



WEST VIGO MIDDLE SCHOOL

-Established in 1974-
4590 W SARAH MYERS DRIVE
WEST TERRE HAUTE, IN 47885
PHONE: (812) 462 - 4361
FAX: (812) 462 - 4358

“Home of the Vikings”

2025 – 2026 Parent/Student Handbook

School Calendar Link: [VCSC Calendars](#)

SCHOOL MASCOT

VIKINGS

SCHOOL COLORS

GREEN
WHITE
BLACK

SCHOOL LOGOS



SCHOOL SONG

(Sung to “On Wisconsin”)
On West Vigo, On West Vigo
On to Vic-tor-y! We will back you all the way,
With all our Viking might, might, might, might!
On West Vigo, On West Vigo
On to Vic-tor-y! Never let our Vikings down,
And fight, fight, fight! Go, go, go right in!
Fight, fight, fight to win! Go right in,
Go right in! Fight to win!
Go! Fight! Win! Hey!

Mr. Christopher Tanner-Principal
Ms. Angileah Bark-Assistant Principal
Mrs. Katrina Doty-Dean of Students
Mr. Eric Williams-Athletic Director

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO WEST VIGO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Welcome to West Vigo Middle School, home of the “Vikings”. The purpose of this handbook is to familiarize the parents and students of West Vigo Middle School with the policies and practices that will be followed during the school year. Students and/or parents encountering problems not discussed in this handbook should feel free to ask questions concerning their specific problems. We hope you have an excellent school year. We wish you success in all of your coursework and hope you become actively involved in the many extracurricular activities offered to students at West Vigo Middle School.

WVMS will provide a safe, positive learning environment that promotes continuous growth and lifelong learning.

BELIEF PLEDGE

WE BELIEVE

Working hard can make a difference.

WE BELIEVE

Everyone deserves our respect.

WE BELIEVE

Success is achievable.

WE BELIEVE

Teamwork matters.

~We are WEST~

WVMS Mission

The mission of West Vigo Middle School is, We will provide a safe, positive learning environment that promotes continuous growth and lifelong learning.

VCSC Vision

Working together with our community, we inspire our students to discover their talents and rise to their greatest potential.

VCSC Mission

Building on the strengths of our diverse community, we create an engaging, comprehensive educational environment that supports the growth of lifelong learners.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

- School Information
- Principal's Welcome
- VCSC Vision and Mission
- School Vision and Mission
- School Founding Date
- School Colors and Mascot
- School Song
- Clock Schedules (Regular, 2-Hour Delay, Activity)

THE SCHOOL DAY

- Lunchroom and Food Guidelines
- Homeroom/SRT
- Hall Passes
- Safety Drills

DRESS CODE

- Guidelines
- Athletic Event Dress Code

CELL PHONE POLICY

- Policy
- Social Media
- Electronic Devices
- Offense Disciplines

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES

- School Functions or Events
- Student Lockers
- Posters and Signs
- Acceptable Computer & Internet Use
- Sexual Harassment
- Bullying
- Searches and Seizures
- Firearms on School Property
- Sex Offender Policy
- Social Media School Events and Posting
- Chromebook Policy

STUDENT RIGHTS

- Notice on Non-discrimination Under
- Section 504/Title II
- Federal and State Laws and Rules •
- Relating to the Disabled

- Seclusion and Restraint
- If A Student is Denied a Right

GRADING POLICIES AND PRACTICES

- Access to Instructional Materials
- Computer Access
- Graduation Requirements
- Academic Integrity
- Grades
- Grade Values
- Grading Periods
- Honor Roll

STUDENT DISCIPLINE RULES

- VCSC Student Discipline Rules
- Grounds for Suspension or Expulsion
- Suspension and Expulsion Procedures
- No Right to Appeal

WELLNESS

- VCSC Wellness Policy
- Food Service Program
- Tobacco/Nicotine Vaping Policy
- Health Clinic Guidelines
- Medication at School
- Immunizations
- Health Screening
- Meningococcal Disease
- Mental Health
- Student Accidents

PARENT AND VISITOR INFORMATION

- Registered Sex Offender Policy
- Visitors
- Field Trips
- Volunteers

GUARDIAN/PARENT INFORMATION

- Permits
- School Surveillance Systems
- Integrated Pest Management Policy
- Directory Information Release to Media

- Notice and Consent/Opt-Out for Specific Activities
- Classroom Observation/Visitation

STUDENT RECORDS POLICY

- Definitions
- Custody and Protection of Student Records
- Access to Student Records
- Access to Student Records by Third Parties
- Copies of Records
- Release of Directory Information

TRANSPORTATION

- School Bus
- Car Pick-up/Drop-off
- Morning Procedures
- After School Procedures

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Progressive Discipline Policy
- Types of Absences
- Secondary Attendance Policy
- 5 Day Allowance
- Tardies
- Extracurricular Activities
- Signing Out
- Make-up Work

BEHAVIOR AND PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE SUMMARY

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Announcements
- Assemblies
- Athletic Participation
- Athletic Code of Conduct
- Clubs
- Publications

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

- Counselor and Restorative Practices

WHAT TO KNOW

WHERE TO GO

Problem/Concern

Person(s) to See

Absence from school

Attendance Secretary - Mrs. Jaime Burson
Dean of Students - Mrs. Katrina Doty

Athletics

Athletic Director - Mr. Eric Williams
Principal - Mr. Christopher Tanner

Book rental/other fees

Treasurer - Mrs. Kalee Deal

Bus problems

Bus Driver
Director of Transportation - PJ Pitts
Dean of Students - Mrs. Katrina Doty

Class Schedule

Assistant Principal - Ms. Angileah Bark
Principal - Mr. Christopher Tanner

Grades - Report Cards

Teachers / Registrar - Mrs. Kalee Deal
Assistant Principal - Ms. Angileah Bark

Health Problems - Medications

Health Assistant - Ms. Jenny Elkins
Assistant Principal - Ms. Angileah Bark

Library Books - Chromebooks

Media Specialist - Mrs. Rachel Williams

Misplaced Books

Teachers / Treasurer - Mrs. Kalee Deal
Media Specialist - Mrs. Rachel Williams

Misplaced Personal Items

Lost & Found - Cafeteria Rack
Attendance Secretary - Mrs. Jaime Burson

New Address/Phone Number

Registrar - Mrs. Kalee Deal
Assistant Principal - Ms. Angileah Bark

Gym/Athletic Locker

PE Teacher - Mr. Aaron Clements

Lockers

Assistant Principal - Ms. Angileah Bark
Dean of Students - Mrs. Katrina Doty

Skyward Help

Assistant Principal - Ms. Angileah Bark

MASTER SCHEDULE

1st	8:00 - 8:45	
2nd	8:50 - 9:35	
3rd	9:40 - 10:25	
4th	10:30 - 11:15	
5th	11:20 - 12:00	LUNCH
6th	12:05 - 12:50	
7th	12:55 - 1:40	
8th	1:45 - 2:30	
9th	2:35 - 3:15	ADVISORY

SHORTENED DAY SCHEDULE

1st	8:00 - 8:40	
2nd	8:45 - 9:26	
3rd	9:31 - 10:12	
4th	10:17 - 10:58	
5th	11:03 - 11:43	LUNCH
6th	11:48 - 12:28	
7th	12:33 - 1:14	
8th	1:19 - 1:59	
9th	2:04 - 2:34	ADVISORY
	2:39 - 3:15	*****

*******USE THIS TIME FOR EARLY RELEASE, PEP SESSIONS, SPEAKERS, CLUB TIME, & ETC...*******

2 HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE

1st	10:00-10:30	
2nd	10:35-11:05	
5th	11:10 - 11:40	LUNCH
3rd	11:45 - 12:15	
4th	12:20 - 12:50	
6th	12:55 - 1:25	
7th	1:30 - 2:00	
8th	2:05 - 2:35	
9th	2:40 - 3:15	ADVISORY

MATH REMEDIATION SCHEDULE

Math Remediation	8:00 - 8:28	
1st	8:33- 9:11	
2nd	9:16-9:55	
3rd	10:00-10:39	
4th	10:44-11:23	
5th	11:28-12:08	LUNCH
6th	12:13-12:54	
7th	12:59-1:38	
8th	1:43-2:22	
9th	2:27-3:15	ADVISORY

School Day

Lunchroom Guidelines and Rules

Students will have a 40-minute lunch period.

No outside food or beverage deliveries to students during the school day is permitted.

Students recognize that when in the lunchroom, gyms and outside, all school student expectations and discipline continue to apply.

Students will be respectful of peers and staff and follow the instructions of our lunch duty supervisors.

Each student is responsible for returning his or her own tray and utensils to the proper window and properly disposing of their own trash. Students are not to throw trash on the floor, and will not leave trays and/or trash on the tables.

Examples of inappropriate behavior are:

1. Running in the hall or lunchroom
2. Throwing of food or other objects
3. Taking food or drinks out of the lunchroom
4. Shouting
5. Activities that may cause damage to or in the lunchroom facility
6. Students needing to leave the lunchroom, gyms, or outside areas for any reason, including appointments, restroom, health care professional, etc. must communicate with and obtain permission from a lunch supervisor.
7. Students are given the privilege to choose where they wish to sit in the lunchroom. However, this privilege may be lost for an indefinite length of time should the students not follow the guidelines above.

Hall Passes

When a student must leave an assigned area at times other than passing periods, a corridor or hall pass must be secured from the teacher in charge of the assigned area. This pass must be carried and returned to the issuing teacher when the errand is complete. Students must sign in and out of the classroom.

Safety Drills

Fire drills and tornado drills will be held regularly during the school year. Fire drill instructions are posted for each area and each classroom of the building. Absolute quiet must prevail in the building during a fire drill in order that any directions given for the safety of students may be heard and understood.

During a tornado drill, students will be instructed by their teacher as to the proper procedure to follow. Absolute quiet is necessary in order for instructions to be heard over the intercom. Posted in each classroom is an emergency card listing the closest exit for a fire drill and the location for a tornado drill. Classrooms with windows must leave their classroom and move to another location during a tornado drill.

Each teacher is also provided a detailed description of an emergency evacuation plan for the entire building. If an evacuation becomes necessary, students will evacuate to the football stadium. If the weather doesn't permit an outdoor evacuation, our students will be accompanied by their teacher, to

two off site locations that are within walking distance from the school. The sites are: DIY and The National Guard Armory.

Dress Code Guidelines

Appropriate dress in school influences the attitude of a student toward school and schoolwork. Let us always dress in a fashion that will reflect the pride we feel in our school. Students are encouraged to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in dress. In keeping with the goals of the school to provide a safe, healthy and nondiscriminatory environment for educating students for maximum academic and social development, the following guidelines shall be followed.

1. Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 3 to 4 inches in length on the upper thighs (see images below). Tops must have shoulder straps wider than spaghetti straps. Shirts should meet the top of pants. Rips or tears in clothing should be lower than 3 to 4 inches in length. No sheer articles of clothing or mesh garments are to be worn without appropriate coverage underneath.
2. No winter coats, blankets, sunglasses or hoods up on sweatshirts are to be worn in the building between the first and last bell.
3. Backpacks must be placed in student lockers when entering the building and/ or with principal discretion.
4. Head coverings with no brim that don't conceal your identity are permitted.
5. No article of clothing or accessory will be allowed that promotes, encourages, or advertises alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, violence, gang-related activities and/or sexual content. T-shirts that display the Confederate Flag or read "Interstate 420" are examples of inappropriate attire.
6. Chains, bracelets, and belts with spikes are not permitted, as well as pocket and wallet chains.
7. Specialized courses may require specialized attire.
8. Appearance must not be considered a disruption to the educational process, cause a distraction, or interfere with school purposes.



9. The administration reserves the right to review dress in a fair and equitable manner to determine if something is appropriate or inappropriate as well as the prerogative of handling the situation as deemed necessary.

Athletic Events Dress Code

1. No body or face paint.
2. No masks that cover eyes or face.
3. No props that can interfere with team play.
4. Dress should be such that it reflects positively on West Vigo Middle School.
5. Administration reserves the right to judge any student's dress appropriate or inappropriate and the prerogative of handling the situation as deemed necessary including but not limited to asking said students to leave the event.

Cell Phone Policy

Vigo County School Corporation Cell Phone and other Wireless Communication Device (WCD) Policy (A301 - adopted 7/22/24)

Inappropriate use of a cell phone or wireless communication device (WCD) may qualify a student for suspension or expulsion from school. Examples of inappropriate use include, but are not limited to, using the cell phone/WCD to take pictures or videos at prohibited times, displaying inappropriate images or websites, using inappropriate language in text messages, emails, or other forms of communication or using the device for bullying, harassment or intimidation. Inappropriate use also includes sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form on a cell phone, WCD, or other electronic device.

1. Students may possess a cell phone or WCD in school, on school property, at after school activities, and at school related functions, provided that it is silent and not in use during normal class hours, or as may be requested by staff members.
2. Students are permitted to use cell phones/ WCD on school property up to the bell signifying the start of the school day. Students are also permitted to use cell phones / WCD during lunch and following the final dismissal bell. Middle school students MAY NOT use cell phones/ WCD during passing periods. High school students MAY use cell phones/WCD during passing periods. Headphones/ earbuds are permitted before school, at lunch and after school.
3. Phones are silent and out of sight. Exemptions can be given by the classroom teacher and /or administration for educational purposes.
4. Students shall not use cell phones or WCD to take pictures or videos during regular school hours while on school property. Cell phones / WCD may only be used to take photographs and/or videos at after school events and activities unless otherwise directed by staff.
5. Cell phones/ WCD use is prohibited in restricted areas such as restrooms and locker rooms.
6. When directed by a staff member to put a cell phone or WCD away, the student must comply or face disciplinary action. Students will be sent to the office with their cell phone. The cell phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. Consequences will be assessed.
7. A student possessing a cell phone or WCD shall be responsible for its care and safe keeping. The Vigo County School Corporation shall not be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged cell phones and/or WCD.
8. School Bus Rules Cell phones or WCD shall be permitted on the bus as long as they are kept in a no volume status that cannot be heard by others and the student possessing the device can still hear emergency directions. Cell phones/ WCD may be used in silent mode responsibly on the school bus. If using headphones, one ear must be exposed in the event the driver needs to relay directions or directives. Any inappropriate use of a cell phone or WCD will result in disciplinary action as outlined in the Student/ Parent Guide and the School Cell Phone/ WCD Policy

 [A301 Wireless Communication Device Policy.pdf](#)

Examples of inappropriate use are provided in the opening paragraph of this policy.

Social Media

Social media and websites such as Instagram and YouTube have made it very easy to post photos and information online. To protect the privacy and safety of our students and employees, we discourage individuals from publicly posting pictures taken at school events that could identify others. We advise you to get consent of the individual(s) photographed before posting them and to exercise caution about revealing personal details including names. The Vigo County School Corporation cannot be responsible for information posted online in violation of these guidelines.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices that are strictly for entertainment are not allowed during the regular school day without Administrative approval. Example: Nintendo Switch, cameras, etc.

Student Responsibilities and Guidelines

School Functions or Events

Any event, either individual or group, that involves Vigo County School Corporation students and/or staff or is sponsored by someone who is authorized to represent the Vigo County School Corporation or is an approved activity of any school within the School Corporations or approved by the school board would be considered to be a school function or event. The event does not have to occur on school corporation-owned, rented, or controlled property for it to be a school event. Field trips taken on behalf of the school but not on school-owned, rented, or controlled property are still considered to be school events. In addition, events such as but not limited to athletic events, academic events, and competitions of any kind taking place on behalf of the school or sponsored by an organization affiliated with the Vigo County School or with school sponsorship are considered to be school events. Vigo County School Corporation rules will apply to all such functions and events.

Student Lockers

All lockers made available for students' use on the school premises, including lockers located in the hallways, physical education and athletic dressing rooms, career and technical rooms, and the art classroom, are the property of the school corporation. These lockers are made available for student use in storing school supplies and personal items necessary for use at school but the lockers are not to be used to store items which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or which are forbidden by state law or school rules. The student's use of the locker does not diminish the school corporation's ownership of the locker and its contents at its discretion to ensure that the locker is being used in accordance with its intended purpose and to eliminate fire or other hazards, maintain sanitary conditions, attempt to locate lost or stolen material and to prevent the use of the locker to store prohibited or dangerous materials such as weapons, illegal drugs or alcohol or other prohibited substances. Students should not store at any time any personal or school items in another student's locker.

Posters and Signs

All posters, signs, fliers, etc. displayed must have prior approval by the school administration. Signs or printed materials of promotion or advertising may not be distributed to students in the school building, on the school grounds, on the school buses, or at any school-sponsored activity without prior

approval of the VCSC and school administration. Signs, or the equivalent, without proper authorization, will be removed.

Acceptable Computer & Internet Use

The Vigo County School Corporation provides computing facilities and Internet access for education, research, and administrative use by its students, faculty, and staff. By using Corporation resources, including computers and the network, you acknowledge your responsibility to read and comply with the Corporation's acceptable use policy. In general, prohibited activities include the creation and transmission of inappropriate or offensive material, violation of copyright or privacy laws, unauthorized access, excessive use that affects use by others, and deliberate misuse. Users are accountable for their behavior, and misuse or violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion and other legal action.

Sexual Harassment

The Vigo County School Corporation has adopted Anti-Harassment Policy 1662, 3362, and 4362 on sexual harassment outlining procedures for students and staff to file a complaint if necessary. Copies of the complaint form are available in the principal's office at any school or the Vigo County Schools Administration Building at 501 W. Olive Street West Terre Haute, IN. Complaints by students may be verbally registered with any certified staff member.

Bullying

State law requires that the staff investigate a bullying incident and appropriate measures taken to address the issue. Law enforcement may be involved if necessary. Bullying is defined as chronic, repeated offenses intending to harm or ridicule a student. Please see the school rules for more information about bullying.

There are many ways to report possible bullying to the school. All Chromebooks and our school corporation website have links to STOP-IT, an anonymous reporting system for bullying, and other concerns. In addition, concerned individuals can complete a bully reporting form, which will be sent to the schools for investigation. Those who do not have access to electronic versions of these reporting forms can call the school to report allegations of bullying.

Searches and Seizures

Board policy 5771 allows for searches of students. The principal or other members of the administrative teaching staff designated by the principal may search a student's person, backpack, purse, or locker during a school day or school activity if the principal or designee has reasonable suspicion for a search. The privilege of bringing a student-operated motor vehicle on school premises is conditioned on consent by the student driver, the owner of the vehicle, where there is reasonable suspicion to search the vehicle. Refusal by a student, parent or guardian, or the motor vehicle owner to provide or allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of a request for a search of the motor vehicle shall be cause for termination without further hearing of the privilege of bringing a motor vehicle onto school property.

Firearms on School Property

The state law concerning the crime of possession of firearms on school property has changed. A person who can legally possess a firearm may do so if the firearm is locked in the trunk of the person's motor vehicle, kept in the glove compartment of the person's locked motor vehicle, or stored out of plain sight in the person-locked motor vehicle. A person who knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly leaves the firearm in plain view in a motor vehicle parked on a school campus commits a Class A misdemeanor. In addition, at no time may any students, past or present, be allowed to carry a firearm in their vehicle on school property or their person, even with a firearm permit. Any student violating the rule pertaining to firearms will be recommended for expulsion.

Sex Offender Policy

Please refer to Board Policy 8470 for more details pertaining to sex offenders on the school campus.

Social Media School Events and Posting

Social media has made it easy to post photos and content online. To protect our students and employees' privacy and safety, we discourage individuals from publicly posting pictures taken at school events that could identify others. We advise that you get consent from the individuals photographed before posting them and exercise caution about revealing personal details, including names. The Vigo County School Corporation cannot be responsible for information posted online violating these guidelines.

Chromebook Policy

The Vigo County School Corporation provides each student with a chromebook. Chromebooks are the property of the VCSC and are used to deliver curriculum and provide each student access to required educational materials needed to promote and enhance learning. The VCSC asks families to help protect and care for our investment in these devices. Fee structures for damages and repairs along with insurance information can be found on the VCSC website.

Student's Rights

Notice on Non-discrimination Under Section 504/Title II

The policy of the Vigo County School Corporation is that there will be no discrimination made based on race, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or handicap in the educational services or activities which it supports.

The school corporation does not discriminate based on disability or handicap in admission or access to treatment or employment in its programs or activities. The School corporation will comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), in the operation of its schools and facilities. Questions regarding implementing this policy or Section 504 or Title II should be directed to the School Corporation's Section 504/Title II Coordinator.

For Student Please Contact

Chief Accountability Officer
501 West Olive St.
West Terre Haute, IN 47885
812-462-4224

For Employees Please Contact

Chief Human Resources Officer
501 West Olive St.
West Terre Haute, IN 47885
812-462-4404

Federal and State Laws and Rules Relating to the Disabled

The Vigo County School Corporation complies with all laws, rules, and regulations, both Federal and State, regarding the needs of disabled students, staff, and patrons.

*A school official is someone employed by the Corporation as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, support staff member, school security officer, School Board member, a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in the performance of their duties, or a person or company with whom the Corporation has a contract for the provision of specific services.

Seclusion and Restraint

It is the policy (5630) of the Board that all students are treated with dignity and respect and free from abuse. The Board supports promoting and training appropriate student behavior as part of the Corporation's curriculum. It is the policy of the Board to use prevention, positive behavior intervention and support, and conflict de-escalation to eliminate or minimize the need for seclusion or restraint with students. This policy applies to all students, regardless of disability.

Any behavioral intervention shall be consistent with a student's rights to be treated with dignity and respect and free from abuse.

Any behavioral intervention used shall be consistent with the student's most current individualized education program (IEP) and the student's behavioral intervention plan (BIP), if applicable.

Every effort shall be made to eliminate or minimize the need for the use of restraint with a student, including the use of prevention, positive behavior intervention and support, and conflict de-escalation before the use of seclusion or restraint, except in the case of an emergency, as defined in the seclusion and restraint plan.

If A Student Is Denied A Right

If a student or his/her parent believes that the student is being improperly denied participation in any educational function in the Vigo County Schools or that the student is being subjected to an illegal rule or standard, the matter should be discussed promptly with the teacher, sponsor, coach, or school official in charge. If a parent or pupil feels that after such discussion, he/she should make a direct appeal to the principal for review of the problem. Parents are always welcome to discuss such questions with the supervisor of the activity for the Vigo County Schools. After a complete review and discussion with the personnel in the preceding channels, if the parent and child still feel that there is a denial of a fundamental right, he/she should write the alleged denial to the Superintendent of Schools and request a hearing. Parents & students age 18 and over have the right to file a complaint with the

US Department of Education, Family Compliance Office at 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920. Indiana Law does not entitle a student or a parent to initiate a hearing involving a grade or grades given to the student for courses taken.

Grading Policies and Practices

Access to Instructional Materials

The list of corporation-wide adopted texts and basic core instructional materials, as well as the novel list, will be available at or near the beginning of the school year in a designated area at each school. If a parent has a concern about instructional material(s) or book(s) selected by his/her child's teacher for an instructional assignment, the parent must contact the teacher and present this concern in writing. At no time during the parent concern process will the student be forced to participate in the questioned assignment. Grading for an alternative assignment will be equivalent to that for the original assignment.

Computer Access

The Vigo County School Corporation provides network access to every VCSC student and employee. The purpose of the access is to facilitate communications in support of research and education. Use of such resources is a privilege, not a right. Students utilizing VCSC networks and Internet access must first have the permission of the VCSC's professional staff. The Unauthorized or inappropriate use, including any violation of these guidelines, may result in the cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook, and/or civil or criminal liability. Parents and guardians have the option of requesting for their children alternative activities not requiring network or Internet use. Such a request should be submitted to the building principal in writing.

Academic Integrity

Dishonesty about one's academic work undermines both personal and academic integrity and is contrary to the high standards of excellence in the VCSC. Therefore, cheating by students cannot be taken lightly or go unaddressed. Sharing or copying work is two examples of cheating. Teachers will review academic honesty policies with their students at the beginning of the school year and/or semester.

Grades

Letter grades are given in all classes. A letter grade is computed from a numerical average. The computer center of the V.C.S.C. will take the letter grades provided by the classroom teacher (two period grades and the final exam grade) and average them in the following manner for the Term Grade; each nine-weeks grade is weighted equally and the final term exam accounts for 20% of the term grade. The following numerical values are assigned to term letter grades:

A	4.00	B-	2.67	D+	1.33
A-	3.67	C+	2.33	D	1.00
B+	3.33	C	2.00	D-	0.67
B	3.00	C-	1.67	F	0.00

Grading Periods

There are two grading periods each term or four for the school year. There are two terms for the school year. Each term is approximately 18 weeks in length.

Honor Roll

At the close of each grading period, the Honor Roll is prepared. Honor Roll eligibility is based on a grade average in all credit subjects. The student must be enrolled in a minimum of five classes, not including pass/fail. A student must maintain a 3.00 grade point average to qualify for honors and have no grade lower than a "C". The following grade point average determines honor status:

3.85-4.00	Exceptional Honors
3.50-3.84	High Honors
3.00-3.49	Regular Honors

Student Discipline Rules

West Vigo Middle School Discipline Procedures

Each team will develop their own record keeping method for tracking classroom-managed behaviors that are found within the Discipline/Behavior Chart. The behaviors listed in the chart below are not a finite list. Additional classroom-managed behaviors that are not found on the chart may be addressed by the teacher or grade level team. Any question may be handled by emailing the administration.

West Vigo Middle School Discipline/Behavior Chart

<u>Classroom-Managed Behavior</u>	<u>Office-Managed Behavior</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off assigned task • Forgotten materials repeatedly • Tardies to class • Missing assignments • Repeatedly being out of seat/assigned area • Playing games on chrome book • Name left by a sub • Talking during morning/afternoon announcements • Disruptive Behavior • Sleeping • Throwing objects in class • Cheating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destruction of materials • Refusal to follow directives repeatedly-Insubordination • Fights/Violent Acts of any type/Assault • Cursing • Throwing something • Repeated disrespect • Inappropriate words/gestures/etc • Alcohol/Tobacco • Theft • Sexually inappropriate conduct • Sexual harassment • Possession of weapon/Firearm • Drug possession or distribution • Discrimination • Racist or Insensitive Speech • Cell phone/Technology Violation • Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying • Multiple minor offenses/lunch detentions as defined by each team • Tardies to School • Truancy • Vandalism

Notes:

6th Grade

Every 5 LOGS=Office Referral

15 LOGS=Parent Conference

20 LOGS=3 Days AEP

Every 5 OOPS=Lunch Detention
20 OOPS=Office Referral
Resets Each Semester

7th Grade

Every 5 Penalties = Lunch Detention
15 Penalties=Office Referral
20 Penalties=Parent Conference
25 Penalties=3 Days AEP
Resets Each Grading Period

8th Grade

Every 3 Penalties=Lunch Detention
9 Penalties=Office Referral
18 Penalties=Parent Conference
20 Penalties=3 Days AEP
Resets Each Grading Period

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION STUDENT DISCIPLINE RULES

The Vigo County School Corporation's mission is to equip students with lifelong learning skills and prepare them to become productive and responsible citizens. Toward that end, the School Corporation desires to use the progressive discipline of students in an effort to avoid interruption or disruption within educational programs and activities while also pursuing restorative goals that seek to avoid exclusionary punishment, if possible. In accordance with Indiana law, administrators and staff members may take the following actions:

1. **CLASSROOM CONSEQUENCE:** A teacher may prescribe appropriate classroom-level correction to encourage compliance with expectations and policies.
2. **REMOVAL FROM CLASS OR ACTIVITY - TEACHER:**
 - a. A middle or high school teacher may remove a student from the teacher's class or activity for a period of up to 1 school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
 - b. An elementary teacher may remove a student from the teacher's classroom or activity for up to one (1) school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
 - c. If a teacher removes a student from class under a) or b) above, the principal may place the student in one of the following settings: another appropriate class, another appropriate setting, or in-school suspension. The student may not be placed back into the original class until the principal has a meeting with the teacher, the student, and the student's parents to determine an appropriate behavior plan for the student. If the parents do not attend this meeting within a reasonable time, the principal may place the student in another class or educational setting.

d. A student may also lose bus transportation privileges as a consequence. (NOTE: Loss of bus transportation for students under an IEP or Section 504 plan may be considered equal to an out-of-school suspension.)

3. **ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT/SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL:** A school principal (or designee) may place the student in an alternative learning environment, which is the preferred consequence, or deny a student the right to attend school and/or take part in any school function for a period of up to 10 school days.
4. **EXPULSION:** A student may be expelled from school for a period of no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester.

NOTE: Students under IEPs or Section 504 shall receive separate considerations and may not be eligible for some forms of discipline.

GROUND FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION:

The grounds for suspension or expulsion listed in **Section A** below apply when a student is:

- a. On school grounds immediately before, during, and immediately after school hours and at any other time when the school is being used by a school group (including summer school);
- b. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event; or
- c. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event.

A school activity, function, or event includes e-Learning, virtual instruction, and remote learning days.

A violation by a student listed in **Sections A and B** below is subject to a range of disciplinary consequences imposed by teachers or administrators intended to be progressive in nature and move to a more serious consequence with each violation of the same or similar rule. In recognizing that violations of certain rules and the resulting consequences will be dependent upon the age of the student, the number of prior violations, and the severity of the violation, the principal of each building level shall develop the minimum and maximum consequences for each rule for their building that is to be approved by the board annually and published in the student handbook for each building. The appropriate consequence should be the least severe that will adequately address any danger to the student and other persons, prevent further disruption of activities, and promote student achievement.

A. Student Misconduct and/or Substantial Disobedience

Grounds for suspension or expulsion are student misconduct and/or substantial disobedience. The following rules define student misconduct and/or substantial disobedience for which a student may be suspended or expelled:

1. Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or other conduct constituting an interference or disruption with school purposes, or urging other students to engage in such conduct. The following enumeration is only illustrative and not limited to the type of conduct prohibited by this rule:
 - a. Occupying any school building, school grounds, or part thereof with intent to deprive others of its use.
 - b. Blocking the entrance or exits of any school building or corridor or room therein with intent to deprive others of lawful access to or from, or use of the building, corridor, or room.
 - c. Setting fire to or damaging any school building or school property.

- d. Prevention of or attempting to prevent by physical act the convening or continued functioning of any school or education function or any meeting or assembly on school property.
 - e. Intentionally making noise or acting in any manner to interfere with the ability of any teacher or any other person to conduct or participate in an education function.
- 2. Engaging in any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to another person or urging other students to engage in such conduct. Prohibited conduct includes coercion, harassment, hazing, or other comparable conduct.
 - 3. Engaging in violence and/or threat of violence against any student, staff member, and/or other persons. Prohibited violent or threatening conduct includes threatening, planning, or conspiring with others to engage in violent activity.
 - 4. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property, stealing or attempting to steal school property.
 - 5. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property, stealing or attempting to steal private property.
 - 6. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury or behaving in such a way as could reasonably cause physical injury to any person. Self-defense or reasonable action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect oneself and/or another person is not a violation of this rule.
 - 7. Threatening or intimidating any person for any purpose, including obtaining money or anything of value.
 - 8. Threatening (whether specific or general in nature) injury to persons or property damage, regardless of whether there is a present ability to commit the act.
 - 9. Failing to report the actions or plans of another person to a teacher or administrator where those actions or plans, if carried out, could harm another person or persons or damage property when the student has information about such actions or plans.
 - 10. Possessing, handling, or transmitting a knife or any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon, is represented to be a weapon, or looks like a weapon, including but not limited to imitation weapons or airsoft guns.
 - 11. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being affected by any controlled substance, prescription drug, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug (including natural hallucinogens), amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, intoxicant or depressant of any kind, or any paraphernalia used in connection with the listed substances. Also prohibited is the consumption of any stated substances immediately before attending school, a school function, or an event. THC Extract products as defined by state law are included in this rule and/or violations of the school corporation administration of medication policy are included in this rule
 - a. Exception to Rule 11: a student may possess and self-administer prescribed medication for the disease or condition if the student's parent has filed a written authorization with the building principal. The written authorization must be filed annually. The written authorization must be completed by a physician and must include the following information:
 - 1. The nature of the student's disease or medical condition shall or may require the administration of the prescribed medication during the school day.
 - 2. The student has been instructed on how to self-administer the prescribed medication.
 - 3. The student is authorized to possess and self-administer the prescribed medication.

This exception, however, does not apply to the use of prescribed medication by anyone other than the individual to whom the prescription is written, nor does this exception permit the unlawful distribution of prescribed medication.

12. Possessing, using, or transmitting any substance which is represented to be or looks like a narcotic drug, a hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind.
13. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being affected by caffeine-based substances other than beverages, substances containing phenylpropanolamine (PPA)*, stimulants of any kind, or any other similar over-the-counter products
14. Possessing, using, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco or nicotine-containing products of any kind or in any form. These products include e-cigarettes, vaping devices, any type of look-alike products or other related products or devices associated with tobacco or nicotine use or electronic nicotine delivery systems.
15. Offering to sell or agreeing to purchase a controlled or banned substance or alcoholic beverage.
16. Failing to comply with directions of teachers or other school personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under their supervision, where the failure constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
17. Failing to completely and truthfully respond to questions from a staff member regarding school-related matters, including potential violations of the student conduct rules or state or federal law. (NOTE: If the staff member is a uniformed law enforcement officer, the student may have the right to be silent under the U.S. and Indiana Constitutions.
18. Accusing any person of sexual harassment or of violating a school rule, and/or a state or federal law without a good faith basis for such allegation.
19. Engaging in any activity forbidden by the laws of Indiana that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
20. Aiding, assisting, agreeing or conspiring with another person to violate these student conduct rules or state or federal law.
21. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
22. Taking, recording, displaying and/or distributing pictures (digital or otherwise), video or audio recordings of a student or staff member without the consent of that student or staff member, including images altered through technology.
23. Possessing sexually-related materials which include images displaying uncovered breasts, genitals, or buttocks.
24. "Sexting" or using a cell phone or other personal communication device to possess or send text or email messages containing images reasonably interpreted as indecent or sexual in nature. In addition to taking any disciplinary action, phones will be confiscated and any images suspected to violate criminal laws will be referred to law enforcement authorities.
25. Engaging in pranks or other similar activity that could result in harm to another person.
26. Using or possessing gunpowder, ammunition, or an inflammable substance.

27. Violating any board policy or administrative rules that are reasonably necessary in carrying out school purposes or an educational function, including, but not limited to:
- a. engaging in sexual behavior on school property;
 - b. engaging in sexual harassment of a student or staff member;
 - c. disobedience of administrative authority;
 - d. willful absence or tardiness of students;
 - e. engaging in speech or conduct, including clothing, jewelry or hair style, that is profane, indecent, lewd, vulgar, or refers to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, sex, or illegal activity;
 - f. violation of the school corporation's acceptable use of technology policy or rules;
 - g. violation of the school corporation's administration of medication policy or rules;
 - h. possessing or using a laser pointer or similar device.
28. Possessing or using an electronic device (e.g. cellular phone, tablet computer, pager, digital camera, electronic equipment) in a manner which constitutes an interference with a school purpose or educational function, an invasion of privacy, or an act of academic dishonesty, or is profane, indecent, or obscene. In addition to being disciplined, students who use an electronic device in a manner which is inconsistent with this rule may have the device confiscated by school administration. Such devices will be returned to the parent.
29. Possessing or using on school grounds during school hours an electronic device, a cellular telephone, or any other telecommunication device, including a look-a-like device, in a situation not related to a school purpose or educational function or using such device to engage in an activity that violates school rules. This rule is not violated when the student has been given clear permission from a school administrator or a designated staff member to possess or use one of the devices listed in this rule. In addition to being disciplined, students who use an electronic device in a manner which is inconsistent with this rule may have the device confiscated by school administration. Such devices will be returned to the parent.
30. Any student conduct rule the school building principal establishes and gives notice to students and parents.

B. Bullying

1. Bullying committed by students toward other students is strictly prohibited. Engaging in bullying conduct described in this rule by use of data or computer software that is accessed through any computer, computer system, computer network, or cellular telephone or other wireless or cellular communication device, is also prohibited.
2. For purposes of this rule, bullying is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner including electronically or digitally, physical acts committed, aggression, or any other similar behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:
 - places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
 - has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
 - has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or

- has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

3. This rule may be applied regardless of the physical location of the bullying behavior when a student committing bullying behavior and the targeted student attend a school within the school corporation and disciplinary action is reasonably necessary to avoid substantial interference with school discipline or prevent an unreasonable threat to the rights of other students to a safe and peaceful learning environment.
4. Any student or parent who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this rule or any student who feels he/she has been bullied in violation of this rule should immediately report the conduct to the principal or designee who has responsibility for all investigations of student misconduct including bullying. A student or parent may also report the conduct to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the principal or designee. This report may be made anonymously.
5. The principal or designee shall investigate immediately all reports of bullying made pursuant to the provisions of this rule. Such investigation must include any action or appropriate responses that may be taken immediately to address the bullying conduct wherever it takes place. The parents of the alleged perpetrator and the targeted student(s) shall be notified of the reported bullying incidents within five business days of the report of such incidents and on a regular, periodic basis of the progress and the findings of the investigation and of any remedial action that has been taken. During the investigation, the school's priority will be the safety of the victim. The investigation may include a determination of the severity of the bullying incident(s) and whether the transfer of the alleged perpetrator or victim to another school within the school corporation is warranted.
6. The Principal or designee will be responsible for working with the school counselors and other community resources to provide information and/or follow-up services to support the targeted student and to educate the student engaging in bullying behavior on the effects of bullying and the prevention of bullying. In addition, the school administrator and school counselors will be responsible for determining if the bullying behavior is a violation of law required to be reported to law enforcement under Indiana law based upon their reasonable belief. Such determination should be made as soon as possible and once this determination is made, the report should be made immediately to law enforcement.
7. False reporting of bullying conduct as defined in this rule by a student shall be considered a violation of this rule and will result in any appropriate disciplinary action or sanctions if the investigation of the report finds it to be false.
8. A violation of this rule prohibiting bullying may result in any appropriate disciplinary action or sanction, including suspension and/or expulsion.
9. Failure by a school employee who has a responsibility to report bullying or investigate bullying or any other duty under this rule to carry out such responsibility or duty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from employment with the school corporation.
10. Counseling, corrective discipline, and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator. This includes appropriate intervention(s), restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the bullying.
11. Educational outreach and training will be provided to school personnel, parents, and students concerning the identification, prevention, and intervention in bullying.
12. All schools in the corporation are encouraged to engage students, staff and parents in meaningful discussions about the negative aspects of bullying. The parent involvement may be through parent organizations already in place in each school.

13. The superintendent or designee will be responsible for developing detailed administrative procedures consistent with the Indiana Department of Education guidelines for the implementation of the provisions of this rule.

C. Possessing a Firearm or A Destructive Device

1. No student shall possess, handle or transmit any firearm or a destructive device on school property.
2. The following devices are considered to be a firearm under this rule:

any weapon that is capable of expelling, designed to expel, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by means of an explosion.

3. For purposes of this rule, a destructive device is:

an explosive, incendiary, or overpressure device that is configured as a bomb, a grenade, a rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, a Molotov cocktail or a device that is substantially similar to an item described above,

a type of weapon that may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a barrel that has a bore diameter of more than one-half inch, or

a combination of parts designed or intended for use in the conversion of a device into a destructive device.

A destructive device is NOT a device that although originally designed for use as a weapon, is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device.

4. The penalty for possession of a firearm or a destructive device: suspension up to 10 days and expulsion from school for at least one calendar year with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first semester after the one year period. The superintendent may reduce the length of the expulsion if the circumstances warrant such reduction.
5. The superintendent shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a student engages in behavior described in this rule.

D. Possessing A Deadly Weapon

1. No student shall possess, handle or transmit any deadly weapon on school property.
2. The following devices are considered to be deadly weapons for purposes of this rule:

a weapon, taser or electronic stun weapon, equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used, or could ordinarily be used, or is intended to be used, is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury;

an animal readily capable of causing serious bodily injury and used in the commission or attempted commission of a crime; or

a biological disease, virus, or organism that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

3. The penalty for possession of a deadly weapon: up to 10 days suspension and expulsion from school for a period of up to one calendar year.
4. The superintendent may notify the appropriate law enforcement agency when a student engages in behavior described in this rule.

E. Unlawful Activity

A student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds if 1) the unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function, or 2) the student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property. This includes any unlawful activity meeting the above criteria that takes place during weekends, holidays, other school breaks, and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions.

F. Legal Settlement

A student may be expelled if it is determined that the student's legal settlement is not in the attendance area of the school where the student is enrolled.

LEGAL REFERENCES:	I.C. 20-33-8	I.C. 35-31.5-2-86
	I.C. 35-47.5-2-4	I.C. 35-47-1-5

Suspension and Expulsion Procedures

SUSPENSION PROCEDURE

When a principal (or designee) determines that a student should be suspended, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A meeting will be held prior to the suspension of any student. At this meeting the student will be entitled to:
 - (a) a written or oral statement of the charges;
 - (b) if the student denies the charges, a summary of the evidence against the student will be presented; and,
 - (c) the student will be provided an opportunity to explain his or her conduct.
2. The meeting shall precede suspension of the student except where the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such situations, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the date of the suspension.
3. Following the suspension, the parent or guardian of a suspended student will be notified in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension, describe the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal.
4. During the suspension, the student is required to complete all school work assigned during the suspension. The principal or designee will ensure the student receives notice of all assignments due during the suspension and will provide teacher contact information to the student so the student may contact the teacher if the student has any questions about the assignments. **For any assignments and/or school work completed by the student during the student's suspension period, credit will be given to the student to the same extent and in the same manner as students who are not suspended receive.**

EXPULSION PROCEDURE

When a principal (or designee) recommends to the superintendent (or designee) that a student be expelled from school, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The superintendent (or designee) may conduct an expulsion meeting, or may appoint one of the following persons to conduct the expulsion meeting:
 - a. legal counsel
 - b. a member of the administrative staff who did not expel the student during the current school year and was not involved in the events giving rise to the expulsion.
2. An expulsion will not take place until the student and the student's parent are given notice of their right to appear at an expulsion meeting conducted by the superintendent or the person designated above. Failure to request and to appear at this meeting will be deemed a waiver of rights administratively to contest the expulsion or to appeal it to the Superintendent.
3. The notice of the right to an expulsion meeting will be in writing, delivered by certified mail or by personal delivery, and contain the reasons for the expulsion and the procedure for requesting the meeting.
4. At the expulsion meeting, the principal (or designee), will present evidence to support the charges against the student. The student or parent will have the opportunity to answer the charges against the student, and to present evidence to support the student's position. The student or student's family has no right to counsel during an expulsion meeting.
5. If an expulsion meeting is held, the person conducting the expulsion meeting will make a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting, take any action found to be appropriate, and give notice of the action taken to the student and the student's parents.
6. The expulsion examiner shall provide to the student and parent the school corporation list of alternative education programs located in the county or in an adjacent county and of virtual charter schools in which the student may enroll during the student's expulsion at the expulsion meeting. If no expulsion meeting is held or the student or parent does not attend the expulsion meeting, the expulsion examiner shall mail the list to the student and parent to the student's residence.

Option 1 for school boards that hear all student expulsion appeals:

NO RIGHT TO APPEAL

The student or parent has no right to appeal an expulsion decision to the school board as the school board has voted not to hear student expulsion appeals.

LEGAL REFERENCE: I.C. 20-33-8-18

I.C. 20-33-8-1

VCSC Wellness Policy

The Vigo County School Corporation adopted a Wellness Policy designed to benefit both the students and the staff of the VCSC. The VCSC recognizes the need for adequate and nourishing food for growth, learning, and the maintenance of good health. It further recognizes the existence of significant research which indicates that a positive relationship exists between adequate nutrition, good emotional and mental health, academic success, and good behavior. During activities

throughout the school day where food is sold, a nutritional choice should be offered (e.g. fresh fruit or vegetables.) Also, celebrations involving food should encourage the use of healthy foods and should take place at a time that will least interfere with students eating a nutritious lunch. Please refer to the VCSC website for the full policy.

Food Service Program

The Vigo County School Corporation, operating under the provisions of the National School Lunch Act and the Division of School Food and Nutrition Programs of the State Department of Public Instruction, serves nutritious meals every school day. Every child has the opportunity to partake of both breakfast and lunch in their school. Free or reduced-price lunches are available when family income falls within the income guidelines. Application forms, which include income guidelines, are furnished to students during registration activities at the beginning of the school year or may be requested during the school year should a family's status change. Additional information on any of the above items may be obtained from the principal's office of each school or from the Vigo County School Corporation Food Service Office at 462-4245.

Tobacco/Nicotine Vaping Policy

The Vigo County Board of School Trustees has instituted a no-smoking and other tobacco use policy effective July 1, 2007. As of that date, smoking and using other tobacco products are prohibited in all school buildings, on all school property, and in any corporation-owned or contracted vehicle during any activity or event. This includes an electronic cigarette, electronic vaping device, personal vaporizer, or electronic nicotine delivery system, which is a device that stimulates tobacco smoking."

Health Clinic Guidelines

The Health Clinic, under the direction of a registered nurse and staffed by a health assistant, will be open from 8:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. The clinic should be used for the purpose of receiving first-aid treatment for injuries/illness or to talk with the nurse about an individual health problem.

If you are feeling ill, obtain permission from your classroom teacher to proceed to the Health Clinic. It is important that the services of the school nurse be used and not abused. Habitual use of the clinic by an individual will be evidence of the need for that individual to obtain a doctor's statement.

Health Clinic Rules

1. Students must sign in, sit down, and wait their turn.
2. Students must have a pass from their teacher or come only for Tylenol.
3. Students must have *current* health information on file.
4. Students are *not* allowed to use the phone.
5. A student may be given *no more* than ten (10) Tylenol per semester..
6. Students will not be allowed to lie down for more than fifteen (15) minutes per visit, and may only do so four (4) times per semester.
7. Only numbers listed as emergency contacts will be called.
8. Medication may not be left on the desk if no one is in the office.

Medication at School:

- A. According to state law, students in grades K-8 cannot carry medications to and from school. A parent must bring these medications to school and pick them up. Students in grades 9-12 may transport their own medications to the health room. If a student has a life-threatening condition that requires them to carry medication on their person so that it can be given immediately (i.e. epipen, asthma inhaler or diabetic supplies), a special form can be obtained from the health room or the VCSC nursing webpage that is to be completed by the student's physician and parent.
- B. When it is necessary for a student to take medication at school for a short time, a written statement of request to give said medication must be sent to the school and signed by the parent/guardian. If the medication will be given on a long-term basis, the physician's signature is also required. The request form is available from the health room or the VCSC nursing webpage. The medication must be sent in the original pharmacy container displaying the child's name, name of the medication, dosage, and time(s) of administration. Duplicate containers may be obtained from the dispensing pharmacy.
- C. Medication no longer used or needed by a student in grades K-8 must be picked up by the parent/guardian or destroyed by appropriate school personnel. Destruction will be in a manner that ensures no other person can obtain possession of it and only after attempts have been made to notify the parent. If medication is not picked up the day after the last day of school, medication will be destroyed unless prior arrangements have been made.
- D. Acetaminophen (non-aspirin) may be given at school if the parent has provided written permission on the Health Permission Form in Skyward.
- E. All medications will be given by the school nurse or her designee unless otherwise ordered by a licensed physician or as addressed by current state laws for the possession and self-administration of medication by students (IC 20-33-8-13). Parent(s) must annually provide the school principal with a written physician's statement which indicates the medical condition for which the medication is prescribed, the time it is to be given, and any special instructions for administration. If the medication is to be self-administered, the condition must be a chronic disease or an illness for which the physician states the student has been instructed in the self-administration of that medication. These forms are available from the health room or VCSC nursing webpage.

Immunization Requirements

State law requires that students shall be immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B, chicken pox, and hepatitis A. In grades 6-12, students must receive meningitis vaccines and the Tdap vaccine (against whooping cough). Regarding the specific number of each vaccine required at each grade level, details are available in each school, from the Nursing Office @ 462-4465 or 462-4409, the ISDH School Immunization Guide, or the VCSC nursing webpage. Proof of immunizations must be presented at the time of student registration. Documentation must be a physician's record, another school record, CHIRP, or another state immunization record.

Health Screening

Indiana law requires that: students in 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade will have vision screening. 1st, 4th, 7th, and 10th grade will have a hearing screening. If a parent objects to these screenings, they must contact the child's school and the request must be made in writing.

Meningococcal Disease

Indiana law requires each year that parents/guardians be informed "about meningococcal disease and its vaccine" (IC 20-30-5-18). Meningococcal disease is a dangerous disease that can strike children and youth. The disease can progress rapidly and within hours of the first symptoms, may result in death or permanent disability, including loss of hearing, brain damage, and limb amputations. Symptoms of meningococcal disease often resemble the flu and can include a fever, headache, nausea, and stiff neck, making the disease difficult to diagnose. The bacteria that cause meningococcal diseases are transmitted through air droplets and by direct contact with an infected person. An immunization is available, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine meningococcal immunizations at 11 to 12 years old. For teenagers, immunization is required for 6th-grade entry, and current seniors must have a second meningitis dose. The ISDH has added the Meningitis B vaccine recommendation for 2018 seniors to further protect students from Meningitis. Please discuss meningococcal disease and vaccination with your child's healthcare provider.

Mental Health

In our commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment, we recognize the importance of mental health in our students' overall well-being. Your mental health matters to us, and we encourage open conversations about it. If a student is experiencing mental health challenges, please connect with a school counselor who will serve as a guide to resources, support services, and self-care strategies to help you navigate challenges and prioritize your mental wellness. Remember, seeking assistance is a sign of strength, and we are here to support you on your academic journey. We want every student to feel heard, understood, and empowered to prioritize their mental health.

Student Accidents

The Board of School Trustees is not legally responsible for children's injuries at school or places under school auspices. It cannot pay damages, hospital, or medical bills, regardless of the seriousness of the case. Schools cannot legally provide medical insurance for students. Current emergency contacts must be kept updated in Skyward. Only persons listed in Skyward as emergency contacts can be contacted in an emergency.

Parent and Visitor Information

Registered Sex Offender Policy

Vigo County School Corporation has adopted a policy prohibiting anyone who is listed on the sex offender registry from coming onto school property. Sex offenders may be arrested for criminal trespass for violating this policy. Exceptions (with Restrictions) to the policy would only be granted in specific instances and only after following the procedures for asking for such an exception.

The Board of School Trustees declares that no registered sex offender may come on the property of the Vigo County School Corporation school except as otherwise provided in this policy and as required by State and Federal law. If an administrator becomes aware that a sex offender is on school property, the administrator*/designee shall direct the sex offender to leave the area immediately, except under limited circumstances as defined by our policy. *Administrator: a V.C.S.C. employee assigned to an administrative function for the School Corporation.

Visitors

STUDENTS ARE NOT TO BRING VISITORS TO SCHOOL.

Any visitor should check in with the officer at the Kiosk desk in front of the Main Office upon arrival to the building. You will be required to show identification.

Field Trips

Parents may be invited to attend a field trip if the school feels that such involvement is warranted or is necessary. The decision of inviting parents on field trips rests with the school. Any parent attending as a participant or chaperone is subject to a criminal history check prior to attendance. Criminal history checks may be required yearly or at any time the principal feels that such a check is necessary. Attendance will be approved or denied through the central office. All school rules are in effect on a field trip.

Volunteers

Parents / guardians are welcome to volunteer their time and talents. Volunteers must have an approved background check on file prior to activity. Volunteers must check in at security upon entering the facility. Forms may be accessed in the main office or on the VCSC homepage

Guardian/Parent Information

Permits

Out-of-County Attendance Permits and Legal Settlement

Non-residents of Vigo County who wish to enroll their children in the Vigo County School Corporation may obtain an application by visiting the Vigo County School Corporation website. For Indiana residents only, the out-of-county tuition may be waived for the student. In divorce situations, Indiana Code defines Legal Settlement as the attendance area of the parent granted physical custody by the court. The legal custodian may choose to have their child attend school in the corporation of the non-custodial parent but must enroll the student by 14 days before the first day of school. No transfer tuition is due under this provision.

Student Transfer Permits

The Vigo County School Corporation has established educational attendance districts that include all residents of Vigo County. However, there may be a circumstance that necessitates a request by the parent/guardian for a school-year permit to attend a school outside of the student's legal attendance district. Evidence that the parents or guardians are purchasing or building a home in a different attendance district b)Nursery school enrollment in the permit attendance district; c)The residence of a babysitter is located in the permit attendance district; d) Residence established by

legal affidavit in keeping with the provisions of state law; e) The permit requires that families provide transportation to and from school. The appeal process will rest with the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services and the final appeal with the Superintendent of schools; h) Permits are subject to revocation by the principal at any time; i) High school students who wish to participate in high school athletics and who are granted a permit by the Vigo County School Corporation to transfer to a school outside the school attendance district in which the student resides must also meet the rules and regulations of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) regarding eligibility for athletic participation. Permits that would cause the individual class size to, according to the policies of the Vigo County School Corporation, will not be approved.

Cash Tuition

Cash Tuition for an out-of-county student will be waived if the student's legal residence is in Indiana and the student is enrolled before the official enrollment date. Any student enrolled from another state will be charged the full enrollment regardless of when the student enrolls. Cash tuition may be denied until school capacity has been reached.

Fire & Tornado Drills

Fire and tornado drills will be held regularly throughout the year. Fire and tornado drill instructions are posted for each area and each classroom in the building. Absolute quiet must prevail in the building during the drill in order that any directions given for the safety of students may be heard and understood.

School Surveillance Systems

In an effort to provide increased safety for students, visitors, and staff, CCTV has been installed in each school. Areas are monitored and images are stored digitally for a period of time. These images are for school use only, and may not be released to the public. Parents that want to inspect video as part of their child's educational record must contact the Assistant Superintendent of Student Services to inquire about the process.

Care of the building

Students and guests are expected to treat the building and its contents with care and respect. When attending or participating in athletic practices or meetings, students are to remain in the specific area that is supervised by the faculty member in charge. VISITORS: All visitors are required to sign in at the SPO kiosk upon entering the building. Parents who wish to consult with teachers should call and arrange a time that is mutually agreeable to both parent and teacher.

Integrated Pest Management Policy

The Vigo County School Corporation is dedicated to providing a safe environment for students and staff. The school corporation uses Integrated Pest Management methods to address pest populations. We seek to prevent children from being exposed to pests and pesticides. While pesticides protect children from pests that may be found in the schools and its surroundings under some circumstances they may pose a hazard to children. Therefore pest control practices may involve a variety of chemical and non-chemical methods that are designed to control pests effectively.

while minimizing potential pesticide exposure to children. If you would like to be informed when pesticides will be used on campus you can opt in for those alerts.

Directory Information Release to Media

Throughout the school year, different media groups and the school administration will produce stories about activities and events in the Vigo County School Corporation. These articles may include photographs and videos posted online, printed, or aired on radio or television. If parents do not wish for their child to be included in pictures or content for the media, they can complete the form online to opt-out.

Notice & Consent/ Opt-Out for Specific Activities

Parents have the right to opt out of opportunities for their child to participate in student surveys, analysis, or evaluations that concern one or more of the following eight areas: political affiliations or beliefs of the student or their parents; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships such as with lawyers, doctors or ministers; religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or parents; income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility. This option also applies to the collection, disclosure or use of student information for marketing and for specific non-emergency physical exams and screenings not permitted or required by state law.

Classroom Observation/Visitation

Observation in a teacher's class by persons other than school personnel shall be allowed only with the consent of the building administrator and teacher involved, provided the teacher involved is given a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice.

Student Records Policy

Definitions

- A. **Education Records.** Education records consist of all official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school. Such records encompass all the material kept in the student's cumulative folder, including general identifying data, records of attendance and academic work completed, records of achievement results of evaluative tests, health data, and expulsion actions. Education records are the property of the school corporation and access to and correction is governed by this policy.
- B. **Exclusions.** Education records shall not include the following:
 - a. Data that relate to a student or groups of students but by which he/she or they cannot be identified, such as, for example, by social security number, name, address, or name of relatives, such as records generally being referred to as unidentifiable student records.

- b. Records kept in the sole possession of the maker and which are not accessible or revealed to other persons. Such records may include grade books, notes on student work, transcripts of interviews, counselors' notes, and memory aids.
 - c. Examples of student work products include art, vocational objects, and written work.
 - d. Communication privileged and information required to be furnished to law enforcement or social service agencies relating to suspected child abuse or neglect.
- C. **Parents.** Parents of a student shall include parents, guardians, and custodians.

Custody and Protection of Student Records

- A. **Place records are kept.** Student records will generally be maintained online in the corporation / school database.
- B. **Control of the records.** Student records in each place where they are maintained shall be under the immediate control of the person in charge of the building, who shall be responsible for carrying out this policy.
- C. **Record of access to student records.** Each student's cumulative folder and record are maintained separately from the folder.

Access to Student Records (These rights transfer to the student when s/he turns 18 or enters a post-secondary institution at any age.)

- A. **Right of access.** A parent of a student who (1) is less than 18 years of age and not enrolled in a post-secondary institution, or (2) is a dependent student as defined by Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, has a right to inspect and review such student's records or any part thereof. A student has a right to inspect or review his or her records or any part thereof.
- B. **Manner of exercising such rights.** Such right shall be exercised by presenting a written request to the superintendent's office or designee. The request shall specify the records the parent or student wishes to inspect or examine. If the school cannot determine the exact records as described, the designated school employee shall immediately contact the parents or student by letter or otherwise, to determine the desired scope of records to be inspected. Such inspections shall be made during reasonable business hours determined by mutual agreement between the school employee and the parents or student. A school official shall be present during any such inspection to assist in interpreting the records.
- C. **Records involving more than one student.** Where the records requested include information concerning more than one student, the parents shall either receive for examination that part of the record pertaining to their child or, where this cannot reasonably be done, be informed of the contents of the part pertaining to their child.

Access to Student Records by Third Parties

- A. **Access without the parents' consent or student at least 18 years of age or enrolled in a post-secondary institute.** The education records of any student shall be available to the following persons, or in the following situations, without the consent of the parents or student who is at least 18 years of age or enrolled in a post-secondary institution:

1. Corporation school officials* with legitimate educational interests requiring access to records to fulfill their professional responsibilities.
2. Officials of another school system or institution of post-secondary education the student seeks or intends to enroll. The parent or student will not be notified of the disclosure of education records to another school, school system, or institution of post-secondary education where the student seeks to attend or enroll. The parent or student, at least 18 years of age, may receive a copy of the record that was disclosed upon request.
3. Authorized representatives of the Controller General of the United States or the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare or other federal agency, and authorized employees of the Indiana Department of Education, provided, however, that except where collection of personally identifiable data is expressly authorized by federal law, any data or copies collected by such officials concerning individual students shall not include information which would permit the personal identification of any student or their parents.
4. Organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of the school corporation to develop, validate, or administrate predictive tests and improve instruction.
5. Accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions.
6. Appropriate state or local officials in a health or safety emergency where such officials need the information immediately to deal with a severe threat to the health or safety of students or other individuals.
7. Where such information is furnished in compliance with a judicial order and pursuant to any lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition, however, that parents are notified of all such orders or subpoenas as soon as reasonably possible after they are received, and in any event not less than 24 hours before disclosure.
8. Except as provided in subsection (a), a nonpublic or public school must allow a custodial parent and a non-custodial parent of a child the same access to their child's education records.
 - (a) A nonpublic or public school may not allow a non-custodial parent access to the child's education records if:
 - (1) a court has issued an order that limits the non-custodial parent's access to the child's education records; and
 - (2) the school has received a copy of the court order or has actual knowledge of the court order.

Copies of Records

Copies of records at no charge may be provided to (1) the parent of a student under 18 years of age or a dependent student as defined by Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or (2) a student who is at least 18 years of age or enrolled in a post-secondary institute of higher instruction, where such person is unable because of distance or other valid reason to inspect and review the education record personally. No fee will be charged for all other copies of records.

Release of Directory Information

The school corporation may release certain “directory information,” which means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed and which includes but is not limited to, the student’s name, address, parent’s names and their home and work telephone numbers, email addresses, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, height and weight of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, awards received, teacher selected student work with no grades displayed, pictures or video images not used in a disciplinary manner, hair and eye color, race, sex, date of birth, height, weight, grade level, and other similar information, without consent to media organizations (including radio, television, and newspaper), colleges civic or school-related organizations, military recruiters and state or local governmental agencies.

Parents of a student under 18 years of age or at least 18 years of age desiring to object to the disclosure of any or sure of the categories of directory information should complete the form in Skyward.

An objecting parent or student may deny consent for release of all directory information or he/she may selectively deny consent by circling those categories of directory information he/she does not wish to release.

Building principals shall ensure that parents are informed of their right to object to the release of directory information and that they may file such an objection at any time during the school year.

Transportation

School Bus

1. Transportation is provided to all secondary school students whose actual walking distance between home and the school they are required to attend generally exceeds one and one-half (1.5) miles.
2. Transportation may be furnished for shorter distances if the Director of Transportation recommends the change. Parents may appeal this decision to the superintendent.
3. Students are to ride their assigned bus only. If it is necessary for a student to ride a bus other than his/her assigned bus, the student must have a bus pass from his/her parent/guardian signed by school personnel before or during advisory. Conduct on the school buses that endangers the safe operation of the bus or the well being of the passengers will not be tolerated. All bus drivers are agents of the school and have the same authority as other members of the staff. A student who is guilty of misconduct on the bus may not be permitted to continue to ride the bus. Continued misconduct will cause a student to lose the privilege of riding a school bus.

SCHOOL BUS RULES

1. Be courteous.
2. Cooperate with the driver and other passengers.
3. Loud, boisterous, or profane language or indecent conduct shall not be tolerated.

4. Stay in your seat.
5. Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
6. Pupils shall not tease, scuffle, trip, hold, hit, or use their hands, feet, or body in any objectionable manner.
7. Keep the bus clean.
8. Do not eat or drink on the bus without the bus driver's permission.
9. Do not smoke or vape.
10. Do not be destructive.
11. No windows or doors will be opened or closed except by permission of the bus driver.
12. The bus driver is authorized to assign seats to one or all passengers.

Car Pick-up/Drop-off

Our Pick-up/Drop-off -. For safety purposes, all students will enter behind our building at Door #10 starting at 7:30 a.m. Please drop your child off at these doors in the morning. At 3:15 p.m., bus riders will exit the building from West Vigo High School main entrance doors. Students who are being picked up will exit the building through the back of the school

Morning Procedures

1. Students are requested to arrive between 7:30 a.m. and 7:55 a.m.
2. Students must enter the building through Door #10.
3. Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must enter the building at the WVMS main entrance Door #1.
4. Upon arriving at the school, students will be directed to the main gymnasium.
5. Breakfast will be served from 7:15 a.m. - 7:55 a.m.
6. Students will be released to go to their lockers at 7:55 a.m.
7. Students are required to be in their first period class by 8:05 a.m.

After School Procedures

1. Students who ride the bus will exit through West Vigo High School Main Entrance.
2. Students who are picked up will exit through the back of the building.
3. All students should be out of the building by 3:30 p.m. unless they are supervised by a teacher or a coach.

Attendance Policy

Attendance Guidelines

Progressive Discipline Policy

Number of absences	Action taken
2, 3, 5, 7	Skyward notification sent to guardians to alert them of their student's attendance with a reminder of good attendance practices and

	the school's policies regarding future absences.
7 (Unexcused)	Certified letter/attendance contract sent to guardian acknowledging excessive absence pattern. Principal or designee will contact the guardian to discuss the attendance contract and set a meeting time if necessary.
10 (unexcused)	Students will be recommended to meet with the Retention and At-Risk Specialist and/or Principal or designee. Guardian may be reported to the Department of Child Services for 10 unexcused absences.
15 (unexcused)	Students will be recommended to meet with the Director of Student Services and may be placed in a waiver of due process Student/guardian may be reported to the Vigo County Prosecutor's office and juvenile probation.

Types of absences

<p>Excused: Personal illness or injury: If a student is sent home by the school's health office.</p> <p>Doctor, dental, mental health, probation and driver exam appointments (Documentation required)</p> <p>Family funeral or other approved funerals</p> <p>Departmental, State and National contests, which are approved by the administration</p> <p>Participation in the Indiana State Fair</p> <p>Applying for the military</p> <p>All activities approved by the administration</p> <p>Two (2) college visits per semester</p>	<p>Unexcused: Truancy: absence without consent of guardian or knowledge of school</p> <p>Failure of guardian to notify school of student absence.</p> <p>Oversleeping</p> <p>Missing the bus</p> <p>Family Vacation</p> <p>Any absence not defined as excused</p>	<p>Exempt: In each of the following circumstances, the student is excused from school and is not to be recorded as absent, and is not to be penalized in any way by the school: Serving as a page or honoree of the General Assembly (IC 20-33-2-14)</p> <p>Serving on the precinct election board or as a helper to a political candidate or party on the day of a municipal, primary or general election (IC 20- 33-2-15)</p> <p>Subpoenaed to testify in court (IC 20-33-2-16)</p> <p>Serving with the National Guard for no more than 10 days (IC 20-33-2-17)</p> <p>Serving with the Civil Air Patrol for up to 5 days (IC 20-33-2-17.2)</p> <p>Approved Educationally</p>
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		<p>Related Non-Classroom Activity (IC 20-33-2-17.5).</p> <p>The student or a member of the student's household exhibits or participates in the Indiana State Fair for educational purposes (IC 20-33-2-17.7)</p>
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***After 5 absences (excused or unexcused) without proper documentation, absences will automatically be unexcused.**

Ind. Code § 20-33-2-18

(a) If a parent of a student does not send the student to school because of the student's illness or mental or physical incapacity, it is unlawful for the parent to fail or refuse to produce a certificate of the illness or incapacity for an attendance officer not later than six (6) days after the certificate is demanded.

(b) The certificate required under this section must be signed by:

- (1) an Indiana physician;**
- (2) an individual holding a license to practice osteopathy or chiropractic in Indiana; or**
- (3) a Christian Science practitioner who resides in Indiana and is listed in the Christian Science Journal.**

5 Day Allowance

Students are permitted 5 absences in a semester. Documentation with any absence is always encouraged. After 5 absences, any day missed without medical or legal documentation will be counted as unexcused, even with parent notification. To keep you informed of your child's absences you will be sent a Skyward notification at 2, 3, and 5 days of absences by the school office. Refer to the Progressive Discipline Policy for our plan for unexcused absences. At any point in a student's excessive absence occurrence the school may refer the guardian to the Children's Bureau. The student/guardian may be reported to the Department of Child Services for ten unexcused absences.

Absences

Students missing in excess of one and one-half (1.5) hours but less than three (3) hours will be counted absent for a half day. Missing three (3) or more hours will count as a full day. Guardians are required to report their child's absence to school. Phone calls on the day of the absence should be made by 9:00 a.m. If a call is not made the day of an absence, a note explaining the reason for the absence should be brought or emailed to the school on the first day returning from an absence. Absences will be monitored through the Principal's office on a yearly basis.

When an absence is required, each student is expected to have an acceptable and justifiable reason for the absence. Refer to the Progressive Discipline Policy for information about excused, unexcused, and exempt absence definitions.

Tardies

An a.m. tardy is defined as arriving between 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. A student must be in the building and ready to learn by 8:15 in order to not be tardy. If your child plans to eat breakfast at school, please arrive earlier.

Secondary Attendance Policy

The Vigo County School Corporation realizes that good attendance habits and punctuality allow maximum benefit for students' education. It is difficult for students to learn if they are not in class on time every day. The partnership between each student, guardian, and school helps establish self-discipline and responsibility in developing life skills and healthy habits for entry into the adult world. Guardians are asked to work with the school to eliminate unnecessary absences.

Indiana Code 20-33-2-27 states: "It is unlawful for a parent to fail to ensure that his child attends school."

Frequent and prolonged absences are in violation of state law. Attendance is taken daily. Excessive absences, whether excused or unexcused, may result in academic failure.

Students are required to make up all work missed when they are not in class, regardless of the type of absence.

Extracurricular activities

A student who is unable to attend at least half of the day will be unable to attend extracurricular functions later in the same day unless proper documentation (doctor's note or legal form) is presented. Requests for special consideration should be directed to an administrator.

Signing out

Students are not to leave the building without permission from an administrator or other authorized office staff. Students must also have permission from parent/guardian to leave the building. Leaving the school grounds without administrative approval at any time during the school day will be considered truancy.

Behavior and Progressive Discipline Summary

RECOMMENDED DISCIPLINE PROCESS

The following information provides an overview of the discipline process at West Vigo Middle School. The practice of progressive discipline, with students who repeatedly violate the school rules, is utilized at the discretion of the administrative team. Additional information concerning student conduct may be found in the Vigo County School Corporation Student Discipline Rules and the West Vigo Middle School Rules.

Violation	First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense
Insubordination- failure to follow teacher request, defiant attitude, being disruptive, not doing classwork, etc.	Warning to 1 Day ISS	1 to 3 days ISS	3 to 5 days ISS/OSS
Horseplay	Warning to Tuesday Extension	Tuesday Extension to 3 Days ISS	3 to 5 days ISS/OSS
Truancy to class or school	1 Day TE	1-3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days ISS/OSS

Obscenity/Profanity	Warning to 1 Day ISS	1 to 3 Days ISS	3 to 5 ISS/OSS
Cafeteria Disruption	Warning to Cleanup to 1 Day ISS	Cleanup to 1 to 3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days ISS/OSS
Cafeteria Disruption	Warning to Cleanup to 1 Day ISS	Cleanup to 1 to 3 Days ISS	1 to 3 Days ISS/OSS
Dress Code	Warning and change	Detention to 1 to 3 Days ISS and change	3 to 5 Days ISS/OSS
Cheating (all incidents)	"F" on assignment (Parent Contact)		
Profanity directed to staff member- Student directed profanity to staff member	5 days OSS Waiver of Due Process	Rec of Expulsion	
Racist or Insensitive Speech or Actions- Student used language, pictures or symbols that are considered racist or insensitive but not directed toward an individual	3-5 Days AEP	5 Day AEP and placed on Waiver of Due Process at School	
Racist or Insensitive Speech or Actions- Student used language, pictures or symbols that are considered racist or insensitive with the intent to harm, embarrass, or belittle	5-10 Days OSS or AEP Possible Rec for Expulsion Possible Waiver of Due Process	10 Day OSS Rec for expulsion	
Repeated failure to comply, unassigned area, or habitual offender	1 to 3 Days ISS/OSS	3 to 5 Days ISS/OSS	Recommended Expulsion
Technology device violations	Conference to suspension	Conference to suspension	Conference to suspension
Cell Phone/Wireless Communication Device	Phone to office for rest of day	Phone to office and parent pick up/detention assigned	AEP-OSS for repeated offenses
Tardy to Class	5th Detention	7th TE	10+ ISS

Forgery of Notes	Detention	1-3 Days ISS	1-3 Days OSS/AA
Matches/Lighter	Detention	1-3 Days ISS	1-3 Days OSS/AA
Possession of Stolen Property	Warning-ISS	1-3 Days ISS	1-3 Days OSS/AA
Public Displays of affection, kissing, touching	Warning-ISS	1-3 Days ISS	1-3 Days OSS
Running in the halls	Warning	Detention	ISS
Gum or Food in unapproved area	Warning	Detention	ISS
Failure to serve assigned discipline	Next step in progressive discipline		
Vandalism under \$500	3 Day AEP Waiver of Due Process	BTW/VVSA	
Vandalism over \$500	Recommendation for Expulsion 10 Day Suspension Police Involvement	Expulsion	
Fight with no bodily injury for either student	3-5 Day AEP	5 Day AEP or OSS and Waiver of Due Process at the school	Recommended Expulsion
Fight with bodily injury	5 day OSS Waiver of Due Process Inform Law Enforcement	Recommendation for Expulsion	
Fight with weapons as defined by the state of Indiana	Recommendation for Expulsion. 10 Day Continued OSS Inform Law Enforcement	Recommendation for Expulsion	
Fight with staff member injured (unintentional)	10 Day Suspension Waiver of Due Process Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	
Assault	10 Day Suspension Waiver of Due Process Inform Law Enforcement	Recommended Expulsion	
Threat w/Weapon-Student made a threat with a weapon on	Threat Assessment Conducted	10 Day OSS Rec for Expulsion	

social media. The school conducted a threat assessment and determined the threat was transient low level.	AEP to Expulsion Inform Law Enforcement		
Threat with w/weapon-Student made a threat with a weapon on social media. The school conducted a threat assessment and determined threat was high level serious	Rec for Expulsion 10 Day OSS Continued Inform Law Enforcement		
Bullying/harassment substantiated	1-10 day AEP Possible Rec for Expulsion Waiver of Due Process	10 Day OSS Rec. for Expulsion	
Theft under \$500	3 Day AEP Waiver of Due Process Inform Law Enforcement Restitution	VVSA	
Theft over \$500	Possible Rec Expulsion 5-10 Day OSS Inform Law Enforcement Restitution	BTW/VVSA	
Possession of a weapon (non firearm) with intent to use	Recommendation for expulsion. 10 Day Continued OSS Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	
Possession of Weapon (non firearm) no intent to use	3-5 Day OSS Conduct Threat Assessment Waiver of Due Process Inform Law Enforcement	Recommendation for Expulsion	
Possession of a firearm regardless of intent	Rec of Expulsion For 365 days. Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	

Physical attack on a staff member	Recommendation for Expulsion 365 Day Request 10 Day OSS continued Police Involvement	Expulsion	
Use of alcohol/drugs or a counterfeit/look-alike substance (nondistribution)	10 day OSS Waiver of Due Process at the school. Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	
Drugs/alcohol Distribution	Rec for Expulsion 10 Day OSS Continued. Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	
Use/possession of nicotine or vaping device- Student possessed, used, shared tobacco or Vape Device	2 Days AEP at BGC Tobacco Program	3-5 Days AEP Waiver of Due Process	
Distribution of nicotine, tobacco, and/or vape	3-5 Days AEP	5-10 Days AEP Rec. of Expulsion	
Sexual Misconduct	10 Day Continuous OSS Rec for Expulsion DCS Call Inform Law Enforcement	BTW/VVSA	
Distribution/Possession of Pornographic Material-showing or sending videos or pictures of a pornographic nature	5-10 Day AEP Possible Rec of Expulsion Waiver of Due Process DCS Call Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	
Sexual Harassment-Student verbally sexually harassed another student (no physical contact)	3 Day AEP Waiver of Due Process	10 Day OSS Rec. for Expulsion	

Sexual Harassment- Student made unwanted physical contact with another student	10 Day OSS Continued Rec for Expulsion DCS Call Inform Law Enforcement	Expulsion	
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*This list of offenses is not all-inclusive. The administration reserves the right to apply appropriate disciplinary action to other offenses as deemed necessary.

LUNCH DETENTION

Lunch detention may be assigned by a teacher. Teacher assigned lunch detentions will be served in the resource room or the teacher's classroom. Students will get their lunch from their locker or cafeteria and then report to the appropriate room. Lunch detentions may also be assigned by the Dean of Students.

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION

After-school detentions will meet for 55 minutes from 3:20 to 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday of each week. When a student fails to report to detention without prior approval by the Dean of Students, further disciplinary action will occur. Students are to report promptly with study materials. Tardiness to detention will result in a reassignment of the detention. Truancy from detention may result in further disciplinary action. Misbehavior during detention will result in further disciplinary action.

TUESDAY EXTENSIONS:

Tuesday extensions are two hour after-school detentions served after school on the designated Tuesday from 3:25 PM - 5:15 PM. Students are expected to work quietly the entire two hours and abide by the established rules. Removal or failure to serve will result in an automatic two (2) days In-School Suspension.

A student who is assigned to a Tuesday Extension and who commits a serious rule infraction prior to serving the Tuesday Extension may be assigned a suspension in addition to the Tuesday Extension.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION (IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION)

Students are to report to Alternative Education with study materials. Students are expected to read, study, and/or complete assignments the entire time period. Sleeping, talking, or being disruptive is not permitted. No cell phones are allowed. Students who fail to comply will not receive credit for attendance and will face more serious disciplinary actions and/or an additional Alternative Education assignment.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The Vigo County Alternative to Suspension Program at the Boys and Girls Club is designed to meet the needs of the student when he/she is temporarily not permitted to participate in the normal school program. The student's family is responsible for transportation to and from our facility located at 55 S. Brown Ave. The program will be in session Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Students should not arrive before 8:50am. We will operate by the VCSC calendar. If school is not in session, the program will not be in session. In the event of a two hour delay, students should arrive at 10:00 a.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. The program will end at the regular hour of 2:00 p.m. **Students should bring all their books & work with them to keep up on their school work.** Lunch will be provided by the school and will be billed to your child's account.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

An administrator or the Dean may assign out-of-school suspension for a period of one to ten days for each major offense. A longer period of suspension may be requested from the superintendent if deemed necessary by the principal. Any student suspended from school is not to be on school grounds or at any school activities during the time he/she is suspended from school, unless otherwise directed by school staff. Students suspended from school may not participate in extracurricular activities during the period of the suspension.

RECOMMENDED EXPULSION

If a student is to face disciplinary action that results in a request for Recommended Expulsion, he/she will be notified of this fact. Any student who has been recommended for Recommended Expulsion by the principal will be given an opportunity to have a hearing in front of an impartial determiner of fact, a "Hearing Examiner." The procedures to be followed, in the event of such a hearing, will be explained to the student and his/her parents sufficiently in advance of the hearing to enable the student and his/her parents to reasonably prepare for the hearing.

Student Activities and Services

Announcements

Daily and weekly announcements are made at the beginning and end of day.

Assemblies

School assemblies are a part of the total school program and are presented throughout the year. During assemblies, all students are expected to sit in assigned areas and to conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner at all times. Removal from an assembly will warrant disciplinary action.

Athletic Participation

Our school offers a full program of athletic activities. Participation in high school athletics is a privilege that requires honor, responsibility, and sacrifice. Since competition is a privilege and not a right, those who choose to participate will be expected to follow the Athletic Code of Conduct as adopted by the VCSC Board of Trustees as well as specific coaches' rules and regulations for their sports. An athlete is governed by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) as well as the VCSC and the school. Students must have a minimum of six (6) passing grades in courses during the previous grading period to be eligible to compete in athletics. Since athletes represent their school and student body, it is imperative that they be respected, positive role models. Specific athletic information can be obtained from the athletic department.

Athletics and Grades

All Middle School Athletic Directors/Coaches will use the 9 week grades for eligibility of each athlete with each sport.

- **End of 1st Quarter: October 9th**
- **End of 2nd Quarter: December 19th**
- **End of 3rd Quarter: March 6th**

Athletic Academic Expectations

Students must be in *good academic standing* in order to be eligible to try-out for a middle school athletic team. *Good academic standing* means that the student is passing classes with a D- or better and **has not received 2 or more F's** (PE and Music classes count as half a credit each).

Grades in progress from the most recent grading period will be used to determine academic eligibility prior to try-outs for each athletic season. At the semester break, grading period grades will continue to be used in lieu of final semester grades in an effort to be consistent from grading period to grading period.

Once a member of a team, a student must remain in *good academic standing* in order to compete in athletic contests. Students who become academically ineligible, may remain on the team and may practice with the team as long as they are showing academic improvement and meeting the expectations of the coach. Grades will be reviewed in two week increments. If the student is academically eligible after two weeks and meeting the expectations of the coach, the student will be allowed to participate in contests.

As always, principal discretion may be necessary and employed.

Athletic Code of Conduct

Athletic Expectations:

A student athlete who represents the Vigo County School Corporation must exhibit at all times the highest standards of personal behavior. Participation in athletics is a privilege requiring that a student makes a commitment to practice before or after school hours with perfect or near perfect attendance, to work hard to excel, to learn cooperation and team efforts, and to exemplify good behavior both at school and away from school. Athletes are representatives of the Vigo County School Corporation and their school and always serve as role models at school and in the community. There is a legitimate school interest and an expectation by the coaching staff of the Vigo County School Corporation that students follow the Athletic Code of Conduct at all times, beginning with the students' attendance at their first official middle/high school sports practice and continuing throughout the entire calendar year. Therefore, an athlete should conscientiously fulfill all the rules established for the athletic program and the sports for which he/she is participating.

General Rules Include, But Are Not Limited To:

1. Possession and/or use of tobacco in any form, including vaping / e-cigarettes is prohibited. Students in violation of this will be placed in an educational program, or if the program is no longer available, receive a penalty as outlined below. Refusal to participate in an education program assigned as a consequence will constitute a second offense resulting in the consequences listed below.
2. Possession and/or use of any substance/device/object which is, or is represented to be alcohol/drugs as identified in Rule II or III of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy of the School Corporation is prohibited. Violation will result in the escalating consequences listed below.
3. Providing or transmitting any substance/device/object which is, or is represented to be alcohol/drugs as identified in Rule I or IV of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy of the School Corporation will result in the escalating consequences listed below.
4. Being found guilty of violating city, state, or federal codes/laws (excluding minor traffic-infractions) will result in a warning or the penalties listed below.

Penalties For The Above Rules:

- I. 1st Offense=10% of the teams total scheduled games
 - II. 2nd Offense=Additional 20% of the teams total scheduled games
 - III. 3rd Offense=Additional 50% of the teams total scheduled games
 - IV. Any additional offense will be subject to Rule #5 of the Athletic Code of Conduct
5. Reference Rule C-8-1 IHSA By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation: Contestants' conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or association or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school. Note: "It is recognized that principals, by the administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such contestants from representing their school."
 6. Additional rules may be established for each sport by the individual coach. Such rules must be approved by the athletic director and principal, provided in writing to the student-athlete, and discussed with the student-athlete. Coaches may also impose oral and written warnings as non-exclusionary forms of discipline.

Due Process To Be Expected:

1. Prior to any athletic suspension, the Athletic Director or Designee will provide the athlete with written notice of the allegations. (Any academic suspension or expulsion that pertains to violations of the Athletic Code of Conduct will be handled through the academic suspension or expulsion process.) Athletes will receive from the AD a date that they may return to competition.
2. The Athletic Director or Designee will then provide the athlete with an opportunity to respond to those allegations in an informal meeting. The Athletic Director or coach will notify the student of his or her decision promptly.

Reset of escalating consequences.

Athletes are allowed a "reset" of their escalating consequences 365 days after the date of their initial violation. After this reset date any new violation will be penalized at the initial step. Each new violation before the reset date will result in the 365 days starting over. This reset is dependent on the athlete serving any suspension and finishing any remaining athletic commitment in good standing.

Other Items:

1. School Suspension – Any athlete placed on out-of-school suspension is not eligible to practice nor participate until the student has returned to school. This ineligibility will begin at the time the student is notified of the suspension (either orally or in writing). Students serving in-school suspension or an alternative-to-suspension assignment are eligible to participate in practice or a game as long as the assignment was completed in good standing.
2. Changing Sport in Mid-Season – From the time a student's name appears on the official eligibility list for an interscholastic sport, he or she may join another team, or compete in another interscholastic sport only with approval of the athletic director and coaches involved. Mid-season change of teams may be permitted under the following conditions:
 1. If the student presents to both coaches a doctor's certificate recommending that he/she drop the first sport for reasons of health and permit participation in the second sport.

2. If both coaches involved and the athletic director agree that a mid-season change of sports would be beneficial to the player without being unfair to the players of either team.
3. Any athlete in grades nine-twelve who is a member of a school team cannot try out, practice, or play in a similar sports program sponsored by any other organization between the date of the first IHSA authorized contest in that sport and the completion of that team's school season.
4. Each coach is responsible for the administration of this code for his/her activity.

Clubs

Clubs will be offered at West Vigo Middle School. Each club will be sponsored by a teacher(s) who will oversee the club. The yearly start of clubs will vary from school year to school year. However, no clubs will be offered during the last nine (9) weeks of school to allow for various required state testing as well as other activities. The type of club will be determined by the teacher(s) with the input of the students allowed. Approval of all clubs is at the discretion of the school administration.

Publications

The yearbook of West Vigo Middle School, and its publication is the responsibility of the yearbook staff. Its objectives serve two main functions. One is to provide another educational experience for the students who comprise the staff; the other is to provide interesting, enjoyable, and informative reading for the students. All students are urged to give it their support. This publication provides a record of all activities during the school year and is treasured by students as a springboard of pleasant middle school memories.

Guidance and Counseling

Counselor: Mrs. Stacy Ockerman

The counseling staff offers students a variety of services. Individual and group counseling is available for all students to meet many different kinds of concerns. Programs and counseling services cover such areas as career awareness, academic counseling, self-awareness, study skills improvement, anger management, cessation of smoking, and post-secondary school information. Students are encouraged to view their counselors as helping persons and a vital part of their educational growth. Students will meet their counselors during orientation programs, counseling, classroom functions, or small group activities. If students would like individual sessions with their counselors, they should sign up (list where and how to sign up).

Restorative Practices: Mrs. Darrah Phillips

A restorative practices teacher is used in a school setting to foster an equitable culture along with building positive relationships. Restorative teachers focus is building relationships and finding connections with individuals within the school building and community. This teacher plays a vital role in conflict-resolution.

21st Century Scholarship

The 21st Century Scholarship is an opportunity for students to afford college in Indiana. The 21st Century Scholarship pays up to 100% of tuition at public colleges in Indiana and part of the tuition at private or independent colleges. Learn more about the schools, colleges and universities that accept the 21st Century Scholarship.

The scholarship does not cover the cost of books, room and board, parking fees, lab fees or any other fees that are not assessed to all students.

After the passage of House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1449-2023, current 7th and 8th grade Hoosier students who are financially eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch will be **automatically** enrolled in the 21st Century Scholars Program.

However, if students do not receive Free and Reduced Price Lunch, but meet the income guidelines, parents or guardians can enroll them from the time they are in 7th grade to June 30th their 8th grade year. You can apply online at <https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars/> or email Mrs. Ockerman at sro2@vigoschools.org or call 812-462-4361 for additional information.

Scholar income requirements:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Income</u>
2	\$36,482
3	\$45,991
4	\$55,500
5	\$65,009
6	\$74,518
7	\$84,027

*For each additional family member add \$9,509

Change of Schedule

Student schedules are considered complete when “final schedules” are presented to students/parents. Changes will only be made in the first five days of each semester.

Withdrawal Procedures

Students withdrawing from school should inform the Registrar and Assistant Principal prior to their last day of attendance. The circumstances of and permission for the withdrawal must be verified by a parent or guardian. A form must be signed by the administration. Students under the age of 18 who wish to withdraw must have an exit interview. Parents and students must both sign exit interview forms.

Rose-Hulman's Homework Hotline

Rose-Hulman offers free math and science help that is available from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday (Eastern Standard Time). Students may call toll free **1-877-ASK-ROSE** or online at



