical contact.
    - ii. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats.
    - iii. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. This may occur in a number of different ways, including but not limited to notes, emails, social media postings, and graffiti.
- 34. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, any act which subjects an individual or group to unwanted, abusive behavior of a nonverbal, verbal, written or physical nature, often on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, marital status or disability, but may also include sexual orientation, physical characteristics (e.g., height, weight, complexion),

- cultural background, socioeconomic status, or geographic location (e.g., from rival school, different state, rural area, city, etc.).
35. **Intimidation/Menacing** includes, but is not limited to, any threat or act intended to: place a person in fear of physical injury or offensive physical contact; to substantially damage or interfere with person's property; or to intentionally interfere with or block a person's movement without good reason.
  36. **Staff** includes all school employees and Board members.
  37. **Third parties** include, but are not limited to, coaches, school volunteers, parents, school visitors, service contractors, vendors, or others engaged in District business, and others not directly subject to school control at inter-district or intra-district athletic competitions or other school events.  
 For further definition and instances that could possibly be construed as:  
 Harassment, see <http://neola.com/zeeland-mi/> policy 5516, 5517  
 MCL 380.1310B (Matt's Safe School Law, PA 241 of 2011)  
 Policies on Bullying, Michigan State Board of Education  
 Model Anti-Bullying Policy, Michigan State Board of Education
  38. **Possession of a Firearm, Arson, and Criminal Sexual Conduct**
    - a. In compliance with State law, the Board shall permanently expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone or commits either arson or criminal sexual conduct in a District building or on District property, including school buses and other school transportation.
    - b. A dangerous weapon is defined as "a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles" or other devices designed to or likely to inflict bodily harm, including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices.
    - c. Students with disabilities under IDEA or Section 504 shall be expelled only in accordance with Board Policy 2461 and Federal due process rights appropriate to students with disabilities. A student who has been expelled under this policy may apply for reinstatement in accordance with guidelines which are available in the principal's office.
  39. **Criminal acts**
    - a. Any student engaging in criminal acts at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined by the school. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime), when school rules and the law are violated.
    - b. Students should be aware that state law requires that school officials, teachers and appropriate law enforcement officials be notified when a student of this District is involved in crimes related to physical violence, gang related acts, illegal possession of a controlled substance, analogue or other intoxicants, trespassing, property crimes, including but not limited to theft and vandalism, occurring in the school as well as in the community.
  40. **Safety Concerns** - Students should not use roller blades, bicycles, skateboards scooters, or any other form of personal transportation device in school hallways or District pedestrian traffic areas. Exceptions may be made to reasonably accommodate students with mobility impairments. Use of any means of travel within buildings and on grounds by other than generally accepted practices where appropriate is prohibited. Students violating this expectation will be subject to disciplinary action.
  41. **Profanity** - Any behavior or language, which in the judgement of the staff or administration, is considered to be obscene, disrespectful, vulgar, profane and/or violates community held standards of good taste will be subject to disciplinary action.

## DISCIPLINE

1. It is important to remember that the school's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, and on school transportation. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.
  - a. Ultimately, it is the principal's responsibility to keep things orderly. In all cases, the School shall attempt to make discipline prompt and equitable and to have the punishment match the severity of the incident. Two types of discipline are possible, informal and formal:
    - i. **Informal Discipline** - Informal discipline takes place within the school. It may include but is not limited to: writing assignments; change of seating or location; lunch-time detention or after-school detention; Thursday/Saturday Schools; In-school suspensions; or Student Responsibility Center
      - 1) **Detentions** - A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher, after giving the student one (1) days' notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation
      - 2) **In-School Discipline** - The Saturday school will be in session from 8:00am - 11:00am.
        - i. Assigned students will attend a continuous three (3) hour period during which time they will be permitted one (1) ten (10) minute break. Each student shall arrive with sufficient educational materials to remain busy during this three (3) hour study period.
        - ii. A student missing any portion of his/her assigned time in-school suspension or Saturday school may be given an additional discipline actions. Failure to timely serve in-school suspensions or Saturday schools may lead to additional discipline consequences. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with district guidelines on suspension and expulsion.
        - iii. The following rules shall apply to both in-school suspension and to Saturday schools:
          - a. Students are required to have class assignments with them.
          - b. Students are not to communicate with each other unless given special permission to do so.
          - c. Students are to remain in their designated seats at all times unless permission is granted to do otherwise.
          - d. Students shall not be allowed to put their heads down or sleep.
          - e. No radios, cards, magazines, or other recreational articles shall be allowed in the room;
          - f. No food or beverages shall be consumed.

### **Formal Discipline**

- 1) Formal discipline removes the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to seventy-two (72) hours, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, and expulsion from school. Suspensions

and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension and expulsion can be appealed.

- 2) Students being considered for suspension or expulsion are entitled to an informal hearing with the building administrator, prior to removal, at which time the student will be notified of the charges against him/her and given an opportunity to make a defense.
- 3) If a student is suspended, the parents may appeal the suspension, in writing, to the building principal and a formal appeal hearing will be held.
- 4) When a student is being considered for expulsion, a formal hearing is scheduled with the Board of Education and the parents will be given written notice of the hearing and will be expected to attend. The Superintendent of Zeeland Public Schools, then takes testimony and determines if a recommendation to expel is to be made to the Board of Education. This decision may also be appealed. In the case of expulsion, the student remains out of school during the appeal period. Work missed during an expulsion can be made up.
- 5) Students involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as band and athletics can lose their eligibility for violation of the School rules.
- 6) If a student commits a crime while at school or a school-related event, s/he may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as to action by the community's legal system. These are separate jurisdictions and do not constitute double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime)

2. **Discipline of Students with Disabilities** - Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **DUE PROCESS RIGHTS**

Before a student may be suspended or expelled from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed. Factors that will be considered before suspending or expelling a student are as follows:

- Student's age
- Student's disciplinary history
- Whether the student has a disability
- The seriousness of the violation or behavior
- Whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatened the safety of a student or staff member
- Whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior
- Whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior:

### **Suspension from School**

1. When a student is being considered for a suspension of ten (10) days or less, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the charges. The student will then be given an opportunity to explain his/her side and the administrator will then provide the student the evidence supporting the charges. After that informal hearing, the principal will make a decision whether or not to suspend. If a student is suspended, s/he and his/her parents will be notified, in writing and or via the phone within one (1) day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension. The suspension may be appealed, within two (2) school days after receipt of the suspension notice, to the building principal. The request for an appeal must be in writing.
2. During the appeal process, the student is allowed to remain in school unless safety is a factor. If that is the case, the student shall be immediately removed under the Emergency Removal Procedure.
3. The appeal shall be conducted in a private meeting and the student may be represented. Sworn, recorded testimony shall be given. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the hearing is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Under the Open Meetings Act, the hearing must be public unless the parents request that the meeting be conducted in a closed session.
4. When a student is suspended, s/he may make-up work missed while on suspension.
5. Any learning that cannot be made up such as labs, field trips, skill-practices, or any learning that the student chooses not to make-up may be reflected in the grades earned.
6. A student being considered for suspension of more than ten (10) days will be given due process as described in the expulsion section below.

### **Long-term suspension or expulsion from school**

1. When a student is being considered for long-term suspension (more than ten (10) days) or expulsion, the student will receive a formal letter of notification addressed to the parents which will contain:
  - a. the charge and related evidence;
  - b. the time and place of the Board meeting;
  - c. the length of the recommended suspension or a recommendation for expulsion;
  - d. a brief description of the hearing procedure;
  - e. a statement that the student may bring parents, guardians, and counsel;
  - f. a statement that the student and/or parent may bring a translator or request a transfer for hearing impaired students or parents;
  - g. a statement that the student may give testimony, present evidence, and provide a defense;
  - h. a statement that the student may request attendance of school personnel who were party to the action or accused the student of the infraction;
  - i. the ability of the student and/or parent to request, potentially at their own cost, a transcript of the hearing, if Board/hearing officer approved.
2. Students being considered for long-term suspension or expulsion may or may not be immediately removed from school. A formal hearing is scheduled with the Superintendent of Zeeland Public Schools/School Board during which the student may be represented by his/her parents, legal counsel, and/or by a person of his/her choice.
3. Within 2 days (as in AG 5610) after notification of long-term suspension or expulsion, the long-term suspension or expulsion may be appealed, in writing, to the Superintendent of Zeeland Public Schools. The appeal will also be formal in nature with sworn testimony before official(s) designated by the Board of Education. The appeal will be heard in an open session unless the student or the student's parent or guardian requests a closed

session. Again, the right to representation is available. All opportunity to earn grades or credit ends when a student is expelled.

4. Zeeland High School makes a sincere effort to have disciplinary actions take place that will allow the student to remain in school. If a disciplinary action does not result in removal from school, it is not appealable. Should a student or parent have questions regarding the propriety of an in-school disciplinary action, they should contact the building principal.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

1. Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (I.D.E.A.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.).

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

1. Search of a student and his/her possessions, including vehicles, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or school rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.
2. Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. If student lockers require student-provided locks, each student must provide the lock's combination or key to the principal.
3. Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. In the course of any search, students' privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.
4. All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of the District are the District's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The District retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the District's computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.
5. Review of such information may be done by the District with or without the student's knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the District retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student's refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

### **STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION**

1. The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, nonsponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following school guidelines:

- a. A material cannot be displayed if it:
    - i. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent and pervasively or vulgar,
    - ii. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
    - iii. intends to be insulting or harassing,
    - iv. intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event.
    - v. Presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.
  - b. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.
2. Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the building principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

### **STUDENT CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS, AND GRIEVANCES**

1. The school is here for the benefit of the students. The staff is here to assist each student in becoming a responsible adult. If a student has suggestions that could improve the school, s/he should feel free to offer them. Written suggestions may be presented directly to the principal or to the student government.
2. When concerns or grievances arise, the best way to resolve the issue is through communication. No student will be harassed by any staff member or need fear reprisal for the proper expression of a legitimate concern. Any suggestions, concerns, and grievances may be directed to the principal or to the student government.
3. A student may have the right to a hearing if the student believes s/he has been improperly denied participation in a school activity or has been subjected to an illegal rule or standard. A student may not petition to have a change in grade.

## **SECTION V - TRANSPORTATION**

### **Transportation Board Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide transportation for those District students whose distance from their school makes this service necessary within the limitations established by State law and the regulations of the State Superintendent of Instruction. Such laws and rules shall govern any question not covered by this policy.

Bus routes shall be established so that an authorized bus stop is available within reasonable walking distance of the home of every resident student entitled to transportation services. Each student will be allowed to have one (1) pick-up location and one (1) drop-off location, be it home or a caregiver, and shall not be permitted to use any other bus without prior written permission from the Director of Transportation or designee.

# **Transportation Responsibilities**

Riding a school bus is a privilege and convenience for students and their parents; as such, everyone accepts certain responsibilities to ensure student safety while utilizing this service. Students and parents are advised that the Zeeland Public Schools student code of conduct will be enforced relevant to student behavior on the school bus. The school will cooperate with parents and law enforcement agencies relevant to behavior to and from school.

Students and parents are advised of the following responsibilities as per the Michigan Regulations for School buses, Bulletin #431 and local policy:

## **District Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of Zeeland Public Schools to:

1. Develop bus routes and schedules.
2. Determine the mile computation as required by the Board of Education and State requirements.
3. Provide appropriate student information to bus drivers.
4. Provide vehicles that meet or exceed the requirements of state law pertaining to vehicles utilized to transport school students.
5. Provide appropriate insurance coverage.
6. Hire certified and qualified staff.
7. Provide ongoing training for the transportation staff.
8. Recommend to the Superintendent when schools should be closed due to inclement weather.
9. In conjunction with Building Principals, develop and administer disciplinary procedures for students who exhibit inappropriate bus riding behaviors.

## **Parents Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of each parent to:

1. Provide for your students' safety to, from, and while at the bus stop.
2. Have the student at the bus stop at least five (5) minutes ahead of the scheduled stop time.
3. Always stress SAFETY at stop locations and on the bus. **STUDENTS ARE TO STAY OFF THE ROAD AT ALL TIMES WHILE WAITING FOR THE BUS.**
4. Make sure each child has a backpack for lunch, school books, etc.
5. No pets or large items such as large boxes, sleds, skateboards, bats, etc. are allowed on the bus. Items which are sharp or breakable should be carried in a box. Laser pointers are prohibited and will be confiscated. Loose hanging items attached to the backpacks such as key chains are prohibited due to safety concerns.

6. Make arrangements to have an appropriate person at home at the designated drop-off time after school.
7. Sign the blue School Bus Misconduct Notice slip, if your child receives one for an infraction of the bus rules. The child must return the signed slip to the bus driver before allowed back on the bus.
8. Check Parent Portal for up to date Bus stop and times.

## **Students Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of each student to:

1. Observe classroom conduct while riding the bus. The same rules apply to the bus as in the classroom.
2. Ride the assigned bus and use a specific bus stop; only assigned students may ride school-bound or homebound buses. In addition, students may ride only their assigned bus, getting on and getting off at their designated stop. The Director of Transportation may grant permission for students to ride a different bus or use a different stop. Such permission may be granted only after receiving appropriate written request form from the parent/guardian for a specified period of time subject to the following conditions and limitations:
  1. The requested change must not result in overcrowding of any bus, alteration of any regular bus route, bus stop, or time schedule, or in any way interfere with the regular operation of the transportation system.
  2. Emergency and/or unusual reasons may be approved by the Director of Transportation.
  3. To assure no overloads, we do not allow students to bring home friends (either from another bus run or from a non-busing area) for parties, scouts, homework, etc.). It is the parents' responsibility for this type of transportation.
3. Obey the driver at all times and report promptly to school officials when instructed to do so.
4. Stay in their seat facing forward while the bus is in motion.
5. Keep hands and feet to themselves.
6. Place all carry-on items on ones lap.
7. State law mandates that no animals or glass containers be allowed on buses. No pets or large items such as large boxes, sleds, skateboards, bats, etc. are allowed on the bus. Items which are sharp or breakable should be carried in a box. Laser pointers are prohibited and will be confiscated. Loose hanging items attached to the backpacks such as key chains are prohibited due to safety concerns.
8. Refrain from eating or drinking on the bus.
9. Leave the bus only with the consent of the driver.

10. Enter or leave the bus only at the front door after the bus has come to a stop, except in case of emergency.
11. Stay off the roadway while waiting for the bus.
12. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop and then board or leave the bus promptly.
13. Talk in a normal tone of voice while on the bus and use appropriate language.
14. Do not destroy property and report any damage observed to the driver.
15. Help keep the bus clean, sanitary, orderly and safe.

## Bus Rules

Follow these bus rules – same as all class rooms

1. Be polite to everyone on the bus.
2. The bus driver may assign seats
3. For everyone's safety, do not distract the driver.
4. Do not swear or use inappropriate words.
5. Electronic devices including; iPod's, iPad's and cell phones are to be kept to yourself and not shared with others.
6. No photographs or videos to be taken on the bus.
7. Remain seated at all times. Do not change seats.
8. Keep head, hands and feet inside the bus.
9. Keep hands to yourself.
10. No smoking or lighting matches/lighters.
11. Do not deface or destroy anything on the bus.
12. Keep aisle clear of feet, backpacks and bodies.
13. Schools buses are a NO-BULLYING ZONE!
14. Do not eat or drink on the bus; keep the bus clean
15. All sports gear is to be enclosed in a sport bag.
16. Misbehavior on Bus: Penalty at discretion of principal depending on circumstances (may include removal from bus for 1 to 10 days or permanent removal from bus by a formal hearing). Serious misbehavior on the bus may also be cause for punishment up to and including suspension or expulsion from school.

## Student Crossing Procedure:

To Board the Bus:

1. Students wait in a group at the designated bus stop at least 10 feet away from the edge of the roadway and watch the bus driver for the signal to cross.
2. Bus drivers will display a sign (see below) to indicate when it is safe to cross the street.
3. Students proceed directly across the road always staying well in front of the bus and board the bus.
4. Do not stop in the middle of the street or cross behind the bus.

5. Bus stops will be placed at legal locations consistent with Board policy or if required by law.

#### When Exiting the Bus:

1. Students exit the bus and take 10 giant steps in front of the bus staying on the side of the street.
2. Students stand in a group and look to the bus driver for the signal to cross.
3. Bus drivers will display a sign to indicate when it is safe to cross the street.  
Red stop sign means "STOP"  
Yellow smile face means "CROSS SAFELY"
4. Students proceed to a point even with the left side of the bus and stop.
5. Students look left and right for passing cars.
6. Students look to the driver for instruction to complete the crossing.
7. Do not cross behind the bus.
8. If a paper or article goes under the school bus, always ask the bus driver for help.
9. Do not get mail from roadside mailboxes until after the bus leaves the stop

The Zeeland Public Schools Transportation Department's mission is to provide the safest and most efficient means of transporting your students to and from school.

*Did you know the yellow bus is 27 times safer than an automobile when comparing modes of transportation to and from school?*

We have a staff of 59 professionally trained and certified school bus drivers who use the utmost care bringing your students to and from school each day. Our staff of 3 full time certified professional mechanics maintains our fleet with a commitment to safety and reliability. Our administrative and office staff, consisting of the Transportation Director, 2 full time and 1 part time secretaries, strives to provide prompt and courteous services to all students with integrity and efficiency.

The Zeeland School District consists of approximately 94 square miles, which are serviced by 52 school buses on 167 regular bus runs, transporting approximately 9,000 students daily. The vehicles travel more than 600,000 miles annually for regular education.

The average ride on a school bus is approximately 10 miles/35 minutes long. This means that your student, over a 13-year period, may travel up to 47,320 miles (twice around the world) or 2,839 hours (354 eight hour work days) on a school bus

#### **CONTACT US!**

To contact the ZPS Transportation Center, please call 616.748.3425 or email our transportation office staff:

#### **Director of Transportation:**

- Dave Meeuwsen [dmeeuwse@zps.org](mailto:dmeeuwse@zps.org)

#### **Secretaries:**

- Bonnie Edgerton [bedgerto@zps.org](mailto:bedgerto@zps.org)
- Jean Livingston [jlivings@zps.org](mailto:jlivings@zps.org)
- Brenda VanderKooy [bvander1@zps.org](mailto:bvander1@zps.org)

**District Map:**

To view the ZPS school boundaries map, click [here](#).

**ALL RULES AND GUIDELINES IN THIS HANDBOOK ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE ADMINISTRATION.**