Caldwell High School

Student Handbook



2025–2026 School Year

Section 1: Welcome & Contact Information

Principal's Welcome Message

Welcome to Caldwell High School!
At Caldwell High School, we are committed to being a school that students are proud to attend—a place where every learner is supported, encouraged, and inspired to achieve success. Our focus remains firmly on student learning and academic achievement, and we work each day to ensure that all students have the resources, encouragement, and opportunities they need to reach their full potential.

This Student Handbook is an important resource to help you navigate the school year. I encourage all families and students to read it carefully, refer to it when needed, and use it to understand the expectations, programs, and supports available at Caldwell High School. Families and students are encouraged to explore the handbook together to help ensure a smooth and productive year for all.

We are committed to working in partnership with families and the community to provide a positive, enriching educational experience for every student at CHS. Together, we will continue building a school culture that celebrates growth, values learning, and prepares students for future success.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns—I look forward to an outstanding year ahead.

Sincerely,
Chantel Kelly
Principal, Caldwell High School

CHS Administration and Contacts

Name	Title	Extension
Chantel Kelly	Principal	ext. 2103
Jared Wang	Assistant Principal	ext. 2101
Kat Lieb	Assistant Principal	ext. 2100
Stephanie Archuleta	Dean of Students	ext. 2201
Jon Hallock	Athletic Director	ext. 2169
Megan Forster	Counselor	ext. 2113
Patrick Precht	Counselor	ext. 2109
Katie Sager	Counselor	ext. 2114
Jose Alfaro Ortega	Career Counselor	ext. 2118

Main Office Hours: 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Attendance: ext. 2110
Nurse's Office: ext. 2116
Registrar: ext. 2115

Voicemail is available 24 hours. Please allow 24–48 hours for response.

Caldwell School District #132 (Caldwell, Idaho)

Mission
Nurture growth, eliminate obstacles, strengthen community

Vision
Destination Education

Core Values:
- Make student-centered decisions
- Act with integrity
- Value diversity within our district
- Build family and community partnerships
- Inspire and prepare scholars for post-secondary opportunities
- Create a caring learning environment for academic, emotional, social growth

Strategic Pillars:
1. Safe & Supportive Schools
2. Community Engagement
3. Inspiring Student Growth & Achievement
4. Stewarding Valued Resources
5. Empowering College & Career Readiness
6. Ensuring Quality Instruction

👥 Parent & Patron Problem Solving
Caldwell School District encourages parents and community members to resolve concerns at the most direct level possible. The following steps should be used when addressing a concern:

1. Start with the source: Speak directly with the staff member most involved in the concern.
2. Seek site-level support: If unresolved, contact a school administrator (e.g., Assistant Principal or Dean of Students).
3. Request a conference: Arrange a meeting involving the staff member, administrator, and parent.
4. Contact the district: If the concern remains unresolved, contact the district office for further assistance.
5. Board appeal: As a final step, parents may request to speak during the public comment section of a school board meeting or submit a written concern.

Our goal is to resolve issues respectfully and constructively while preserving trust and communication between home and school.

Section 2: Daily Life at CHS

🔔 Bell Schedules

Caldwell High School follows a structured bell schedule to ensure academic consistency and time management.

📅 Regular Schedule

Period	Time
1st Period	7:50–8:41
2nd Period	8:45–9:35
Advisory	9:40–9:56
3rd Period	9:56–10:47
Lunch A/4th (100/400/PE/CTE/Music)	10:47–11:17 / 11:21-12:12
4th/Lunch B (200/500)	10:51-11:42 / 11:42-12:12
5th Period	12:16–1:07
6th Period	1:11–2:02
7th Period	2:06–2:57

⏰ Wednesday Early Release Schedule

Period	Time
1st Period	7:50–8:30
2nd Period	8:34–9:14
3rd Period	9:18–9:58
5th Period	10:02–10:42
Lunch A/4th (100/400/PE/CTE/Music)	10:42–11:12/ 11:16-11:56
4th/Lunch B (200/500)	10:46-11:24/ 11:26-11:56
6th Period	12:00-12:40
7th Period	12:44-1:24

🆔 Student ID Cards

All students must wear their Caldwell High School ID card visibly at all times during the school day. Your ID serves as your hall pass, library card, and lunch scanner. Defaced or lost cards must be replaced for $5.

👕 Dress Code Highlights

CHS students are expected to dress appropriately for a respectful, distraction-free learning environment. Key guidelines include:.

- Clothing must cover undergarments
- No bare stomachs or backs
- Holes in jeans must be below mid-thigh or have leggings underneath
- Skirts/shorts must be no shorter than 3” above the knee (without leggings)

📱 CHS Cell Phone & Personal Property Expectations

Phones, earbuds, smartwatches, and other devices must be **off and stored out of sight** during instructional time. Use is allowed **only during lunch** in the cafeteria.

Progressive Responses:

- **1st Offense:** Reminder, referral, device to office, returned after parent contact.
- **2nd Offense:** Referral, device to office, parent picks up after school (2:56–4:00 PM).
- **3rd Offense:** Referral, device to office, conference with parent, teacher, admin before return.
- **Repeat Offenses:** Referral, device to office, parent pick-up only, possible device ban, student contract, and support plan

*We are not liable to for any personal property brought onto school campus.

🚶 Hallway Behavior & Campus Etiquette

Cougar expectations are even during transitions between classes. All students are expected to:

- Move directly to class
- Use appropriate language and volume
- Walk on the right side of the hallway
- Avoid blocking doorways or stairwells
- Wear visible CHS ID at all times
- Carry passes during class time

Setting					
Classroom	Contribute. Show up ready to learn. Attitude sets the tone.	Track the speaker. Don't talk when others are.	Ask questions. Help others. Be in the game.	Turn in your work. Own your effort. Ask for help early.	Notice who's struggling. Be kind. No one has it all together.
Hallways	Say what's up. Smile. Vibe doesn't cost anything.	Move. Don't block. Don't yell. Everyone's trying to get somewhere.	Show someone where to go. Help pick up if someone drops stuff.	Get to class. No stalling. No detours.	Don't make hallways harder for anyone else.
Restroom	Be quick, clean, and cool. Leave it better than you found it.	Give people space and privacy. No phones. No drama.	Let staff know if there's an issue. Don't just walk past it.	Handle business and bounce. Don't hang out.	Think how you'd want to be treated. Keep it clean.
Cafeteria	Say please. Say thank you. Respect the people making your food.	Use an inside voice. Clean up your mess. Respect the space.	Include people sitting alone. Hold the door. Be decent.	Eat, chill, and move on. Don't loiter.	Don't make fun of what people eat or how they act.

Study Zones	Keep it quiet and focused. Respect people trying to get stuff done.	No side convos. Stay on task. Leave it better than you found it.	Use the time to work. Help someone study.	Use your time. Don't waste it. Grades matter.	Offer help. Let people work in peace.
Assemblies	Support the event. Clap when it's time. Don't be extra.	Pay attention. Phones down. Eyes up.	Cheer for your people. Make it fun for everyone.	Focus. Represent your school well.	Respect different voices. Not everyone thinks like you.
Arrival & Dismissal	Start and end strong. Make the day better for someone else.	Follow adult directions. Keep it safe. Be cool in traffic.	Be where you're supposed to be. Head in the right direction.	Get here. Stay here. Leave on time.	Watch for people having a hard time. Help if you can.

🥪 Lunch Expectations

Caldwell High School is a closed campus. Students must remain on campus during lunch unless prior written permission is granted by a parent and approved by administration.

Students are expected to:

- Eat only in designated areas: cafeteria, food court, or outdoors
- Clean up after themselves
- Have a pass to go to classrooms or the library during lunch
- Follow all campus rules and remain respectful to lunch staff

All students receive free breakfast and lunch through the Community Eligibility Program.

Section 3: Attendance & Discipline Policies

📅 Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is essential for student success. Caldwell High School requires students to maintain at least 90% attendance. Any student who misses more than 9 days in a class may be required to petition for credit recovery.

Attendance is tracked daily and per class period. School-related absences (sports, field trips, etc.) do not count toward the 9-day limit. All other absences—excused or unexcused—do count.

🚫 Truancy Definition

A student is considered truant if absent without parent/guardian permission or fails to check out through proper channels. Examples of truancy include:

- No parent call or note within 48 hours
- Leaving campus without permission
- Being in the building but out of class without a pass

Truancies accumulate across the school year and may lead to:

- License suspension (ID Dept. of Transportation referral)
- Credit loss or truancy board review

⏱️ Tardy Policy

- You are tardy if you are not in your assigned classroom when the bell rings.
- Late bus tardies do not count.
- The principal or designee can excuse tardies for weather or other valid reasons.
- If you are more than 20 minutes late, it counts as an absence, unless it's determined you were late on purpose to avoid a tardy—then it may be unexcused/truancy.
- Written notices go to parents/guardians at the 4th, 8th, and 12th tardies per period each semester.
    - At the 13th tardy, parents/guardians are informed of additional actions, which may include:
    - Required make-up time, afternoon school, or similar consequence
    - Ineligibility for extracurricular activities and after-school events (until makeup time is completed)
    - Ineligibility for Driver's Education
    - Request to suspend driver's license (if student has one)
    - In-school suspension
    - Loss of credit

📚 Make-up Work Policy

It is the student's responsibility to request and complete make-up work. Students must:

- Contact the teacher the day they return
- Complete work within the agreed-upon time frame
- Turn in long-term projects on the original due date (unless arrangements are made)

Unexcused absences may affect grades. Finals must be taken as scheduled unless approved in advance by an administrator.

Section 4: Academics & Graduation

🎓 Graduation Requirements

To graduate from Caldwell High School, students must earn 48 credits and complete all required state and district assessments, including the Senior Project and College Entrance Exam.

Graduation credit requirements (Class of 2025 and beyond):

- English: 8 credits
- Math: 6 credits
- Science: 6 credits
- US History: 4 credits
- Government: 2 credits
- Humanities: 2 credits

- Economics: 1 credit
- Health: 1 credit
- Speech: 1 credit
- Digital Literacy: 1 credit
- Electives: 16 credits
    - Total: 48 credits

🧪 Assessments & Senior Project

- All students must participate in state ISAT testing and take a college entrance exam (ACT, SAT, or equivalent) in 11th grade.
- All seniors must complete a Senior Project that includes:
    - A research paper
    - A presentation
    - A completed portfolio
    - Project approval by committee

📊 Class Standing

Students are promoted based on credits earned:

- Sophomore: 11 credits
- Junior: 22 credits
- Senior: 34 credits

Students must maintain pace to graduate and may be placed at Canyon Springs if significantly credit deficient.

📘 Minimum Class Loads

- Freshmen & Sophomores: 7 classes required
- Juniors & Seniors: Minimum of 6 classes if on track
- Shortened day students must provide their own transportation

Schedule changes may only occur during the first 5 days of the semester. Year-long courses may not be dropped mid-year.

📈 GPA & Class Rank

Class rank is determined using a 4.0 GPA scale with weighted grades for Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

- A = 4.0
- B = 3.0
- C = 2.0
- D = 1.0
- F = 0.0

AP courses use a 5.0 scale for grades A–C. Pass/Fail (P/F) courses do not impact GPA. Caldwell High School recognizes the Top 10 graduates rather than a valedictorian or salutatorian.

🎖️ Honor Roll & National Honor Society

To qualify for the Honor Roll, students must:

- Be enrolled in at least 4 graded classes
- Achieve a 3.5+ GPA for the semester

The Psi Omega Chapter of National Honor Society (NHS) considers juniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.4+. Eligibility includes evaluation of character, service, and leadership by faculty. Selected students are inducted in May.

📚 Advanced Placement & Dual Credit Courses

CHS offers AP and concurrent enrollment opportunities to prepare students for college-level work:

- AP courses are year-long and rigorous. Dropping mid-year results in a Withdraw/Fail (W/F) grade.
- AP students earn weighted GPA credit (A–C) and may test for college credit via College Board.
- Concurrent credit courses allow students to earn college and high school credit simultaneously.
- Students must be 16 or have junior standing to enroll.
- Families are responsible for fees; financial aid may be available for students who qualify.
- Students taking AP classes should plan 3–5 hours of homework per week, per course.

💻 Online & Independent Study Courses

Students may take approved online or correspondence courses for credit recovery or acceleration. All such courses must be pre-approved by a CHS administrator or counselor to count toward graduation requirements.

🗒️ Academic Honesty

All students are expected to complete their own work. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- Copying homework or tests
- Plagiarism from any source
- Using unauthorized resources during an exam

Violations may result in a zero, lowered grade, parent contact, suspension, or loss of credit.

Section 5: Activities & Eligibility

🏅 Get Involved at CHS!

Caldwell High School offers a wide range of extracurricular activities, clubs, and athletics. All students are encouraged to participate to enhance their high school experience, build friendships, and develop leadership and teamwork skills.

🎟️ Activity Cards

All students who participate in extra or co-curricular activities must purchase an Activity Card (**$50**). This card helps cover transportation, equipment, competition fees, and advisor stipends.

Activity Cards are also required for:

- Entry to CHS dances and athletic events
- Club membership and field trips
- Voting in student government elections

✅ Eligibility for Participation

To be eligible to participate in athletics or activities:

- Students must pass at least 5 academic classes each semester
- Grade checks occur every 4.5 weeks
- Students with D's or F's are placed on academic probation and required to attend tutoring
- Multiple failing grades may result in suspension from travel or participation

Students must also be in good behavioral standing (not suspended or on Hall Freeze list).

🏆 CHS Clubs & IHSAA Activities

CHS proudly offers the following:

- IHSAA Activities:
    - Football, Volleyball, Cross Country, Wrestling, Basketball, Softball, Baseball, Tennis, Track, Golf
    - Cheer, Dance, Marching Band, Speech & Debate, Drama, Orchestra, Choir
- Clubs & Student Organizations:
    - Student Council, Yearbook, NHS, BPA, DECA, SkillsUSA, Robotics/TSA, FHLA, FFA, Recycling Club, Pep Club, Art Club, YMCA Youth Government

🕺 Dances & Social Events

CHS students must present their Activity Card to attend any school-sponsored dance. All dances end no later than 11:00 PM.

Dance rules:

- Only CHS students may attend unless a guest is pre-approved at least one week in advance
- Guests must provide valid photo ID
- No re-entry once a student leaves
- Students under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be admitted and may face disciplinary action

🎯 Evening Activity Eligibility

To participate in or attend evening events (games, performances, practices), students must:

- Be present at school the entire day of the event
- Be passing all classes and not on suspension
- Not be on the Hall Freeze or No-Night Activity list

Exceptions may be made for excused absences (e.g., doctor appointments) with administrative approval.

📝 Code of Conduct & Expectations

All students representing CHS in clubs, athletics, or events are held to high standards of behavior both in and out of school. This includes respect for peers, staff, officials, and opposing teams. Violations of the code of conduct may result in suspension or removal from the team or activity.

📎 Athletics Handbook Access

For full details on eligibility, sportsmanship, and participation rules, please visit:

https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/Attachment.aspx?AID=40401&MID=2052&S=36031513&utm_source

Section 6: Student Services

💬 Counseling & Guidance Services

CHS offers a full range of counseling services to support students' academic, emotional, and post-secondary success. Counselors are available for:

- Academic planning and graduation checks
- College and career advising
- Social-emotional support and conflict resolution
- Scholarship information and applications

Students may request an appointment or drop in during free periods. All counseling conversations are confidential unless there is a risk of harm to the student or others.

🥗 School Meals & Nutrition

Through the Community Eligibility Program, all CHS students receive free breakfast and lunch daily. Student ID cards are used to check in for meals.

Students are expected to:

- Eat in designated areas (food court or outside)
- Clean up after themselves
- Have a pass to visit classrooms or the library during lunch

No food deliveries (from restaurants, family, or friends) will be accepted during school hours.

💊 Medications at School

To ensure student safety, all medications must be administered through the nurse's office unless otherwise approved.

- A Medication Consent Form signed by a parent and physician is required for prescription medications
- Medications must be in the original labeled container
- Non-prescription meds (e.g., Tylenol) must be kept in a single-day supply

- Students are not allowed to share medication; doing so may result in disciplinary action

  Secondary students may self-carry certain non-prescription medications with approval.

🚌 Transportation & Bus Expectations

CHS students riding the bus must follow all district safety rules. Misbehavior on the bus may result in a referral and suspension of riding privileges.

- Bus route information: Caldwell Transportation (208-459-6612)
- All school rules apply while on the bus
- Students must stay seated and follow driver instructions
- Vandalism or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated

Bus Passenger Rules – Caldwell Transportation

Contact: 208-459-6612 (ext. 1)
(Full rules are available from Caldwell Transportation.)

Boarding & Departing

- Arrive at stop 5 minutes early.
- Board/exit only at your assigned stop.
- Wait safely off the road.
- Cross **only in front** of the bus when directed by the driver.

On the Bus

- No bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
- Sit facing forward, keep aisles clear.
- Keep body/objects inside windows.
- Speak at a normal volume.
- No throwing items, eating, drinking, or gum.
- Follow dress code.
- No vandalism.

Respecting Others

- No physical contact, PDA, or fighting.
- No swearing, obscene gestures, or spitting.
- No flammable items, weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, animals, skateboards, rollerblades, or sports balls.
- No drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

Obey the Driver

- Follow directions promptly and respectfully.

Consequences

1. **1st Referral:** Parent contact.
2. **2nd Referral:** Parent contact, 5-day bus suspension.
3. **3rd Referral:** Parent contact, 10-day bus suspension.
4. **4th Referral:** Parent contact, suspension from bus for rest of school year.

Immediate 5-day suspension for fighting, hitting, or biting on the bus or at the bus stop.

🏫 Campus Visits & Closed Campus Policy

CHS is a closed campus. Students may not leave during lunch or other breaks unless written permission is on file and approved by administration.

- Parents must check in at the main office for campus visits
- Students are not allowed to bring guests during the school day
- Students may not go to cars or leave campus without permission
- All students must check in/out through the front office

🆘 Emergency Closures & Late Starts

In the event of inclement weather or unsafe conditions, the district may call a closure or late start.

- Notifications will be posted on the district website, social media, and through local news outlets
- Updates are valid for that day only unless stated otherwise
- Students should check PowerSchool for updates on assignments or class changes

🛡️ Insurance & Injury Responsibility

CHS does not carry personal accident insurance for students. While school buses and chartered events carry basic liability coverage, families are responsible for medical costs resulting from injuries on campus or at school events.

- Athletics participation is voluntary and carries risk
- Students may obtain supplemental insurance through third-party providers
- In case of injury, parents will be contacted immediately

Section 7: Technology, Rights & Legal Notices

💻 Technology & Internet Use

CHS provides students with access to computers, the internet, and digital tools for learning. Students are expected to use technology responsibly and in alignment with district Acceptable Use Policies (AUP). Students receive unique logins and are responsible for protecting their passwords

- Internet use is monitored and must be for educational purposes only

- Vandalism, hacking, or harassment using school tech may result in loss of access and disciplinary action
- Any misuse may lead to suspension of privileges or legal consequences

By logging into a CHS device, students agree to abide by Policy #3270 & 3270P.

🛑 FERPA & Student Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students and parents the right to:

- Inspect and review educational records
- Request amendment of inaccurate records
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information (with exceptions for school officials)

For more information:
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-8520

🗣️ Freedom of Expression

CHS supports student expression through school-approved publications, events, and assemblies. However, materials must:

- Be reviewed by the principal or designee
- Not disrupt the educational process
- Be student-created and appropriate for school

External individuals or organizations must receive superintendent approval to distribute materials on campus.

Please note: All policies referenced in this handbook, and others, are written in their entirety at https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/PolicyListing.aspx?S=36031513&ptid=.