

Falls City Academy

Student Handbook

2025-26



Mission Statement:

Falls City Academy provides a safe educational environment supporting all students with positive encouragement, mentoring, coaching, and guidance in order to prepare students to pursue success in all of life's endeavors.

125 3rd Ave. West

Jerome, ID 83338

(208)324-1993

www.jeromeschools.org

One Team. One Town. One Family.



Falls City Academy

Greetings,

Welcome to Falls City Academy! We are glad you have chosen to be a Phoenix!

It is our desire here at Falls City Academy to provide a learning environment that gives care to the individualized needs of our students. We recognize that each learner we encounter has specific needs and different circumstances, and we value the unique learning experience they will have during their time here with us. Success for our students is graduating high school, the first step in a bright future for each of their young adult lives. Whether our students go on to college, go into the trades, join the military, or immediately join our workforce, we are here to assist them to get to the next chapter of their lives.

We look forward to partnering with the students and their supportive adults to help them achieve their dreams and goals! Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our staff members with questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Stacey McFarland, Ed.S.

Principal, Falls City Academy

stacey.mcfarland@jeromeschools.org

(208)324-1993

PLEASE KEEP THIS HANDBOOK FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

You will be notified of any additional information, events, dates, etc. through the district website, school website, and the Remind App. Please **download and join the Remind App (Send a text to: 81010; Text this message: @6hb48c)** to be informed of all happenings throughout the school year.

Disclaimer- This handbook covers general topics. It does not act as a contract between the school and family or student. School officials may revise this handbook to implement the education program and ensure student wellbeing. School officials are responsible for interpreting the handbook. In any situation not specifically addressed in the handbook, the school will make decisions based upon staff discretion, applicable board policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations consistent with the school's best interests.

School Information

Falls City Academy (208) 324-1993

Staff Member	Position/Classroom	Extension
Stacey McFarland	Principal	1701
Leticia Cervantes-Garcia	Secretary	1700
Ana Vazquez	Social Worker	1005
Eloy Guadarrama	School Resource Officer	
Bryce Johnson	English	1705
Geoffrey Wagoner	English	1707
Amy Eilers	Mathematics	1704
Karen Hamilton	Science	1713
Curtis Neilson	Social Studies	1702
Tamrah Munk	Humanities	1710
Angela Compton	Electives/ Special Education	1708
Annette Summers	Paraprofessional	1006

District Information

District Office	Superintendent- Brent Johnson Asst. Superintendent & Curriculum & Instruction- Ryan Evans	(208)324-2392
Food Services	Director- Stephanie Clay	(208) 324- 5311
Transportation	Jerome Bus Company- Tim Hicks	(208)324-2392
Special Services	Director- Toni Harbaugh	(208)324-3361
Migrant Services	Migrant Liaison- Connie Moncada	(208)324-2598
High School	Principal- Nathan Tracy	(208)324-8137
Middle School	Principal- Nicole Ferreira	(208)324-8134
Summit Elementary	Principal- Amber Boone	(208)324-3396
Horizon Elementary	Principal- Jill Taylor	(208)324- 4841
Frontier Elementary	Principal- Barbara Brown	(208)324 2392
Jefferson Elementary	Dual Language Immersion Principal- Angie Brulotte	(208)324-8896

Application Procedures:

Applications are available at the district office, at Falls City Academy, at Jerome High School or Jerome Middle School, or online. Completed applications may be turned in to the Falls City Academy office:

- In person or by mail- 125 4th Ave. W., Jerome, ID 83338
- Via email- stacey.mcfarland@jeromeschools.org
 leticia.cervantes@jeromeschools.org
- Via fax- (208)324-7609

Only completed applications will be reviewed. Once the school receives your completed application, you will be contacted to schedule an interview with administration.

Please see JSD Policy #2615 for Placement of Credit Deficient Students in Alternative High School: <https://www.jeromeschools.org/jsd-policy-manual/2615>

Enrollment Qualifications:

As per Idaho Code 33-1001 (3a), students *must* meet specific qualifications to attend Falls City Academy. An at-risk youth is any secondary student, grade seven through twelve (7-12), who meets any three (3) of the following criteria in Section A, or any one (1) criteria in Section B.

Section A:

- o Has repeated at least one (1) grade.
- o Has absenteeism that is greater than ten (10%) percent during the preceding semester.
- o Has an overall grade point average that is less than 1.5 (4.0 scale) prior to enrolling in an alternative secondary program.
- o Has failed one (1) or more academic subjects in the past year.
- o Is below proficient, based on local criteria or standardized test, or both.
- o Is two (2) or more credits per year behind the rate required to graduate or for grade promotion.
- o Has attended three (3) or more schools within the previous two (2) years, not including dual enrollment

Section B:

- o Has documented or pattern of substance abuse.
- o Is pregnant or a parent.
- o Has a court or agency referral.
- o Demonstrates behavior that is detrimental to their academic progress.
- o Is an emancipated youth.
- o Is a previous dropout.
- o Has serious personal, emotional, or medical issue(s).

Why Falls City Academy

Graduate Profile

- Knowledge of core subjects
- Critical thinking and creative problem-solving
- Oral and written communication
- Teamwork and Collaboration
- Digital literacy
- Leadership
- Professionalism and work ethic
- Career exploration and development
- Citizenship and civic responsibility
- Financial literacy

What the Day Looks Like

Smaller class sizes- around 15 students max
Shorter school day- 8:30am- 3:15pm with 30 minute lunch
Longer class periods- Four 90ish minute blocks plus
Advisory/Interventions
Quarters- Rotating classes every 9 weeks

Competency-Based Education Approach

Benefits

- Each and every student at FCA receives an individualized learning plan to help them reach their goals
- Smaller class sizes means more individualized attention
- Fewer classes allows for student to focus deeply
- Learning culture *empowers students*. Instructional practices *personalize learning*. Curriculum and assessment enable students to *demonstrate competency*. Policies and systems *recognize mastery*.

Falls City Structural Differences

- Quarters, not Semesters
- Ability to earn 16 credits per year (up to 20 credits with work study, term projects, and advisory period)
- Fewer credits required for graduation (47)

Grading Procedures and Transcript Credits:

At FCA students have the possibility of earning four credits each quarter. With four quarters in a school year, a student may earn 16 credits per year. Arrangements may be made to earn additional credits through work credits (one per term junior or senior year; max two per high school career), term projects (up to two credits a year), advisory/intervention periods (up to one credit per year), summer school, the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, IDLA opportunities, courses from Jerome High School, dual-credit courses, and other means approved by administration.

*If a student receives a passing grade in a course, but **exceeds the 90% attendance policy**, they will receive a “NC” (no credit) and will be required to make up the credit in credit recovery or by repeating the course.*

Grading Scale:

90- 100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, 59 or below F. Students are expected to finish classes with a grade of D or better. Teachers have the right to install mastery based units, projects, and classes.

TERM PROJECTS

Students will complete a term project at the end of each quarter. Term projects are used to grant 0.5 credits in speech or technology. If students do not complete a term project, they will not receive credits for that term.

Students need **46 credits** (*47 credits for 2027-28 graduates) to graduate FCA. In addition, a student must be enrolled at FCA at least *one full quarter* in order to receive a Falls City Academy diploma.

FCA Diploma Required Credits by Academic Category:

State requirements include that all students:

- Take a minimum of 46 (47*) high school credits, which include 29 credits in core subjects
- Complete a Senior Project
- Complete a Government and Civics Proficiency
- Take nine (9) credits of Language Arts/Communications
- Take six (6) credits of Math
- Take six (6) credits of Science
- Take five (5) credits of Social Studies
- Take two (2) credits of Humanities
- Take on (1) credit of Health/Wellness
- Take one (1) credit of Digital Literacy*

A Senior Project is a comprehensive assignment that is designed to be a culmination of each student's academic experiences from his/her high school career. Typically, Senior Projects include a paper, a portfolio, a presentation, and a final product or culminating activity or event.

The Senior Project must include elements of research, development of a thesis using experiential learning or integrated project-based learning experiences and presentation of the project outcomes. Additional requirements are at the discretion of the local school district. Completion of a postsecondary certificate or degree at the time of high school graduation or an approved pre-internship or internship program may be used to meet this requirement.

Early Graduation:

Students graduating prior to their cohort graduation year must complete all graduation requirements, have completed a full 3 years of high school, and have a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5 or higher.

Student and Staff Rights:

- Teachers have the right to teach, free from distractions.
- Students have the right to learn, free from distractions.
- All people at Falls City Academy, including teachers, substitute teachers and staff, aides, custodians, food service personnel, administration, secretaries, counselors, parents, visitors, and students have the right to be treated with respect. This includes all communication to or about these people, through speaking, gesturing, or writing.
- Jerome Jt. School District #261 does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, sex and/or disability.

Basic Classroom Rules

- Be on time to class.
- Bring all materials to class.
- Follow all staff member directives.
- Work to your full potential.
- Show proper respect to staff, classmates, and school property.

General Conduct

Students are expected to behave as ladies and gentlemen at all times. No student, while on school property or at any school function, will behave in a disorderly manner that interrupts or disturbs individuals or the operation of the school.

Daily Schedule

8:00am	Office Opens, Student Drop Off Begins, Breakfast Served	
8:30- 9:55am	Period 1	Friday- 8:30- 9:30am
10:00- 10:20am	Advisory	Friday- Intervention Block- 9:30-10:30am
10:25- 11:50am	Period 2	Friday- 10:30- 11:30pm
11:50am- 12:20pm	Lunch	Friday- 11:30- 12:15pm
12:20- 1:45pm	Period 3	Friday- 12:15pm- 1:15pm
1:50- 3:15pm	Period 4	Friday- 1:15pm- 2:15pm
3:30pm	Office Closes Mon.-Thurs.	Friday Dismissal- 2:15pm

Student(s) should **NOT arrive earlier than 7:45 a.m. There is no supervision during this time. Thank you for making safety a top priority!*

Driving and Parking

Students should only park south of the school entrance along 3rd street in the designated parking spots.

Driving to school and parking on school property is a **privilege**. Students who drive unsafely, leave school during the day without permission, park illegally, or loiter in their cars or the parking area may lose this privilege. Students are not to loiter in the parking lot after arriving at school in the morning, during lunch and upon leaving school. All vehicles should be kept locked, and general driving regulations apply within the parking area. Violations of this policy may result in towing, referral to the police, suspension, and/or referral to the Board for possible expulsion. Vehicles in FCA parking areas may be subject to search and seizure. Bicycles should be chained outside of the school building. **All students must provide a valid license and proof registration and insurance.**

Transportation

Jerome School District provides bussing. For questions or concerns related to transportation, contact the Student Transportation Office at:

Phone: 208-324-2392 Ext. 1009 *Email:* transportation@jeromeschools.org

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Students will abide by the Student Code of Conduct at all times when riding the bus and will follow the bus rules.

Visitors

All visitors are *required* to check in with the secretary or principal. Adult visitors must bring a government issued ID to check-in. Visitors **MUST** be identified with a visitor badge at all times while on the school premises. Thank you for helping us make safety a top priority!

At no time are visitors to Falls City Academy allowed to use the elevator entrance through the district office (with the exception of needing ADA accessibility). Please ring the doorbell at the entrance of the school on 3rd street to be let in.

Food Service

	Fill out a free and reduced lunch application <i>annually</i> .
\$3.00 OR \$0.	Breakfast- (Served 7:45-8:30am)
\$4.00 OR \$0.50 Reduced Rate	Lunch- (Served 11:50-12:20; Fridays- 11:30-12:15)

Lunch credits may be purchased online at jeromeschools.org under the **Food Services** tab, on the My Meal Time app, or by dropping off a check.

Attendance

We feel strongly about the importance of our students being in school daily to help ensure every learning opportunity possible. Attendance sets a life-long pattern that will support the student in their adult and working life. We also appreciate your diligence in monitoring for signs of illness and staying at home if there is a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting.

There are times, of course, when absence is not preventable. At such times, **please contact the office to inform of a student's illness or injury.** All medical exemptions and doctor's notes must be submitted to the front office as soon as possible. *Doctor's excused absences, court, school activities, and funerals **with** documentation are NOT included in our attendance review process.*

If your child has a long-term illness or issue, **please provide a doctor's note and inform our staff** so we can support your child with special arrangements for school work.

Students who exceed the 90% attendance policy (more than four absences per quarter) may be referred to Juvenile Court (under 16 years of age) and/or the school may request the Idaho Transportation Department suspend a student's driver's license (Idaho Code 49-303A).

FCA has a specific adherence to attendance in order to ensure that students do not lose credits during our shortened terms:

- **3 tardies= 1 absence**
- **4 absences (per class)= loss of credit (NC) for the class**

- Students may make arrangements to make up for a tardy by reporting to the principal (or designee) during lunch. Each 10 minutes given will excuse one tardy (so a 30 minute lunch will give the student the opportunity to have three tardies excused). It will be the **student's responsibility** to sign in and make up their tardies.

“Chronic absence — missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions—can translate into students having difficulty learning to read by the third-grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school” (Attendanceworks.org).

We look forward to partnering with you to ensure your child has as many productive learning days as possible!

Please refer to Jerome School District Policies 3040, 3050, and 3050P for additional questions.

Checking Out Of School

If it becomes necessary for a student to leave school during the day, he/she **must** check out with the principal or secretary with parental/guardian permission BEFORE leaving school grounds. A student being off-campus unauthorized will be marked as truant and may result in disciplinary measures.

OPEN CAMPUS POLICY: Students may leave the school grounds for lunch *if* they are receiving grades of A, B, or C in ALL of their classes *and* do not have any issues with attendance (students with tardies will not be permitted to leave campus; students who have exceeded 2 absences in any class period will lose the open campus privilege). Other than lunch, students may not leave campus without permission. For medical or legal appointments that occur during school time, the student must check out with the secretary and/or principal before leaving school property. Appointment slips are required upon reentry. **Any student who leaves campus without parental and school permission will be considered truant and/or face disciplinary consequences.**

Student Code of Conduct- Lean In, Lean On, and Lead Forward

FCA Student Norms:

1. *Be Ready to Learn-* Come to class on time, prepared, and focused. Avoid distractions and give your best effort every day.
2. *Embody Respect-* Treat everyone- yourself, other students, staff, and visitors- with kindness and respect. Use appropriate language and behavior.
3. *Be Mindful of Your Words and Actions-* Respect personal space. Never hurt or bully others. If you see something wrong, speak up, get help, or report it.
4. *Be an Active Listener-* Listen to the adults and your fellow classmates. Live up to the school and classroom expectations.
5. *Represent Yourself Well-* Take pride in your actions, choices, and attendance. Build the future you want by making good decisions now.

STUDENT POLICIES: In cooperation with the school staff, students are responsible for helping maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning. To maintain this atmosphere, the School Board has determined that students will not violate any law while on school property, and will, at all times, abide by the rules and regulations of the Board and Administration.

At FCA, we firmly believe in grace and the ability to overcome obstacles.

However, actions/behaviors have consequences.

You are NOT a product of your circumstances. We can all do better!



VIOLENT BEHAVIOR: Violence in deed or through involvement or encouragement will result in consequences that may include out of school suspension, followed by an expulsion hearing if there is evidence to support such an action. Police will also be contacted on any violent behaviors.

DRUG-FREE ZONE: FCA is a **drug-free zone**. Offenders will be held to the strictest disciplinary consequences. The possession, use, being under the influence, or distribution of tobacco products, drugs, edibles, and intoxicants are forbidden, including electronic vaping devices. The possession of drug paraphernalia is also prohibited at school. Drug/intoxicant use will be referenced in the Jerome Jt. School District #261 Substance Abuse Policy and referred to the police.

GENERAL SAFETY: FCA students will be **required to wear a visible identification badge while on campus during the school day**. Exceptions will be made due to safety concerns in individual classes. Students will be provided with the first badge, badge holder, and lanyard at the beginning of the year. Students who lose their identification badge will replace them at their own expense.

Expectations:

While attending school during regular hours or during school-sponsored activities, students are expected to follow these basic rules, procedures, and expectations:

1. Your first priority at school is to learn. Avoid distractions that interfere with or are counter-intuitive to that mission.
2. Be in the assigned place with appropriate materials, ready to work at the designated time that class begins.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself, and never intentionally harm another student.
4. Use school-appropriate language and behavior at all times while maintaining friendly and courteous behavior.
5. Be polite and respectful to everyone, including students, teachers, administrators, support staff, substitute teachers, and visitors.
6. Follow individual teacher instructions, class rules, and expectations at all times.
7. Do not be a bully. If you see someone being bullied, intervene by telling them to stop or immediately report it to school personnel.
8. Do not become a distraction for others. Give every other student the opportunity to maximize their potential. Encourage your fellow students. Never tear them down.
9. School attendance and participation in class are an essential part of the educational process. Regular attendance at school is necessary for student success. Furthermore, it allows students to achieve the maximum possible benefits from their educational experience. All students are encouraged to be present and prompt. School attendance is the responsibility of both parents and students.
10. Represent yourself in a manner that you will be proud of in ten years. You only get one opportunity to get life right. Take advantage of the opportunities you have at school. They will help you be successful throughout your life.

Discipline:

Classroom management plans for individual classrooms will be included in the class syllabus and sent home the first week of school.

School-wide discipline and student management goals include:

- To provide a safe, positive, and orderly climate for learning
- To help students positively interact with others and grow as leaders
- To help students learn self-regulation and conflict resolution
- To help students learn to respect others, their rights, and others property

Our staff will promote and practice positive behavioral expectations and interventions to include restorative practices. The aim/goal of restorative practices are improving/repairing relationships (social connections with peers) and practicing expected behaviors. When misbehaviors or undesirable/unsuccessful choices occur, the following management plan will be used to promote a safe learning environment for all students:

FCA operates on a three strike rule within the classroom:

1st infraction= Request to fix violation

2nd infraction= Warning to fix violation

3rd infraction= Referral to Principal for corrective action and/or lunch detention; Student required to call parent/guardian and explain the situation

Any infraction beyond the third may have the following consequences: In School Suspension, Behavior Contract, Out of School Suspension, Expulsion

NOTE: School rules apply while traveling to or from school, at school, and when going to or from and while attending any authorized school function.

Principal discretion to be used depending upon the situation.

Minor Infractions

Minor infractions may include inappropriate language/gestures, horseplay, defiance, disrespect, non-compliance, lying, cheating/plagiarism, talking back/arguing, disruption, excessive talking, refusing to do work, tardiness, put-downs, running, yelling, poor sportsmanship, stealing or possession of electronic toys/devices for non-instructional purposes- Including cell phones and smart watches.

Major Infractions

Major infractions may include possession of alcohol, arson, possession of matches or a lighter, drugs (including OTC or other, including vitamins), false fire alarm (intentionally pulling school fire alarm), firearms/guns (and/or overheard talking about bringing guns or firearms), sexual battery (inappropriate grabbing or touching), threat (threat of violence or death threat), possession of tobacco, drugs, e-cigs, vapes, marijuana, or cigarettes (any form), fighting, bullying/harassment, stealing, possession of weapons (including knives, toy guns, fireworks, etc.).

Major infractions will be addressed by the principal. Discipline steps/practices for major incidents may include, but are not limited to: completion of behavior reflection, recommended counseling, loss of off-campus lunch privileges, loss of cell phone access during the school day, lunch detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, contacting law enforcement and pressing charges when necessary, or expulsion.

Note: **Absolutely no weapons are allowed on school grounds.** Weapons include, but are not limited to, all knives, multitools, firearms, pellet guns, cap guns, play guns, B.B. guns, bows and arrows, darts, brass knuckles, pipes, chains, chuck-sticks, throwing stars, black jacks, fireworks, lighters, explosives, chemicals, etc. The Jerome School District may expel students who have a dangerous weapon on campus or during the time they are using school transportation pursuant to Idaho Code 18-332d and the Gun Free School Act, as amended in Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Discipline will be administered according to Idaho Code Section 33-205, Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A student may be recommended for expulsion for school threats or weapons possession. Any threat to the school can be prosecuted as a felony if weapons are found at school or at home.

Bullying- I Matter, You Matter, We All Matter

All incidences of reported bullying are taken seriously. Idaho anti-bullying laws include the following definitions of harassment, intimidation, and bullying:

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any intentional gesture, or any intentional written, verbal, or physical act or threat by a student that:

- a. A reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:
 - i. Harming a student; or
 - ii. Damaging a student's property; or
 - iii. Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person; or
 - iv. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property; or

- b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student.

An act of harassment, intimidation or bullying may also be committed through the use of a landline, car phone or wireless telephone or through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network.

Idaho Code § 18-917A (2015)

Disciplinary consequences for bullying may include, but are not limited to, referral to counseling, diversion, detention, use of juvenile specialty courts, restorative practices, on-site suspension and expulsion for any student who commits an act of bullying, intimidation, harassment, violence, or threats of violence.

Find more information on bullying here: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/resources/laws/idaho>

Please refer to Jerome School District Policies 3295 and 3295P for additional questions

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment may include making a sexually inappropriate comment, touch, action, gesture, contact, insinuation, or derision that makes another person uncomfortable may entail a sexual harassment issue. Sexual harassment can be either in person or online. Any sexual harassment complaint will be dealt with through the Jerome Jt. School District #261 Title IX Policy.

Gangs

Gangs, hate groups and similar organizations or groups which advocate hatred or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ancestry, national origin, or disability are inconsistent with the Jerome Jt. School District #261 policy. The activities of such groups and their members are prohibited on school district property and at all school functions. Examples of prohibited activities include (but are not limited to): the congregation of members; the solicitation or recruitment of members; the possession of group paraphernalia and materials; the intimidation of others; the advocacy of discrimination and any other behavior, such as the wearing of gang colors or insignia; and the use of language, codes, gestures that provoke violence or seek to advocate the purpose and objective of such groups. Disciplinary action may include referrals, in school suspensions, out of school suspensions, and/or expulsions.

Initiations of any kind are forbidden and may result in suspension and expulsion.

Vandalism and Graffiti

Any student who damages or destroys school property must pay for all damages and *will* be assigned a referral. Violations of this policy will result in referral to the police, suspension, and/or referral to the Board for possible expulsion.

Gambling

Gambling is prohibited on school property and at all school-related functions. Students in violation of this rule may be assigned a referral.

Dress Code*- No Boobs, No Belly, No Butcracks

Appropriate dress and good grooming habits are an important part of a student's positive-self-image. School is a student's workplace and dress should be consistent with this idea. Clothing is expected to be safe and appropriate. We ask that student's grooming be of such a nature that it will not be disruptive to the educational functions of

the school. *Decisions of the building administration will prevail in questionable situations.*

Examples of prohibited attire are, but not limited to:

- a) Makeup/Hair/Headress (with the exception for religious purposes) including “outrageous” hair color/gels, any hats, hoods, bandanas, ski masks, sunglasses, masks, excessive make up & accessories.
- b) Jewelry, belts, and clothing having metal studs or spikes and long excessive chains, including wallet chains.
- c) Clothing that is undersized and/or that could be considered sexually provocative or suggestive. Shorts and skirts must be no shorter than fingertip length when arms are held straight down the child's side. No spaghetti straps, cleavage, or midriff showing.
- d) Clothing (also including notebooks, tattoos, and jewelry) with messages, writing or advertising of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, sex, satanism, death or destruction, hate groups, gangs, racial separation, playboy bunny insignias, and/or obscene words will not be permitted at school.
- e) Clothing that is oversized and/or pants worn low on the hips that may cause the hem to drag or hang too low or expose undergarments - pants that cannot be held up without a belt. Clothing must cover undergarments at all times.
- f) Shoes must be worn at all times. No Wheelies or Heelys. No skateboards or roller blades/skates.
- g) Body piercing needs to be school appropriate. For safety reasons gaging, oversized hoops, earrings and studs are prohibited.
- h) Gang affiliated attire is prohibited. This attire includes:** the color blue, the color red, any representation of the #13 or #14, Aztec eagle, the letters N and M, Mexican Mafia, team associations that include- Cowboys, LA Dodgers, Mariners, Raiders, 49ers, Falcons, Bulls, Cincinnati Red, Astros, Cardinals

*Exceptions to this policy include approved FCA school attire as deemed appropriate by the school administrator.

Please refer to Jerome School District Policies 3255 and 3210 for additional questions.

FCA students will be **required to wear a visible identification badge** while on campus during the school day. Exceptions will be made due to safety concerns in individual classes. Students will be provided with the first badge, badge holder, and lanyard at the beginning of the year. Students who lose their identification badge will replace them at their own expense.

Personal Electronics

We acknowledge that the use of technology is integral to the education process. However, access to personal devices is a privilege, **not a right**. Each student will be required to follow the Acceptable Use of Electronics Networks Policy and the Internet Access Conduct Agreement. **The use of any electronic equipment (cell phones, music devices, gaming devices, headphones/earbuds, smart watches, etc.) is not permitted during instructional time. All students WILL check their phone in upon entering the classroom.** Three strikes will result in disciplinary consequences. **Cell phones are absolutely NOT allowed in the bathrooms.**

If a student is in violation of the cell phone policy during instructional time and it reaches a *level three warning*, the principal shall intervene:

1. *First offense:* Administrator will confiscate phone for the remainder of the day. Student may pick it up after school.
2. *Second offense:* Administrator will require the student to provide a five paragraph essay on the dangers of and damage to our brains that cell phones can cause before releasing the phone back to the student.
3. *Third offense:* Administrator will not release the phone to the student. A parent/guardian will be required to come in and pick up the phone.

Students are not to video or take any pictures of other students or staff without permission of the person(s) in the video/photograph, this includes all videos and photos including Snapchat, TikTok, etc. Violation of this rule may include the following disciplinary actions: referrals, in school suspensions, out of school suspensions, and/or expulsions

Please refer to Jerome School District Technology Policies found in the 3000 Student section of the policy manual for more guidance on electronics. Cell Phones- Policy Reference 3260, 3265

Student Search and Seizure

To maintain order and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. Dogs will be used periodically to sniff for various controlled substances.

Please refer to Jerome School District Policies 3370 for additional questions.

Video Surveillance

Having carefully weighed and balanced the rights of privacy of students, staff and visitors against the District's goal of ensuring the safety of every student, employee and visitor while they are on school district property and also accomplish the goal of safeguarding District facilities and equipment, the Board hereby authorizes the use of video cameras on property owned by the District or property owned by a contracted service as follows: Video surveillance shall be used to promote order, to maintain the security, health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors on District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Review of any video recordings is restricted to those who have a security, safety or a legitimate educational interest. Video surveillance may be used for investigations of criminal activity by appropriate law enforcement agencies and may be used by the School District to investigate violations of School District policy. Students or staff in violation of Board policies, administrative regulations, building rules, or law shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Others may be referred to law enforcement agencies. Video cameras may be installed in public locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent, and shall not be installed in areas with a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Due Process

All students are entitled to due process under district policy and state and federal standards. Students involved in disciplinary action will be afforded the formal and informal hearings outlined in district policy.

Threat Assessment Protocol

Jerome School District (JSD) prioritizes student and staff safety, treating all threats seriously. Parents are urged to monitor children's online activity and report any

concerning content. Weapons, real or simulated, are prohibited on school grounds and will result in disciplinary action and a Threat Assessment.

JSD employs a Threat Assessment Protocol for any expressed intent to harm. Each school has a multidisciplinary Threat Assessment Team (administrators, social workers, counselors, and potentially others including school psychologists, teachers, nurses, and the SRO).

A threat is any communicated intention to harm, verbally, in writing, visually, online, or through gestures. Report perceived threats to school administration immediately or law enforcement for immediate safety concerns.

The Threat Assessment Process involves gathering information through interviews with involved students, witnesses, the student who made the threat, their parents/guardians, and relevant staff. This assessment determines the risk level and leads to a proportionate response, potentially including a Safety Intervention Plan shared with the parents/guardians of the student who made the threats. Parental participation is vital for school safety. Contact school administration with any questions.

Health Services

Preventative health and wellness services, screenings, medication administration, first aid and emergency care health services are available to students in Jerome School District. Parents or eligible students may opt out of non-emergency screenings. Please contact school staff or the school nurse if you would not like your child to participate.

The following health services may be provided in Jerome School District:

Flu Mist- Starting in October. Family Health Services' vaccine permission form sent home for services.

Medication

By law, teachers, including office personnel, cannot administer medication to children. If medicine is required (including ibuprofen), there must be a medication request on file in the office. Ibuprofen will ONLY be given to a student, if provided to the office, in the original bottle, by the parent/legal guardian. Prescriptions must be kept in the office. Please contact the office for appropriate medical forms. If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact the JSD nurse, at 208-324-2392 Ext. 1163.

Simple first aid, such as an ice pack or a bandaid, may be applied for injuries. In the case of a serious accident, parents and the school nurse will be called. If parents are not available, emergency numbers and/or 911 will be called. **Please be sure that you have at least one CURRENT emergency number listed in the office for your child(ren).**

If your child has head lice, please treat at home knowing that the issue will be discreet and absence(s) will be excused. Kits are available upon request.

Please refer to Jerome School District Policy 3500 and Idaho Code 33-6001 for additional questions.

Title IX

Title IX is a federal civil rights law passed as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. This law protects people from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment and sexual assault, in education programs or activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX states that:

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Please refer to Jerome School District Policies 3085, 3085P, 3085F1, 3085F2, 5240, 5240F, and 5245 for additional questions. **Title IX Director:** Kim Lickley, (208)324-2392 X1170

The school and family working together is a powerful force that can help students achieve the expected learning results of the school. We believe parental involvement has the greatest impact when parents, students, and the school share responsibility for the growth and development of each student.

FERPA

[The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest
- Other schools to which a student is transferring
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school
- Accrediting organizations
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Student Directory Information

Public Disclosure of Student Directory Information – (For ALL Students Grades PreK-12)

In accordance with federal and state laws, the Jerome School District may release student directory information for various purposes. Student directory information is defined by the District's Board of Directors, and may include:

- Student name
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Honors, awards & degrees received
- School & grade level
- Period of attendance in school
- Student photo solely for the purpose of publication or recognition of a student's honors, awards, or achievements, or for any District informational or promotional use on social media or other publications, for any yearbook.

Public disclosure of student directory information may occur in many ways, such as:

- School yearbooks (including photos).
- Team rosters and class lists.
- Graduation, theater, athletic, and music programs.
- Video performances, school activities, and athletic events.
- Articles about school activities and athletic events.
- School honor roll, scholarships and other awards.
- Releases to the media.

Release of Directory Information to the ARMED FORCES

Pursuant to federal law, the District is required to release the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all high school students to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request. The notification to parents and students concerning school records will inform them of their rights to object to the release of this information.

Publishing of Pictures, Videos & Student Art/Work in Schools

Jerome School District likes to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. Throughout the year district staff may take photographs of students and school activities. These photographs may appear in various District materials, including the District's website (www.jeromeschools.org), newsletters, yearbooks, brochures, district calendar, etc. We, at times, may also publicize student work.

District Opt-Out Form

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act](#) (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. Parents and eligible students have a right to opt out of the inclusion of information about the student as directory information, photo/image, and student work. If you wish to opt out, you must obtain the ***Release of Student Information & Photo Release "Opt Out" Form*** from your school's main office and check the box(es) that are appropriate. This election is good for the remainder of the current school year.

Policy History:

Adopted on:	04/28/2009	Revised on:	02/27/2024
Revised on:	09/28/2010		
Revised on:	02/24/2015		

PARENTS, DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR SCHOOL HAS A TITLE I SCHOOLWIDE
PROGRAM?
A PROGRAM TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN!

What is Title I Schoolwide?

A Title I Schoolwide program allows funds from Title I, Part A of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA), along with other Federal and non-Federal program funds and resources, to upgrade, reform, or improve teaching and learning in schools with the highest levels of poverty.

How was this school chosen to participate?

This school provides Title I assistance to all students, based on overall economic need.

Which students in the school participate in the Title I Schoolwide program?

In a School wide program, identification of specific individual children is not required. Instead, at-risk groups within the whole school are identified for intervention. A school is ultimately responsible for the academic success of every member of its population.

How is a student chosen to participate?

All students may participate. Student need is based on a variety of assessments, including the Idaho State Assessment Test (ISAT) to determine their level of proficiency.

How does the program work?

Title I, Resource, ELL teachers, Instructional Coaches, and paraprofessionals provide reading and/or math assistance. Paraprofessionals may work in the classrooms with small groups of students under the classroom teacher's direction. Some students may work in the Title I, Resource, or ELL room with a support teacher or paraprofessional on skills needed to bring them to grade level.

How does this benefit my student?

All students benefit from increased teaching manpower and small group instruction. Through the use of certified teachers and paraprofessionals, every student is targeted for Title I assistance and has the opportunity to receive intensive instruction. Students are accelerated so that they will be able to meet or exceed district and state standards.

What is a school-parent compact/partnership?

Under Title I federal law, all schools receiving Title I funds have developed a compact (a type of agreement) between the home and school where all parties agree to work together to provide the best possible education for their student.

From parent to parent:

The existence of the Title I Schoolwide program in our schools provides valuable opportunities for our students. Title I is a federally funded program and there is a need for local oversight and parental input into how the program should operate. A yearly Parental Involvement Committee is organized to allow parents to have a voice in how the program works for their children. Please let your school know if you have an interest in serving on this committee. You are urged to find out more about Title I and to become involved in the education of your student.

Agreement of Understanding

Falls City Academy

Parent/Guardian and Student Signature – Each parent/guardian and student is required to sign and return this page after reading the material in this handbook. The student will return this page to their teacher (to be kept on file with administration) *one day* after receiving the handbook to be enrolled in school.

I have read the material of this handbook and understand the handbook. My child and I are agreeing to abide by the expectations of this handbook and policies of the Jerome School District.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____