Quakertown Community High School Student Handbook



QUAKERTOWN COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

To maximize the achievement of each student and to empower all students to become productive citizens.

Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve.

Quakertown Community High School
600 Park Avenue
Quakertown, PA 18951
215-529-2060
www.qcsd.org/QCHS

QCHS Belief Statements

We believe that all students are capable of being independent, happy, positively contributing members of our community prepared for the challenge of college and career. We believe that all students can learn, do, grow/change, and succeed when held to high expectations.

We believe student learning is a shared responsibility and occurs when teachers, students, families, and the educational community work in a collaborative environment.

We believe our classrooms should be safe and structured learning environments that support and challenge students.

We believe our school is an evolving and dedicated community of students and teachers; continually under construction.

QROCK RESILENCE, DWNERSHIP, COMMUNITY & KNOWASS	Classroom Environment	Common Areas (Cafeteria/Cafe, Halls, Commons, Gyms, Library, QPAC, etc.)	Bathrooms	Buses/Bus Area/Parking Lot	Technology	School Events (During and After School Activities)
<u>R</u> esilience	- Persevere through challenges - Be open-minded	- Persevere through challenges - Bounce back from conflicts	- Overcome peer conflicts - Ignore distractions	- Persevere through challenges - Ignore distractions	- Be patient with technology issues - Overcome peer conflicts - Use positive coping skills	- Persevere through challenges - Overcome peer conflicts - Practice self-care
<u>O</u> wnership	- Use materials/time appropriately - Take responsibility - Do your own work	- Respect boundaries - Take responsibility - Walk with a purpose - Pay attention	- "Go, flush, wash, leave" - Clean up after yourself - Respect boundaries	- Follow traffic laws and posted signs - Stay alert and safe - Allow driver to focus - Take responsibility - Follow bus expectations	- Take care of devices - Think before you post - Use at appropriate times (receive permission) - Stay on task	- Take responsibility for your actions - Follow through on commitments
<u>C</u> ommunity	- Embrace diversity - Participate actively	- Embrace diversity - Respect property	- Respect all peers - Respect bathroom materials and property	- Embrace diversity - Respect property	- Embrace diversity - Only post with permission	- "I believe that we will win." - Embrace diversity - Be a good school representative
<u>K</u> indness	- Use appropriate language, tone, gestures - Encourage and help others	- Use appropriate language, tone, gestures - Encourage and help others	- Use appropriate language, tone, gestures - Encourage others to do the right thing	- Use appropriate language, tone, gestures - Be patient - Encourage others to do the right thing	- Use appropriate language, tone, gestures - Spread positivity - Encourage and help others	- Practice good sportsmanship - Be a supportive spectator - Use appropriate language, tone, gestures

GENERAL DISCLAIMER

Please note that this handbook is not exhaustive of all district and school expectations and procedures. Administration reserves the right to alter the document as needed. References to QCSD Board policies have been provided for additional explanation. All Board policies can be found online at www.qcsd.org.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

You are expected to exhibit integrity, civility, and responsibility in all of your actions both during the school day and at all school events. The following responsibilities are located in the Pennsylvania Code (Title 22, Section 12.2):

- (a) Student responsibilities include regular school attendance, conscientious effort in classroom work and homework, and conformance to school rules and regulations. Most of all, students are responsible to share with the administration and faculty a responsibility to develop a climate within the school that is conducive to wholesome learning and living.
- (b) No student has the right to interfere with the education of fellow students. It is the responsibility of each student to respect the rights of teachers, students, administrators and all others who are involved in the educational process.
- (c) Students should express their ideas and opinions in a respectful manner.
- (d) It is the responsibility of the students to conform to the following:
 - (1) Be aware of all rules and regulations for student behavior and conduct themselves in accordance with them. Students should assume that, until a rule is waived, altered or repealed in writing, it is in effect.
 - (2) Volunteer information in matters relating to the health, safety and welfare of the school community and the protection of school property.
 - (3) Dress and groom to meet standards of safety and health, and not to cause substantial disruption to the educational processes.
 - (4) Assist the school staff in operating a safe school for the students enrolled therein.
 - (5) Comply with Commonwealth and local laws.
 - (6) Exercise proper care when using public facilities and equipment.
 - (7) Attend school daily and be on time at all classes and other school functions.
 - (8) Make up work when absent from school.
 - (9) Pursue and attempt to complete satisfactorily the courses of study prescribed by local school authorities.
 - (10) Report accurately in student media.
 - (11) Not use obscene language in student media or on school premises.

COMMON CLASSROOM/SCHOOL RULES

- Two feet in the door be on time!
- Remove hats and hoods prior to entering the classroom (arrival dismissal).
- Drinking water and coffee is permitted, as well as eating snacks that do not distract from the learning environment (NOT permitted in labs).
- Cell phones should only be used in class when it's part of instruction and permitted by the teacher.
- Follow teacher/individual classroom rules outside of these rules (e.g., headphones).

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DIRECTORY

Main Line: 215-529-2060

Counseling Office: 215-529-2068/2069 **Nurses Office:** 215-529-2075/2082

<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Building Principal Office Manager	Mr. Mattias van 't Hoenderdaal Mrs. Carrie Okken	mvanthoenderdaal@qcsd.org cokken@qcsd.org
House Principal Grade 9 Administrative Assistant	Mr. Adam Dinney Ms. Judi Devlin	adinney@qcsd.org jdevlin@qcsd.org
House Principal Grades 10-12, A-Hai Administrative Assistant	Mr. Michael Bolinsky Ms. Shelly Fehnel	mbolinsky@qcsd.org sfehnel@qcsd.org
House Principal Grades 10-12, Hal-Pat Administrative Assistant	Mr. Jason Magditch Ms. Connie Derewal	jmagditch@qcsd.org cderewal@qcsd.org
House Principal Grades 10-12, Pau-Z Administrative Assistant	Ms. Kim Finnerty Ms. Teresa Plumley	kfinnerty@qcsd.org tplumley@qcsd.org
Dean of Students	Mr. Juan Soto	jsoto@qcsd.org
Athletic Director Secretary	Ms. Sylvia Kalazs Ms. Jennifer Banas	skalazs@qcsd.org jbanas@qcsd.org
The Academy at Quakertown	Ms. Jerica Keoseyan	jkeoseyan@qcsd.org
SCHOOL COUNSELORS (by student last name)	CONTACT	<u>EMAIL</u>
A-De	Mr. Owen Breininger	obreininger@qcsd.org
Di-H	Mrs. Erica Henry	ehenry@qcsd.org
I-Mi	Mrs. Brenda Roth	broth@qcsd.org
Mo-Sa	Mr. Eric Gozzard	egozzard@qcsd.org
Sc-Z	Mrs. Patty Sabol	psabol@qcsd.org
Counseling Secretary	Ms. Judi Devlin	jdevlin@qcsd.org
Counseling Secretary	Ms. Arlene Taylor	ataylor@qcsd.org
The Academy at Quakertown	Mr. Andy Scappaticci	ascappaticci@qcsd.org

Teacher Directory

Click here for a list of current teacher contact information

SCHOOL DAY

School Hours

You must be in your classroom at 7:45 a.m. Please be in the building by 7:35 a.m. Students may arrive as early as 7:15 a.m. and report to the cafeteria until 7:40 a.m.

After dismissal at the end of the day, go directly to your locker and then move quickly to your bus. The buses leave shortly after the end of the school day. Everyone who is not part of a teacher-supervised activity must leave the building at the end of the school day.

School Closings

When inclement weather may result in school closings, you and your parents will be notified through the district's phone system and information will be posted on the school district website

2023-2024 BELL SCHEDULES

2023-2024 Blue/White Day Calendar

2023-2024 White Day Bell Schedule

2023-2024 Blue Day Bell Schedule

2023-2024 Pathways Day Bell Schedule

2023-24 2 Hour Delay Schedule

2023-24 Keystone Testing Bell Schedule

STUDENT MEALS

Breakfast

Breakfast is served in the cafeteria daily and coffee/bakery items in the Panther Cafe, starting at 7:15 am, for any students who are interested.

Lunch

A wide variety of lunch options are available in compliance with federal school lunch guidelines, and students can purchase complete meals or a la carte items.

Lunch accounts

Students may use cash or can set up a pre-paid lunch account through School Cafe. For more information, please click <u>here</u>.

Cafeteria Etiquette

Students should clean up their tables, properly dispose of all trash, and return used trays to the kitchen area. Consequences will be issued for throwing food or failure to clean tables or dispose of trash appropriately.

Students are expected to report to the cafeteria in the same way that they are expected to report to any other scheduled class on their schedule.

Food and drink should not be taken out of the designated lunch areas.

ATTENDANCE IN SCHOOL (see Board Policy 204 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), "[i]n order for students to realize the opportunities and benefits from school, students have to not only be in attendance, but they must also be meaningfully connected to the school and experiencing success" (BEC 24 P.S. 13-1327). Most students and parents would agree that frequent absences from regular classroom learning experiences disrupt the continuity of the instructional process. The benefit of regular classroom instruction is lost and cannot be entirely regained. Regular school attendance is essential to the successful completion of the educational objectives of the school system.

The Commonwealth has empowered the school district to develop policies to enforce state attendance laws and regulations (22 Pa. Code 11.41). Parents/guardians and students are also encouraged to reference PDE's 2015 Basic Education Circular (BEC) titled "Compulsory Attendance and School Attendance Improvement Plan" (BEC 24 P.S. 13-1327). This BEC, a copy of which is available on the school website, contains relevant state attendance laws and requirements.

The following district policies are based upon and in compliance with this BEC. The policies are outlined in a question-and-answer format. If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, please do not hesitate to contact the attendance secretary at 215-529-2156.

APPLICABILITY OF ATTENDANCE POLICIES

What does "compulsory school age" mean?

The term "compulsory school age" is defined by the Pennsylvania Code as "the period of a child's life from the time the student's person in parental relation elects to have the student enter first grade, which shall not be later than the age of six (6) until the age of eighteen (18) years or graduation from a regularly accredit high school, whichever occurs first" (22 PA Code §11.13). In cases where a student is seventeen (17) at the start of the year and becomes 18 during the year, all legal action under the Compulsory Attendance Regulations shall stop upon the student's 18th birthday. Therefore, until a child reaches the age of 18, both the child and his/her parents/guardians may face legal penalties for violating compulsory school attendance requirements. Please refer to your child's student handbook for additional information.

What if I am 18 years of age or older?

All district attendance policies apply to you regardless of age. While no legal penalties may be imposed upon students who are not of compulsory school age, the district may impose academic and/or disciplinary consequences for attendance policy violations, including but not limited to participation in school-sponsored activities. Please refer to the "Disciplinary Protocols" section of the handbook.

ABSENCES

What if my child is absent from school?

All absences are required to be reported to the child's school. Quakertown Community School District uses SafeArrival, an absence management system run through SchoolMessenger that improves student safety and makes it easy for parents to report their child's absence. If parents have not set up an account through SchoolMessenger already, then they must set up an account (https://go.schoolmessenger.com).

Parents can report their child's absence 24 hours/7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time. Parents are asked to report absences through SafeArrival. Parents can report their child's absence through SafeArrival in any of the following ways:

- Using a mobile device; download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at https://go.schoolmessenger.com). Please note that the first time you use the app, you will need to select Sign Up to create your account. To enter an absence, select Attendance then, Report an Absence.
- Use the SafeArrival website; https://go.schoolmessenger.com. The first time you use the website, you will need to select Sign Up to create your account. Then, select Attendance, and finally, Report an Absence.
- Call the toll-free number (833) 834-4911 and report an absence using the automated phone system.

Can my child participate in extracurricular activities if absent from school?

No, students who are absent from school may not participate in athletics or any other co-curricular or extracurricular event/activity.

What counts as an excused/lawful absence?

- Illness or quarantine
- Death in the family
- Appointments for licensed medical practitioners
- Physical or mental disability that is verified by a licensed medical practitioner
- College visits The district may limit the number of college or postsecondary institution visits for which excused absences may be granted to a student during the school year. Upon return from a college visit, students must submit a signed notice from the institution (usually via the Admissions Office) as proof of the visit.
- Religious holidays (upon written parental request)
- Educational travel (with prior administrative approval)
- Court hearings related to the county Children and Youth Agency or Juvenile Probation Office
- Urgent/emergency reasons. Subject to building administrator approval. Please note that the Commonwealth requires that this excuse be "strictly construed" (24 P.S. 13-1329(a)). Examples of excuses that are not urgent include, but are not limited to: missing the bus, job interviews, unauthorized trips (such as hunting or fishing), oversleeping, or car trouble.
- Other urgent reasons that may reasonably cause a student's absence, as well as circumstances related to homelessness and foster care and other forms of educational instability.

What counts as an unexcused/unlawful absence?

Unless the absence is due to one of the specific reasons deemed excusable by the Commonwealth (see above), then the absence is unexcused/unlawful.

What if my child is absent for 10 or more days during the school year?

A student absent for 10 or more days throughout the school year, regardless of the absences being excused or unexcused, shall be required to present a note from a licensed medical practitioner for any additional absences.

What happens if my child is absent from school without a lawful excuse and is of compulsory school age (under 18 years of age)? In an effort to avoid legal penalties, schools will invite students and parents/guardians to design a "School Attendance Improvement Plan" (SAIP). The SAIP is a proactive measure that seeks to improve your child's attendance while outlining the consequences for failing to do so.

Students who accumulate more than three (3) unexcused absences are considered "truant." Because of their age, they are in violation of the Commonwealth's compulsory school attendance laws and regulations. After the third unlawful absence, parents/guardians will receive a notice alerting them to the possible legal penalties for continued violation of the compulsory school attendance laws. These penalties may be imposed on both students and parents/guardians by a magisterial district judge. The specific penalties are outlined in the PA School Code (24 P.S. 13-1333 and 1338.1) and can include, but are not limited to: fines, community service, completion of a parenting education program, and referral to the county Children and Youth Agency.

Students are also subject to the disciplinary consequences described in their school's student handbook.

EARLY DISMISSALS

What if my child needs to be dismissed early from school?

Services by licensed medical practitioners **for the student** should ideally be scheduled after school, this is not always possible. Requests to leave school before dismissal should be presented to the office or attendance secretary as soon as possible. Requests may be a signed parental note or an appointment card from a licensed medical practitioner, both of which must indicate the departure time and an approximate time for returning to school (when appropriate). Students must check-in with the office or attendance secretary when departing from or returning to school.

If a parent/guardian has not provided a note beforehand, such as in an emergency situation, the parent/guardian must sign the student out in the office. Please note that early dismissals will not be considered excused unless approved by the building administrator and/or the school nurse.

TARDINESS/LATE TO SCHOOL

What if my child is tardy (late) to school?

Students who arrive at school after the official start time must check in with the office or attendance secretary. Parents of elementary students must enter with the student to sign excuse forms. The same rules apply for both absences and tardiness (for example, the need for parental notes and the differences between excused and unexcused). Additionally, students may be subject to disciplinary consequences as outlined in their school's student handbook.

School start times:

Senior High School 7:45 AM Strayer & SGC 8:00 AM Elementary 9:05 AM

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES (High School)

Number of Unexcused Lates	Consequence(s)	Number of Unexcused Lates	Consequence(s)
5 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD	35 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD
9 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD	39 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD
12 Lates	2 - 1 Hour ASD	42 Lates	2 - 1 Hour ASD
15 Lates	1 Day ISS/Saturday	45 Lates	1 Day ISS/Saturday
20 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD	50 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD
24 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD	54 Lates	1 - 1 Hour ASD
27 Lates	2 - 1 Hour ASD	57 Lates	2 - 1 Hour ASD
30 Lates	1 Day ISS/Saturday	60 Lates	1 Day ISS/Saturday

DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES (ALL AGES)

Number of Unexcused	Consequence(s)
Absences	
3 Days	Attendance letter sent home.
,	Attendance letter sent home. All future absences must require a legal excuse as defined above.
10% of School Days prior	Loss of participation in that activity (dances, commencement ceremony, senior
to a School-Sponsored	trip, field trips, etc.).
Activity	Loss of senior release period for the next marking period

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS (see Board Policy 231 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

What if my child is going on a non-school sponsored educational trip?

In order for days out of school to be approved for family educational trips, as well as single-day trips, the "Educational Trip Request Form" must be submitted to the building administrator a minimum of 10 days prior to the trip. Please note that trips will not be approved during the first two weeks OR the last two weeks of school, in cases of excessive absences, during standardized testing windows, or if the child is in academic jeopardy.

- Regulations of the State of Pennsylvania provide that, upon written request from your parents/guardians, you may be excused from school attendance to participate in an educational trip or trip not sponsored by the school when the trip is evaluated by the principal as educational, and if the adult supervision is acceptable to both the principal and your parents/guardians.
- In the Quakertown Community School District, the building principal has been designated by the Superintendent to make the initial decision, based on the information provided. An educational trip form can be obtained in the Main Office. This form must be submitted to the principal a minimum of ten school days prior to the trip (except in an emergency). A principal will not approve trip requests if a student has academic or attendance concerns, or if the trip falls within a state-mandated testing window. Please refer to the trip request form for additional restrictions.
- Per district policy, you will be allowed a maximum of five days for an educational trip for the entire school year. Students who exceed the maximum number of days will be unexcused.

TRANSFERS TO OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS (see Board Policy 216)

• Before a student moves from the district in order to attend school elsewhere, a parent/guardian must come in to the Main Office and sign a release of records form. Before a transcript is issued, books and materials must be returned to the subject teachers and all obligations, such as library fines, must be met. You are encouraged to alert the office before a change occurs. Students and parents/guardians must be aware that they will remain enrolled in QCSD until the district receives notification of enrollment from the new school.

WITHDRAWALS (see Board Policy 208)

- If you wish to withdraw from school before graduation, you should inform an administrator. At that point, arrangements will be made for you to apply for working papers, return all books and materials, obtain the required parent permission slip, and meet with a school counselor. The school counselor will conduct an exit interview, define educational and life goals and develop a plan for achieving those goals, and inform students about the tests for General Educational Development.
- No student of compulsory school age will be permitted to withdraw without the written consent of a parent/guardian and supporting
 justification.

ACADEMICS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

- A learning environment is based on trust, honesty, and integrity. All work that you submit is expected to be your own original work.
 Knowingly using another individual's words and representing them as your own is plagiarism, and it is unacceptable. Sharing your
 own work or submitting the work of others are both violations of this policy, and both actions are viewed identically under
 this policy. If it is determined that you have plagiarized or cheated, there will be both an academic and disciplinary consequence.
- For the first offense, you will receive a 0% on the assignment with the opportunity to remediate subject to a 30% penalty plus an appropriate disciplinary consequence. For each subsequent offense, you will receive a 0% with no opportunity to remediate, an in-school suspension, and additional progressive discipline as determined by administration.
- If this policy is violated by more than one party, both academic and disciplinary consequences will be determined by administration.
- If you cut a class, you will receive a 0% on any graded assignments, including assessments, classwork, and homework, with no opportunity to remediate.

CLASS RANK (see Board Policy 214)

• Class rank is computed at the close of each academic school year. It includes all graded courses, 9-12. The class rank is a weighted percentile ranking, which is reported on the transcript.

<u>Course Type</u>	Transcript Weight
*AP	.5
Dual Enrollment	.25
Project Lead the Way	.25
Honors	.25

^{*}Starting with the Class of 2017, AP exam scores of three or higher will result in transcript weighting of .75 rather than .5.

FINAL EXAMS

• A window for final exams will be given to parents/guardians and students weeks in advance. Typically, the final exam window will be the last two weeks of the school year. Family trips will NOT be approved during these windows. Students will receive zeroes if they cannot take their final exams during the actual or make-up window.

GRADING

- 1. Passing Grade = 60%
- 2. Report Card will include Percentage and Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, F)
- 3. Grade Scale:
 - a. A: 100 90
 - b. B: 89 80
 - c. C: 79 70
 - d. D: 69 60
 - e. F: 59 50
- 4. Lowest Percentage Grade for a Marking Period = 50%
 - a. If a student earns less than a 50% in a marking period, no percentage will show on the report card.
- Grades cannot be changed after the next marking period has ended with the exception of incompletes.
- All assessments must be aligned to Standards. Teachers are required to assess student progress
 toward individual skills/learning targets and communicate with students about their status to ensure
 learning.
- 7. Homework
 - a. Guidelines must be consistent by course
 - b. Can count no more than 20% of a total grade.
 - c. Homework is considered as practice, preview or completion.
- 8. Late Work
 - a. Guidelines must be consistent by department
 - Nothing will be accepted after the marking period has ended with the exception of incompletes.
 - c. 10% maximum deduction per day for graded assignments.
- 9. Student work to improve knowledge/skills
 - a. May only be done within two marking periods.
 - b. Teachers will provide multiple assessment opportunities, using multiple modalities, to determine a student's understanding/skill level and to assign a final grade.
 - c. If a reassessment is provided to change a grade on a given assessment, the highest score that can be earned is a 75%.

- i. Guidelines must be consistent by department
- ii. Example 1: On a 100 point assessment, a student earns 65 points (65%). The student reassesses and earns 80 points (80%). The score recorded in the gradebook is 75 points (75%).
- iii. Example 2: On a 70 point assessment, a student earns 42 points (60%). The student reassesses and earns 68 points (97%). The score recorded in the gradebook is 75% of the 70 points, or .75*70 = 52.5 points.
- iv. Example 3: On a 50 point assessment, a student earns 25 points (50%). The student reassesses and earns 35 points (70%). The score recorded in the gradebook is 35 points.
- 10. Only one score is required to be recorded for a given assessment.
- 11. Final grade for the year will be based on:
 - a. High School: Average of the marking period percentages and final exam score

12. Final Exams

- a. Must be administered in all courses
- b. Must be common by course and level
- c. Counts as 10% of final grade for the year

Notes:

- It is understood that teachers may need to adapt the components of this grading policy to conform with IEP or 504 requirements for students with special needs.
- Teachers have the flexibility to use their professional judgment in applying these guidelines in situations where a student is experiencing hardship.

GRADE LEVEL PLACEMENT AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (see Board Policies 215 & 217, and accompanying Administrative Regulations)

• Please refer to the current year's <u>Program of Studies</u> for grade level placement and graduation requirements.

SCHEDULING LIMITATIONS

- Please refer to the current <u>Program of Studies</u> for all course descriptions. Many courses offered require specific prerequisites. Students should determine whether they meet the prerequisites of a given course before electing it by referring to the course descriptions. Additionally, students should consult with teachers, counselors, and their parent(s) prior to selecting an appropriate program of studies.
- The number of students electing a course and the availability of teachers will determine whether a course will be offered.
- You are requested to be careful and thorough in your selection of courses. All students are expected to continue in, and complete, the courses selected. All schedule changes must be made prior to the opening of school.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS (see Board Policy 220 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

- You have the responsibility to refrain from libel and obscenity and to observe the rules of responsible journalism. Within these bounds, you have a right and are as free as editors of other newspapers to report the news and to editorialize.
- School officials should supervise student-run newspapers published with school equipment and remove obscene or libelous material, as well as edit material that would cause a substantial disruption or material interference with school activities.
- Students who are not members of the newspaper staff and other members of the school community should have access to its pages. The criteria for submission of material by non-staff members will be published and distributed to all students.
- Staff members shall be held responsible for materials which are libelous or obscene, and such publications may be prohibited.

SUMMER SCHOOL/TUTORING (see Board Policy 124)

- In order to graduate on time, a student who has not met proficiency in a required course must take action to remediate this situation.
- The counselors will advise students and parents/guardians on the options available for student-specific situations. Please be advised that summer school options incur a cost to the family.

OPERATIONS

- School authorities may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards and walls to school announcements. Bulletin board space is provided for the use of students and student organizations. All notices and postings must be approved by the principal.
- The following general limitations on posting may be applied:
 - 1. School officials shall prohibit material which is obscene according to the current legal definition; which is libelous; or which inflames or incites students so as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts or physical disruption to the orderly operation of the school.
 - 2. Identification on any posted notice is required of a student or student group, including the name of at least one person of the group posting such notice.
 - 3. School officials may require that notices or other communications be officially dated before posting, and that such material be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.
 - 4. Announcements will be limited to designated bulletin board areas and walls as determined by the principal.
- No person shall display any poster, notice, bulletin, or advertisement not directly related to school activities in any school building or grounds except as approved by the principal or his designee.

INSURANCE (see Board Policy 211)

• Students who participate in school-sponsored interscholastic athletics and band are not required to purchase student accident insurance. The Board pays for such insurance. However, these same individuals, along with all other students who are involved in activities beyond the school day such as intramurals, outdoor school, or field trips, must purchase school insurance, or provide a family policy number and expiration date via the school district insurance waiver form. In all cases, students must complete the district insurance waiver form.

LOCKERS (see Board Policy 226)

- The Board acknowledges the need for safe in-school storage of books, clothing, school materials and other personal property and may provide lockers for such storage. You are strongly discouraged from bringing personal possessions, including cash, into the school building. *The district assumes no responsibility for the loss or theft of personal possessions.*
- All lockers are and shall remain the property of the school district. As such, you shall have no expectation of privacy in your locker. *You are fully responsible for the contents of their locker.*
- You are required to keep your assigned lockers closed and locked against incursion by other students; but no student may use a locker as a depository for a substance or object which is prohibited by law or district regulations, or which constitutes a threat to the health, safety or welfare of the occupants of the school building or the building itself.
- Any student with a defective locker should notify the office as soon as possible so repairs can be made and security maintained.
- The Board reserves the right to authorize its employees to inspect a student's locker at any time for the purpose of determining whether the locker is being improperly used for the storage of contraband, a substance or object the possession of which is illegal, or any material that poses a hazard to the safety and good order of the schools.
 - All requests or suggestions for the search of a student's locker shall be directed to the building principal. The principal shall open a student's locker for inspection on the request of a law enforcement officer only on presentation of a duly authorized search warrant or on the intelligently and voluntarily given consent of the student.
 - Whenever the search of a student's locker is prompted by the reasonable suspicion that the contents of a student's locker create an emergency, the principal may open the locker as soon as it is necessary to do so to discharge properly the duty to protect the persons and property in the school.

OUTSIDE FOOD/DRINKS

Students are not permitted to have outside food or drinks delivered during school hours. All deliveries will be turned away.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

• When inclement weather may result in school closings, you and your parents will be notified through the district's phone system and information will be posted on the school district website.

SCHOOL IURISDICTION & TRANSPORTATION

- All rights, responsibilities, and regulations shall apply to you:
 - 1. On the school grounds during and immediately before or immediately after school hours;
 - 2. On the school grounds as either a spectator or participant at any other time when school is being used by a school group;
 - 3. Off the school grounds at any school activity, function, or event as a participant or spectator; and
 - 4. During the time required going to and from the home, including time spent at bus stops and on school bus transportation. To promote safety on buses, you may be monitored by a video and audio surveillance system. In order to ride on a bus to which you are not assigned, you and your parent/guardian must fill out a School Bus Boarding Pass located on the district website. This pass must be signed by a building administrator. You will not be permitted to ride a bus without this pass.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP) (see Board Policy 236 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

- The Quakertown Community School District has established its commitment to healthy student growth and development. In order to achieve this goal, interventions by the school with the parents may be scheduled when the following observable behavior exists: academic concerns; behavioral concerns; neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse; truancy and drop-out concerns; and substance abuse.
- Students and parents involved in interventions will receive appropriate referral resources to support them in ameliorating the presenting problem. SAP referrals can be made by staff, students, and parents/guardians. Referral slips are available in the Counseling Office.

STUDENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE (see Board Policy 219)

• Any student with a complaint shall first contact the building principal to discuss the complaint and seek an informal resolution of the matter. If the complaint is not resolved, the principal will outline further procedures.

STUDENT DRIVING

- The laws of Pennsylvania give the school the right to regulate the use of motor vehicles during school hours. Since the school district provides transportation for all eligible students, driving should be considered a privilege extended to those deemed responsible.
- At the beginning of each school year, any student wishing to drive to school shall submit an application for parking to the office. Parking permits must be purchased in the office. Those students who qualify will rent a parking spot for a non-refundable fee. UBCTS drivers, MCP Students, and AM Senior Release should park in the Park Avenue Lot. All others park in the rear student parking. Students can only leave through the supervised Main Lobby or Senior Lobby, or parking privileges and/or Senior Release will be immediately revoked.
- Students driving to school are expected to follow all regulations of the school and the Motor Vehicle Code of Pennsylvania. Failure to do so will result in removal of parking privileges and/or suspension from school. Once a student arrives on school property, they must remain on school property.
- Students driving to school are not permitted to use their car (whether parked on school property or not) during the school day without permission from the office and their parents. Students are not permitted to drive to the Tech School unless given permission to do so. Cars parked on school property illegally or without authorization are subject to fine or will be towed away at the driver's expense.
- Students driving to school should also be aware that the school attendance laws of Pennsylvania do not consider impassable roads a valid excuse for absence or tardiness, unless the student is riding on school-provided transportation.

STUDENT SALES/FUNDRAISING POLICY (see Board Policy 229 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

- Throughout the year, classes, clubs, and teams conduct a number of fundraising campaigns. Each student participating in a fundraiser is responsible to provide good service to customers, safeguard any merchandise consigned, turn in all monies collected in the fundraiser, and/or return any merchandise. All sales require prior administrative approval. Monies collected must adhere to the district cash handling policy.
- Students who do not meet their responsibilities may be referred to the principal or principal's designee. The final disposition of cases will be coordinated with the advisor or coach and student officers. It should be remembered that all student activities are a privilege and the privilege may be withdrawn for students who do not cooperate with policies and procedures.

WORKING PAPERS

• A parent or legal guardian may obtain working papers for you in the Main Office. A birth certificate or hospital certificate is required when working papers are requested.

CONDUCT & BEHAVIOR

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS (see Board Policy 227 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

ASSAULT

- A student shall not intentionally do bodily injury to any person or threaten any person; or be involved in intimidation, harassment or extortion: or knowingly possess, handle, or transmit any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon.
- Any acts of violence directed toward a teacher, administrator, student, or staff member of the school by a student will result in an immediate suspension from school. The student will then be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for disciplinary action which may result in expulsion. Acts of violence will be referred to the police for further action.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING (see Board Policy 249)

BUS BEHAVIOR (see Board Policy 810 and Administrative Regulation 218)

The school laws of Pennsylvania state that the Board of School Directors may provide free transportation for any student. Transportation for students on a school bus is a privilege that may be revoked. You must respect the rights of all individuals riding the bus. Behavior must not impair the bus driver's ability to maintain control of the vehicle. Your behavior on the bus may be monitored by audio/video devices.

• FIRST OFFENSE:

- 1. Bus infractions are to be brought to the attention of the administration, who will take steps to correct the situation. Parents may be informed by the principal or his designee of your misbehavior when warranted. The Board desires that parents or guardians will cooperate with the district and the administration in controlling your behavior while on a school bus. If the privilege to ride the bus is revoked, the Superintendent shall be notified and will inform the Board of the action taken.
- 2. At no time is the driver of the bus to decide whether or not you will be permitted to ride on the bus or to administer any form of disciplinary action other than the assignment of specific seats to those student(s) involved in the disturbance.
- 3. The bus driver determines if an incident of misconduct merits a written report to the principal. If the report of misconduct on the bus is of an extremely serious nature, the principal or his designee may suspend your bus privileges for the first offense. This decision should be submitted in writing to the District Office. In order to expedite the action, your parents shall be notified by phone immediately and advised of the fact that: Suspension of bus privileges is taking place, the length of time of the suspension, and the dates on which the suspension will take effect and end. Any misconduct reported by the bus driver will be reported and filed by the principal or designee.
- 4. The building principal or designee should at all times attempt to cooperate with the driver(s) and the owner of the transportation company upon receipt from a bus driver of a report indicating your misbehavior. The principal or his designee shall speak with the individual(s) reported in order to determine the extent of the misbehavior, as well as the degree of discipline required.
- 5. In all cases where the bus driver's report is substantial, the principal or designee shall notify your parents of your misconduct and any disciplinary action taken. Meetings with you, your parents, bus driver, and administration will be held as needed. The basic intent of this meeting would be to seek understanding and cooperation among all those involved.

• SECOND OFFENSE:

1. Upon the report of your second offense of misbehavior on a bus, your parents shall again be notified by either the principal or his designee indicating that repeated action of this kind might result in you being denied the privilege of riding the bus for an indefinite period of time. Proper discipline shall be administered and the parents shall be informed of the discipline measures taken.

THIRD OFFENSE:

- 1. Upon receipt of your third report of bus behavior, the principal may suspend your bus privileges. If suspension occurs, a memo stating your name, age, and grade; a descriptive list of the offenses; and the date on which the offenses occurred, as well as the name, address, and phone number of your parents shall be sent to the District Office.
- 2. If bus privilege is revoked, a letter shall be sent by the principal to your parents informing them of the decision and the length of time involved with the suspension. The specific dates of the suspension will be included in the letter.
- During the period of time in which you are suspended from riding the school bus, your parents or guardians are responsible for having you transported to school. Revoked bus transportation does not constitute an excused absence from attending school.

CODE OF CONDUCT, ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES (see Board Policies 123 & 232, and accompanying Administrative Regulations)

DISCIPLINARY PROTOCOLS (see Board Policies 218 & 233)

administrators may resolve Level III behavioral infractions. The rights of students with IEPs or 504 Plans will be respected as it relates to

Please note that administrators have discretion for all disciplinary issues based on the specific circumstances of each case. Only the disciplinary process, but students with IEPs or 504 Plans may be disciplined as a result of violations of the Disciplinary Protocols. Consequences may include one or more of Offense the following Academic Consequences (Forfeiture of **Level 1:** Behavior which impedes orderly classroom or school opportunity to participate in any graded operations. Examples include but are not limited to: assignments, including Classroom disruption (disruption of learning) assessments/classwork/homework for verified Cutting class (non-habitual) class cuts, student will receive a zero with no Disrespect and/or failure to follow staff directions opportunity to remediate) Disrespectful language, profanity, or gestures

- Entering unauthorized areas
- Hallway disruptions
- ID policy violations
- Inappropriate attire
- Inappropriate displays of affection
- Inappropriate use of computers or network (minor in nature, e.g., playing games or watching videos)
- Late to class (non-habitual)
- Late to school (non-habitual)
- Lunch disruptions (e.g., excessive noise, lack of cleanliness)
- Lying to staff
- Pass violations
- Teasing/taunting that does not rise to the level of bullying or harassment
- Use of earbuds/headphones in hallways
- Use of electronic devices in class without permission

- Administrator-issued detention (60 minutes)
- Administrator-student conference (warning)
- Confiscation of electronic devices
- Contact parent/guardian
- Counselor-student conference
- Fines
- Lunch detention
- Teacher-issued detention (up to 45 minutes)
- Teacher-student conference (warning)
- Withdrawal of school privileges (participation in sports or clubs, attendance at dances or field trips, permission to drive/park, senior privilege, participation in the commencement ceremony, etc.)

Level 2: Behavior whose frequency and seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate or positive spirit of the school. Level II can also include Level I behaviors that have not been corrected. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Bullying/harassment
- Bus misconduct
- Cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty (in addition to an academic consequence)
- Cutting class (habitual)
- Dangerous/aggressive behavior (non-assault)
- Defiance and disrespect to staff
- Failure to follow directions in detention
- Failure to identify oneself
- Failure to serve detention(s)
- Forging notes or impersonating a parent/guardian
- Gambling
- Instigation of prohibited behaviors (e.g., video-recording of altercations, "egging on" participants, failing to report dangerous situations to adults)
- Late to class (habitual)
- Late to school (habitual)
- Leaving class or campus without permission
- Offensive gender, racial, religious, or sexual comments or representations
- Use of electronic devices to take pictures without permission or to send inappropriate messages (e.g., cyberbullying)
- Violation of district attendance policies
- Violation of the student driving policy
- Violation of the tobacco policy (Board Policy & AR 222)

All Level 1 consequences, plus:

- Bus assigned seat, suspension, or expulsion
- Citation
- Confiscation of contraband
- Mandatory participation in Nicotine Cessation
- Extended detention (3 hours)
- Fines
- In-school suspension (ISS)
- Out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- Revocation of computer/network privileges
- SAP referral
- Towing/booting of vehicle
- Saturday Detention

 Smoking/Vaping violations (Nicotine and or related paraphernalia) Violation of the drug and alcohol policy & AR 227 	1st Offense ISS, \$50 fine, Nicotine Sensation Classes 2nd Offense 2days ISS, \$100 fine 3rd Offense Citation filed with school SRO These consequences are offered as alternative options to a citation to the police. Should these not be followed through with in a timely manner, a citation will be filed for each offense. Board Policy & AR 227
Parking/driving violations	Parking privileges may be revoked at the discretion of Administration.
Level 3: Behavior involves acts directed against persons or property, whose consequences seriously endanger the health or safety of others. Level III can also include Level I or II behaviors that have not been corrected. Examples include but are not limited to:	All Level I and II consequences Alternative educational placement Community service Expulsion Police involvement Restitution/monetary fine

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES AND INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS (see Board Policies 123 & 232, and accompanying Administrative Regulations)

- Participation in extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports is a privilege extended to all students. In order to be eligible for participation in such activities, you must be academically eligible as well as complete in the graduation project process. You are also required to adhere to attendance and behavior standards to be eligible for participation. Per PIAA policy, to be academically eligible you must be passing four full credit courses, or the equivalent, in a marking period.
- Any student who does not uphold the academic and/or behavior standards as outlined in this handbook may be declared ineligible for any and all activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, dances, sports, assemblies, field trips, UBCTS field trips, and special events.
- Students who have outstanding obligations or fees are not permitted to participate or be present at the aforementioned activities.

• If a student is suspended out of school (OSS), he/she may not participate in any extracurricular activities during the period of suspension. Per the discretion of an administrator, coach, and/or club advisor, students who are suspended in school (ISS) may be denied the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Use of electronic devices including but not limited to cell phones is not permitted in the classroom during the school day without teacher permission. Any such visible items being used without permission may be confiscated by the classroom teacher and held until the end of the day, and discipline may be assigned. A parent may be required to pick up the item. If you choose to bring such items to school, you are responsible for safely securing these items. The district assumes no responsibility for investigating the loss or theft of any such items. Additional expectations may be communicated as needed.
- You may not use a camera or video camera during the school day without the consent of a building administrator, except for school related purposes with administrative approval.
- To ensure your safety and compliance with staff directions, one ear must be free from earbuds at all times in common areas of the building, such as hallways and lunch periods. Over the ear headphones are strictly prohibited at all times.

FOOD/DRINK

- Drinking water and coffee is permitted, as will eating snacks that do not distract from the learning environment (NOT permitted in labs).
- Energy drinks are prohibited.
- Beverages are subject to inspection.
- Students are not permitted to have outside food or drinks delivered during school hours. All deliveries will be turned away.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (see Board Policies 220, and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

• You have the right to express yourself unless such expression directly interferes with the educational process, threatens immediate harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity, or interferes with another individual's rights. Comments that are ethnically, racially, or sexually insulting, or in any way defame another individual, will not be tolerated.

INSUBORDINATION

- Insubordination is defined as an act of disrespect, disobedience, or lying to authority. Lines of authority are absolutely necessary to the successful operation of a community. The teachers, administration, and staff are the authority to which you are responsible in the school community.
- You have a right to appeal a staff-member's decision, but you are not to disobey authority. Insubordination should be referred to the
 administration immediately. Insubordination will result in disciplinary action, as well as removal from the situation in which it
 occurred. Students involved in continual acts of insubordination may be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for disciplinary
 action.

NON-DISCRIMINATION (see Board Policy 103 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

STUDENT AFFECTION

• Public displays of affection are not appropriate in a high school setting. There is nothing wrong with a simple show of affection such as holding hands; however, kissing and close physical contact in public school are out of place. In order to avoid offending or embarrassing others, please limit displays of affection to hand holding.

STUDENT DRESS CODE (see Board Policy 221)

Students violating the policy will be required to change into appropriate clothing. Your parent or guardian may be asked to bring more acceptable clothing to school or the office may provide more suitable attire. You may be held in the office or in-school suspension if replacement attire is not available. Any student who persists in disregarding the established dress code shall be subject to the disciplinary consequences for insubordination.

Examples of attire that disrupt the educational program of the schools or constitute a health or safety hazard:

- Clothing that is revealing, exceptionally tight, or form fitting. This includes sheer or see-through clothing. No private parts, including stomachs and cleavage, may be exposed.
- Violent language, images or affiliations.
- Images or language depicting drugs or alcohol (or any illegal item or activity) or the use of the same.
- Hate speech, profanity, pornography/vulgarity, or innuendo.
- Images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- Visible underwear, including waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under clothing.

• Flags, capes, blankets, or towels may not be worn as clothing.

Certain classroom settings, e.g., labs or gyms, may impose additional guidelines for purposes of safety (e.g., loose fitting garments, footwear, athletic attire).

Any attire that the administration considers to be an impediment to the quality of instruction or the welfare of the student or school shall not be permitted. When in doubt, do not wear it to school!

SUSPENSIONS & EXPULSIONS (see Board Policy 233)

• In-School Suspension (ISS)

- No student may receive an in-school suspension without notice of the reasons for which s/he is suspended and an opportunity to be heard prior to the time the suspension becomes effective. The parent(s)/guardian shall be informed of the suspension action taken by the school.[12]
- Should the in-school suspension exceed ten (10) consecutive school days, the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian shall be offered an informal hearing with the designated school official. Such hearing shall take place prior to the eleventh day of the in-school suspension.

Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

- The principal may suspend any pupil for disobedience or misconduct for a period of one (1) to ten (10) consecutive school days and shall report the suspension to the Superintendent as soon as possible thereafter.[1]
- No student may be suspended without notice of the reasons for which s/he is suspended and an opportunity to be heard in his/her own behalf before the school official who holds the authority to reinstate him/her.[1]
- When the suspension exceeds three (3) school days, the student and parent(s)/guardian will be given the opportunity for an informal hearing with the designated school official. Such hearing shall take place as soon as possible after the suspension.

Expulsion

- The Board may either expel for a period exceeding ten (10) school days or may permanently expel from the rolls of this district any student whose misconduct and disobedience is such as to warrant this sanction. No student shall be expelled without an opportunity for a formal hearing before a duly authorized committee of the Board and upon action taken by the Board after the hearing.
- The student under eighteen (18) years of age who is expelled has forfeited his/her right to an education in the schools of this district, but has not been excused from compliance with the compulsory attendance statute.
- Parents or guardians who are unable to provide an education for their child shall submit a written statement within thirty (30) days that they are unable to do so. The district shall then make provisions for the student's education. If thirty days (30) pass without satisfactory evidence that the required education is being provided to the student, the district shall re-contact the parent and make provisions for the student's education.
- If the approved educational program is not complied with, the school district may take action to ensure that the student will receive a proper education.

TECHNOLOGY, ACCEPTABLE USE & REPAIR OF (see Board Policy 815 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

TOBACCO PRODUCTS, USE AND POSSESSION OF (see Board Policy 222 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)

WEAPONS (see Board Policy 218.1 and accompanying Administrative Regulation)