

# **ENARSON ELEMENTARY**

**219 Central Avenue  
Villisca, IA 50864  
712-826-5982**

## **Southwest Valley Community School District**

**Superintendent: Tim Hood  
K-8 Principal: Jamie Sherley  
Enarson Lead Teacher: Shona Means**



## **Student & Parent Handbook 2026-2027**

*At Southwest Valley: Community Matters. Education Matters. We Matter. I Matter.*

# Welcome!

Welcome to Enarson Elementary. We look forward to this school year and are dedicated to making it exciting and successful for all students.

This handbook is to inform you about the policies and rules that pertain to our elementary school. Please read and keep it handy for future reference. Please do not hesitate to call the building secretary or administrator with any questions concerning our established policies and procedures at our elementary building.

Together as parents and educators, we hope to enable each child to reach their fullest potential!

We are excited to have you as part of our Southwest Valley Timberwolf family!

Elementary Staff and Administration



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# Our School

## Jurisdictional Statement

This handbook is an extension of School Board Policy and is a reflection of the goals and objectives of the Board. The Board, administration and employees expect students to conduct themselves in a manner fitting their age level and maturity with respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students are expected to treat teachers, other employees, students, visitors, and guests with respect and courtesy. Students may not use abusive language, profanity or obscene gestures or language.

This handbook and school district policies, rules and regulations are in effect while students are on the school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or operated buses or vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district or involves students or staff.

Students are expected to comply with and abide by the school district's policies, rules and regulations. Students who fail to abide by the school district policies, rules and regulations may be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with the educational program; conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity; conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to obtain their education or to participate in school activities; or conduct which interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, staying after school, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, probation and expulsion. Discipline can include prohibition from special activities conducted by the elementary school. The discipline imposed is based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident and the student's record.

The school reserves and retains the right to modify, eliminate or establish school district policies, rules and regulations as circumstances warrant, including those contained in this handbook. Parents and students (age-appropriate) are expected to know the contents of this handbook. Students or parents with questions or concerns may contact the office for information about the current enforcement of policies, rules and regulations of the school district.



## **Mission Statement**

The Southwest Valley community will create an enthusiastic learning environment to promote responsible and empathetic contributors to society.

## **Beliefs**

- We believe in a safe, secure environment to help nurture high expectations and achievement.
- We believe a good education equals good citizenship.
- We believe in the importance of the family as a functioning unit.
- We believe everyone has self-worth and should be allowed to take pride in his or her uniqueness and accomplishments.
- We believe in respect for individual rights, authority and leadership.
- We believe everyone is capable of learning and should have the opportunity to function at the top of his or her ability.
- We believe that setting realistic goals, accompanied by challenge and hard work, promotes success.
- We believe in cooperation among family, school, and community.
- We believe in honesty and integrity.

## SWV 2026-2027 School Calendar

Summary of Calendar  
 First Sem. 86 days/570 hrs  
 Second Sem. 85 days/567 hrs

Total:  
 171 days, 1137 hours

### CALENDAR LEGEND

Sem./Quarter	<span style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>
Prof Dev	<span style="background-color: #FFD700; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>
Early out	<span style="background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>
No School	<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>
Holidays	<span style="background-color: #FFB6C1; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span>

Does not include Professional Development days/hours.

### HOLIDAYS:

Labor Day	(9/7)
Thanksgiving Day	(11/26)
New Year's Day	(1/1)
Memorial Day	(5/31)

August 2026				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				
September 2026				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		
October 2026				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
November 2026				
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30				
December 2026				
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	
January 2027				
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29
February 2027				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
March 2027				
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		
April 2027				
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
May 2027				
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

Aug. 17 New Teacher In-service  
 Aug. 18-21 Teacher In-service  
 Aug. 20 Open House 4-6:00 p.m.  
 Aug. 24 Begin 1<sup>st</sup> Semester

Sept. 1 Preschool begins  
 Sept. 7 Labor Day (No School)  
 Sept. 14 Teacher In-service  
 Sept. 25 Homecoming – Noon Dismissal

Oct. 16 End 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
 Oct. 19 Teacher In-service  
 Oct. 20 Begin 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
 Oct. 28 Conferences 2-6 p.m., Dismiss 1 p.m.  
 Oct. 29 Conferences 3-7 p.m., Dismiss 1 p.m.  
 Oct. 30 Teacher Comp Day – No School

Nov. 16 Teacher In-service  
 Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving Break (No School)

Dec. 7 Teacher In-service

Dec. 21 – Jan. 1 Winter Break (No School)

Jan. 4 Teacher In-service  
 Jan. 15 End 1<sup>st</sup> Semester  
 Jan. 18 Begin 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester  
 Jan. 22 No School - Jon J Tournament

Feb. 15 Teacher In-service

Mar. 8-12 Spring Break  
 Mar. 19 End 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter  
 Mar. 22 Begin 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter  
 Mar. 24 Conferences 2-6 p.m., Dismiss 1 p.m.  
 Mar. 25 Conferences 3-7 p.m., Dismiss 1 p.m.  
 Mar. 26 Teacher Comp Day – No School  
 Mar. 29 Teacher In-service

April 26 Teacher In-service

May 19 Preschool last day  
 May 21 Seniors class last day  
 May 23 GRADUATION  
 May 25 End 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester  
 May 26 Teacher In-service  
 May 31 Memorial Day (No School)

# General Information

## Arrival & Dismissal

Parents are asked not to let students come to school before **7:40 A.M.** There is **no adult supervision** for students who arrive before 7:40 A.M. Students will be counted tardy for the morning if they arrive after 8:30 A.M.

The elementary building dismisses school at 3:15 p.m. Bus riders will be supervised until the buses arrive at approximately 3:40 to pick up students for their ride home.

If you are picking up your child, please do so at 3:20 pm. **Cars may pull through the front drive.** For the safety of all children, we ask that you do not park on the west side of Central Ave. or in the Good Samaritan parking lot. Students crossing Central Ave. could be at risk for harm or injury.

Students are required to leave school grounds following dismissal. Students are not to be in the building without adult supervision.

## Attendance & Tardiness

Regular attendance and arriving on time establishes a good foundation for learning for the student as well as developing a pattern for later life. A student is not able to "make up" the educational benefits gained from actual attendance and participation in classes.

Students must attend school for the number of days or hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar and school attendance policy. Students are expected to be in class and to make attendance a priority. Attendance is compulsory by Iowa law and is the only way a student can participate and benefit from Southwest Valley School District's educational programs that accomplishes the student's educational objectives.

In some cases, students may be exempt from the required minimum days or hours. Exceptions and other related information are listed in district policy 501.3.

### Check in and out procedures

Should a student return to school from an absence during the school day, or leave the school during the school day, the student must report to the building office. If the student is returning to school during the school day, the student must check in at the building office prior to returning to class. This process is not meant to excuse an absence or act as a reason for an unexcused absence but merely to keep track of student activity and attendance.

## Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

Daily, punctual attendance is an integral part of the learning experience. The education that goes on in the classroom builds from day to day and absences can cause disruption in the educational progress of the absent student. Irregular attendance or tardiness by students not only limits their own studies but also interferes with the progress of those students who are regular and prompt in attendance. Attendance is a shared responsibility that requires cooperation and communication among students, parents and the school.

This regulation is divided into two sections: Section I addresses legal requirements related to chronic absenteeism and truancy and Section II addresses additional academic, disciplinary and extracurricular consequences students face due to chronic absenteeism and truancy. It is important for students to recognize that chronic absenteeism and truancy impacts all these facets of their educational experience.

### EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences include but are not limited to:

- Illness – Family Emergencies – Medical Appointments
- Dental Appointments – Funerals – Accidents – Work for Parents
- Merited cases where prior arrangements have been made with the principal.

It is very important for parents to notify the school if your student is going to be absent. You must notify the school office via email, by phone, or send a signed note prior to an absence. If your student is sick, please notify the office the day of the illness.

Legislation that pertains to Chronic Absenteeism requires school districts to enact policies to identify and support students whose attendance reaches levels that jeopardize learning. We are required to communicate this information with families. In order to meet the expectations established by **Senate File 2435 Division VII: Chronic Absenteeism**, Southwest Valley has developed steps that may be taken as a course of action to improve student attendance.

The following are the steps taken and further clarification of what the state is considering “Chronically Absent” and “Truant” which requires communication with families and possible Absenteeism Prevention Plans.

Step	Number of Absences	Student Support	Focus Mediation
1	If a student falls below 90% attendance	A school official will notify the child’s parent or guardian by mail or email including details about the absences and related disciplinary policies.	Notification
2	If a student falls below 85% attendance (Chronically Absent)	Required parent meeting and creation of absenteeism prevention plan.	Create an absenteeism plan in efforts to remove barriers.

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Students who are absent from school or class without a reasonable excuse may be subject to disciplinary measures. Reasonable excuses are outlined under Excused Absences. All other excuses shall be considered unexcused. Examples include, but are not limited to, oversleeping, skipping, shopping, and other personal business that can be handled outside of the regular school day.

## After School Plans

If your child's regular after school plans change, please notify the office **BEFORE** 2:30 pm or with a written note. This is important so teachers will know whether to put the student on his/her regular bus or keep him/her at school to be picked up. **If there is no note, we will insist on the student following normal procedure.** If there will be a permanent change, the parent will need to contact the office.

If you are calling **at the end of the day to tell your child which bus to ride, or what to do after school**, you need to speak directly to Mrs. Gibler (extension 300) instead of leaving a voicemail. **These calls must be made prior to 2:30 pm or the student will be required to go home in his/her regular way.** Do not leave urgent voicemails as they may not be checked before the end of the day.

## Appropriate Dress

There is a strong connection between academic performance, a student's appearance, and student conduct.

Students are expected to adhere to reasonable levels of cleanliness and modesty.

Students are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate to their age level and that does not disrupt the school or educational environment. While the primary responsibility for appearance rests with the students and their parents, the administration reserves the right to judge what is proper and what is not.

Unless authorized by the principal, the following items are not to be worn in the building: sunglasses, hats, caps, midribs, clothing or tattoos with alcohol, tobacco, drug related messages or other inappropriate words or graphics.

Clothing should be appropriate for the weather (coat, gloves, boots, etc.) Students should feel free to work with all types of materials at school without fear of getting them dirty. Accidents sometimes happen even though children try to be careful. In cold weather students are expected to have proper attire--coats, gloves, and hats. State law requires some type of footwear must be worn for hygiene and safety reasons. Flip-flops and jellies are not recommended. Tennis shoes are needed for PE.

Outdoor apparel should be marked with either tape attached to the articles or a marking pencil with the name clearly stated in the garment. Be sure to mark BOTH boots, mittens, gloves, hats, coats, snow pants, sweaters, and jackets. Check the lost and found frequently for clothing that has been lost.

### **Bicycles & Bike Safety**

Bicycles should be parked at the rack and left alone the rest of the day. The school encourages the use of bike locks. The school will encourage children to respect each other's bikes; however, the school cannot be responsible for stolen or "borrowed" bicycles. The use of bicycle safety helmets is encouraged.

### **Book Fines**

Text and library books are loaned to students. It is the student's responsibility to see that they are returned in good condition. Fines will be assessed for books not returned in proper condition.

### **Bullying & Harassment**

Harassment and bullying mean any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or conduct toward a student which is based on any actual or perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates an objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following conditions:

1. Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property
2. Has a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health
3. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's academic performance
4. Has the effect of substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

"Trait or characteristic of the student" includes but is not limited to age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identify, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry political party preferences, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status.

Harassment and abuse are violations of the school district's policies, rules, and regulations and in some cases, may also be a violation of criminal or other laws. The

school district has the authority to report students violating this rule to law enforcement officials.

Students who feel that they have been harassed should: Communicate to the harasser that the student expects the behavior to stop, if the student is comfortable doing so.

If the student needs assistance communicating with the harasser, the student should ask a teacher, counselor or principal to help.

If the harassment does not stop, or the student does not feel comfortable confronting the harasser, the student should tell a teacher, counselor, or principal; and write down exactly what happened, keep a copy and give another copy to the teacher, counselor or principal including:

- what, when, and where it happened;
- who was involved;
- exactly what was said or what the harasser did;
- what the student said or did, either at the time or later
- how the student felt; and
- how the harasser responded.

The District will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of harassment. The building principal or guidance counselor will be responsible for handling complaints by students alleging harassment. District Board policy 502.8 gives more complete information on this topic. Forms to report incidences of bullying can be accessed on the school website.

## **Retaliation and False Reports**

Individuals who knowingly file false bullying and/or harassment complaints, and any person who gives false statements in an investigation may be subject to discipline by appropriate measures. Any student found to have violated this policy or retaliated against another student for filing a complaint under these rules is in violation of the bullying and/or harassment rules and may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion.

**IASB NOTE:** *Iowa Code 280.28 (2)(f)* requires that the superintendent or the superintendent's designee be identified as the investigator. Districts should have an alternative investigator in case the superintendent or the superintendent's designee is conflicted out.

## **Change of Address or Phone Number**

The school personnel need to know if a move is planned so there will be time for records to be prepared for sending on to their next school. All school materials, such as library books, instruments, textbooks, etc. are to be returned before leaving. It is

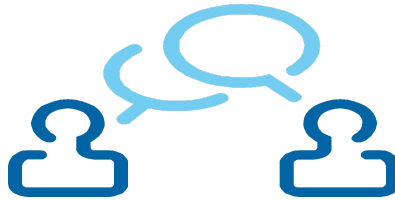
important that the school has your current address and telephone number. Please notify the office immediately of change of address or phone number.

## Child Custody

In most cases, when parents are divorced, both Mom and Dad continue to have equal rights where their children are concerned. If you have a court order that limits the rights of one parent in matters such as custody or visitation, please bring a copy to the office.

**Unless your court order is on file with us, we must provide equal rights to both parents. These rights include making decisions for your child's education, care, access by relatives and emergency contacts, etc. Please contact the building principal with any questions or concerns pertaining to parental rights in the event of divorce.**

## Communication



When sending a note or money to school, the student should receive clear instructions from the parents about who is the appropriate person to receive the note or the money. Please label with student's name. Parents need to remind their child to notify them of notes or papers from school for the parents. Parents are responsible for knowing the contents of the notes or papers sent home.

## Daily Schedule

7:45	Breakfast
8:00	Students enter the building and go to classrooms
8:20	Announcements
8:30	School begins/tardy bell
3:20	Walkers/Car Riders Dismissed
3:35	Country Bus Departs

## Emergency Drills

Periodically the school holds emergency fire and tornado drills. At the beginning of each semester, teachers notify students of the procedures to follow in the event of a drill. Emergency procedures and proper exit areas are posted in all rooms. The signal

for a fire drill is one long bell or horn. Tornado drills are announced over the intercom with instructions to report to designated areas.

### **Field Trips**

Students may take occasional field trips throughout the school year. The principal must give prior authorization for all field trips and/or excursions. Written parental permission will be required prior to the students' participation in a field trip outside of the school district. Parents will be notified if additional chaperones are needed.

### **Gum/Candy/Pop**

Students are not to have candy, gum, or pop at school unless for a party or special treat. If students are bringing special treats, they must be purchased pre-packaged treats.

### **Invitations**

It is the policy that invitations to birthday, slumber, and skating parties, etc., are not to be handed out in the classroom unless **all** students of the class are invited.

### **Permission to Leave School Grounds**

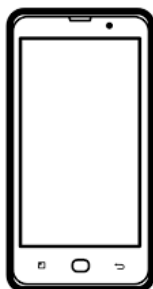
No student shall leave the school grounds during school hours without permission of the principal, granted upon written request of the parent or guardian, or for good cause known to the principal. Please send a note to the child's teacher about the planned early pick-up arrangements. An adult must pick up the student and present identification at the principal's office. **Parents picking up students shall remain at the office – Students will come to the office to be checked out.** Telephone requests for dismissal of students shall be referred to the principal or superintendent, and honored with caution. Teachers are not to excuse students except with the permission of the principal. For the welfare and protection of the students, parental cooperation in the above procedures will be sincerely appreciated.

### **Pets and Animals At School**

Students are not permitted to bring pets or animals to school without advanced approval from the principal due to health and safety factors. Parents are responsible for bringing and retrieving animals during the prior approved length of stay. Proper animal housing is required.

### **Pictures**

Individual school pictures are taken of all elementary students near the beginning of the school year to purchase. Various packages are offered with a range of prices. All students will be in the class composite as long as they are in attendance the day of photos.



## Phone Calls

Students and teachers may be contacted during school hours by calling the office. The elementary phone number is **712-826-5982**. Please do not call students during school hours unless it is an emergency. Messages can and will be delivered if necessary. To keep the telephone lines available for incoming calls, students are discouraged from making calls immediately before and after school. Permission is needed from the teacher, secretary, or principal. Student calls are limited to calling home, grandparents, or their parent's place of employment. The school will not be responsible for personal long distance calls made by children. Please notify the school when/if your phone number changes. Unlisted numbers will be handled with confidentiality.

## Room Parties

The elementary has three parties a year (Fall, Winter Holiday, and Valentine's Day). Teachers will communicate with parents about the arrangements for their grade level. Students that do not wish to participate in these holiday celebrations or activities may be excused by contacting the school. All treats must be pre-packaged.

## Valuable Items

It is our school policy that valuable items, toys, laser pointers or *electronic devices including cell phones* shall not be used or displayed during school hours. If students violate this rule, these devices will be taken away so they do not distract from the educational process. We will not be responsible for these items or dedicate school time to retrieve or investigate the incident in question. If students choose to bring these items, they assume the risk of them being lost, stolen, or broken. Violation of this policy will cause the devices to be taken away with possible disciplinary actions to follow.

To avoid distraction during instructional time, personal electronic devices must be silenced or turned off, not visible, and not physically attached to the student's body. Students may store their personal electronic devices in their backpack in locker. Student electronic devices in the possession of the district will be secured in the following methods:

Personal electronic devices that have been specifically authorized under a current individual education plan (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or an Individual Health Plan (IHP) are exempt from these rules

If students violate this rule, these devices will be taken away so they do not distract from the educational process, and may be re-attained by parent by contacting the principal. We will not be responsible for these items or dedicate school time to retrieve or investigate the incident in question. If students choose to bring these items, they assume the risk of them being lost, stolen, or broken. Violation of this policy will cause the devices to be taken away with possible disciplinary actions to follow.

## **Visits to School**

We welcome visits to school by parents. Please make arrangements **in advance** with the classroom teacher. We ask your cooperation in limiting the visit to not more than half a day and to stop by the office to sign in when you arrive. The first and last two weeks of the school year are not the best times to visit, so we ask that you not plan visits during this time frame.

If you would like to come for lunch, please refer to the Food Service portion of the handbook which details information about eating lunch with your child.

Please refrain from wearing hats in the building. Younger brothers, sisters, or visitors should not accompany students to school. If there are questions concerning this request, or a special situation, please contact the elementary principal.

Parents who are bringing items to school for students such as lunches, books, boots, clothing, etc. must leave these items at the office because delivery to the classroom is a disruption to class instruction.

## **Volunteers**

Enarson Elementary School welcomes and appreciates community people who want to serve as volunteers. Volunteers need to sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge to wear. For information about being a volunteer please contact the elementary principal. Volunteers may be asked to be fingerprinted and background checked.

## **Weather Emergencies**

Announcements will be made on the following area radio and TV stations:

KCSI-95.3-Red Oak

KMA – 99.1 – Shenandoah

KSIB - 1520/101.3 FM – Creston

KCCI, WOI.

SWV District Facebook Page

If severe weather occurs (heat or winter conditions) after school is in session and there is a question as to whether school will be dismissed, please check with the above radio

& TV stations. You may also sign up for email and cell phone alerts on our **Infinite Campus** website.

Students should know where to go in case of early dismissal. All extra-curricular activities, practices, and Before/After School Program are canceled when school is dismissed early or not in session due to weather conditions.

## **Student Behavior/Discipline**

### **Discipline Policy & Consequences**

Students at Enarson Elementary School are expected to treat the school staff, fellow students, and the school building with respect. This can be achieved when parents take an active role in guiding their child's behavior. Each classroom sets up the rules of the room. These rules are to be reasonable, understood by the children, and consistently enforced. This allows for minor variations in rules among the various rooms.

The following are school-wide rules, which we believe create a positive school climate, in which all students can work in a safe environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

1. Be on time
2. Be fair and courteous
3. Practice safety
4. Respect other people and property
5. Do your work
6. Ask for help when needed

The following will be addressed with the consequences listed below them. These rules will be in effect in all areas of the school setting.

### **Inappropriate Language**

Language that is not proper or acceptable for the school setting is considered inappropriate language. Certain gestures, swearing, demeaning slang terms, and/or name-calling are examples of unsuitable language for the school environment.

### **Disrespect**

Disrespect may be a verbal or non-verbal action, student to student, or student to adult, including threatening or intimidating another student. It may be refusal to comply with a supervisor's directions. An activity that is carried on to the extent that it interferes with the school setting may be considered disrespectful.

## **Physical Confrontation**

Physical confrontation is any type of body contact that has the potential to cause physical harm to another or to threaten physical harm to another.

## **Classroom Behavior**

A student may be removed from class if he/she creates a disruption in class. (Disruption is defined as behavior, which prohibits teaching from taking place, defying a teacher, or refusal to follow a teacher's directions.) Repetitive misconduct in a class may result in removal from class. Parents may be called to come get their child or to conference with school personnel.

## **Threat of Violence**

The policy for "[Discipline of Students Who Make Threats of Violence or Cause Incidents of Violence](#)" can be found in board policy 503.8. Parents and guardians should review and become familiar with this policy. All threats of violence, which include any written, verbal, symbolic, electronic, or behavioral message, that either expressly or implicitly express an intention to inflict emotional or physical injury or damage against students, employees, visitors, or school facilities are prohibited. A student who makes a threat of violence, causes an incident of violence that results in injury or property damage, or who commits an assault, will be subject to escalating levels of discipline for each occurrence.

Threats will be promptly investigated. When appropriate, referrals will be made to local law enforcement. The district retains the authority to assign the level of disciplinary measures appropriate to the severity of the threat of violence or incident of violence.

Threats issued and delivered away from the school or school activities may be grounds for disciplinary action if the threat impacts the orderly and efficient operations of the school.

Disciplinary measures may include discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion. The following factors will be considered in determining the extent to which a student will be disciplined for threats of violence.

Considerations for drafting factors include but are not limited to:

- The student's intent and knowledge of their actions.
- The student's developmental level and the context of the incident.
- Whether a pattern of threats of violence exists.
- Age, grade level, and maturity of the student.
- The circumstances surrounding the threat.

- Cooperation of the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s).
- The degree of disruption to the school community created by the threat.
- Other relevant information from a credible resource.

**Possible Consequences:**

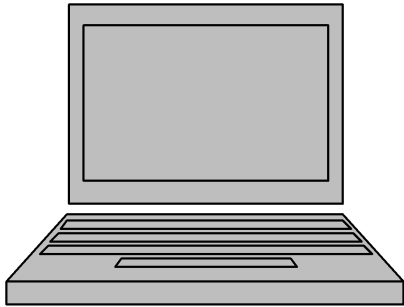
The principal reserves the right to escalate through the list according to the offense, and depending on the situation/severity, *these consequences may/may not be followed in order.*

1. Loss of recess or other privileges.
2. Principal's office; parent is called. Conference with parents, if needed, is set.
3. Law enforcement will be contacted if necessary regarding safety/threats.
4. If loss of recess has been a consequence and the behavior continues to happen, a PM detention (3:30-4:00) for 1-3 days may be given. Parent will be notified before student is held for detention.
5. In-school suspension 1-3 days; parent conference as needed.
6. Out-of-school suspension 1-5 days; parent conference to plan what the student's responsibilities will be while out of school. Out-of school suspension is one of the most serious consequences a student can receive. School administrators have the power to suspend any pupil who willfully and persistently violates school regulations or when the conduct of such pupil is injurious to the operations and/or facilities of the school. At the end of the suspension time, the student and parent will return to school and discuss with the principal and teacher their written plan for improved behavior.

**Behavior at Events**

All students are to display good conduct and sportsmanship at all school functions whether home or away. Students attending activities are expected to stay seated, using

appropriate spectator behavior, throughout the event. Students are not allowed to run around or play because this is distracting to those paying to attend. When needed, please enter/exit during breaks between parts in a program. Students can be asked to leave an event for inappropriate behavior.



### **Computer Misuse**

Willful abuse of the computer, keyboard, monitor, and/or printer by any student will result in a discipline referral submitted to the principal. An Acceptable Use Policy for computer use must be signed by a parent/guardian and student before the student has access to use the Internet. Students who surf the Internet for illicit materials or compose it, will be subject to disciplinary action. Damage to computers, related equipment, or the network may result in restitution for damages and suspension from school.

### **Tobacco - Alcohol - Drugs**

The use or possession of tobacco, and the use or possession or being under the influence of alcohol, other controlled substances, or "look alike" substances that appear to be tobacco, alcohol or controlled substances by individuals under the age of twenty-one and all students regardless of age on school property or at any activities sponsored by the school is strictly forbidden. Violation of this rule will result in disciplinary action, which may ultimately include in or out of school suspension. Such violations may also be reported to local law enforcement authorities. Please refer to School Board Policy 502.7.

### **Vandalism**

School property belongs to the community. Deliberate damage to buildings, desks, and other school property will not be tolerated. Such damage will be paid for by the student at a cost established by the superintendent. The student may be subject to additional discipline.

Window breakage at school happens by accident and by design. If a student breaks a window, a letter will be sent to the parents requesting they take the responsibility for financing the replacement (School Board Policy 502.2).

### **Weapons**

Knives, weapons, guns, dangerous items or look-alikes are not permitted at school. If weapons or dangerous items are found in the possession of students, items shall be

reported to law enforcement officials and the student will be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion (School Board Policy 502.6). Students are also forbidden to have lighters, matches, or other incendiary devices.

## **Lockers**

Lockers are provided for student outerwear, books, and other materials. Locker numbers are assigned to students at registration. The lockers are school property. Students are responsible for the condition of the locker and schoolbooks. No exterior marks or displays are allowed unless prior approval has been obtained from the principal. To assure the safety and rights of students as well as maintain the school property, the lockers may be subject to a check at any time the administration feels the need to do so. Anything found which may be determined to be detrimental to the well being of the student body (i.e. firearms, knives, drugs, alcohol, water guns, fireworks, etc.) may result in disciplinary actions. The interior of the lockers must be kept free of items that are identified with or promote the use of drugs, alcohol, or other illegal/discriminatory/offensive activities. All coats, hats/caps, bandanas, etc. are to left in the lockers during the school day

# Playground



Adults supervise playground periods. Some students are inclined to want to stay in even during nice weather. All students are expected to go outdoors unless the weather is severe, and then all students will remain indoors. A NOTE IS REQUIRED FROM PARENTS IF A STUDENT IS TO BE INSIDE BECAUSE OF HEALTH REASONS. After the 2nd day a doctor's excuse is required.

## Playground Rules

Obey and respect all adults supervising  
Stop play activity and line up upon hearing the bell  
Do not run in front of the swings  
Take turns to assure no one gets hurt  
Use playground equipment properly  
No interfering with games or play areas of others  
Jump ropes are only for jumping rope  
No tackle games  
No dodge ball  
No throwing snowballs or snow  
Use grassy areas for tag games  
No hanging on basketball hoops  
No spitting or kicking on school grounds  
Recess balls should not be kicked when all students have to be on the hard surface  
No throwing or kicking rocks  
Students must get permission from the playground supervisor before entering into building

## Consequences For Minor Infractions

- Reminder of rules
- Sideline from activity or play-scape
- Lose whole recess
- Detention

All play activities are to be safe and cooperative. The playground supervisor reserves the right to escalate through this list according to offense. The principal will be involved for extreme behaviors.

## District Bus Regulations



### STUDENT BUS CODE OF CONDUCT

Transportation is a privilege, not a right.

Student behavior on the bus must meet the same standards required in school buildings and at school activities.

The primary responsibility of the bus driver is student safety. Any behavior that distracts from that responsibility will not be tolerated. School buses are equipped with video monitoring systems.

Notification of any changes to a student's pickup or dismissal procedures is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and must be communicated to the Bus Barn at 641-322-4483 or to Kyle Williams, Transportation Director, at 712-350-0975, or the building that your child attends.

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### DRIVER AUTHORITY

- The bus driver is in charge.
- Directions from the driver must be followed immediately.
- Disrespectful, defiant or disruptive behavior will result in disciplinary action.

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### EXPECTED BEHAVIOR

Students must:

- Be ready to be picked up when the bus arrives and behave responsibly.
- Remain seated, facing forward, unless instructed otherwise.
- Keep aisles clear at all times.
- Maintain appropriate noise levels.

- Keep hands, feet and objects to themselves.
- Treat drivers and peers with respect.

Students may be assigned seats at any time.

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## **LOADING, UNLOADING AND ROADWAY SAFETY**

If crossing the street:

- Cross in front of the bus only.
- Remain at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Wait for the driver's signal.
- Never walk around the bus.

Emergency exits are for emergency use only.

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## **FOOD, DAMAGE AND CLEANLILESS**

- Food and beverages are not allowed unless approved by the bus driver.
  - Students are financially responsible for damage, vandalism or tampering with equipment (including cameras).
- 

## **STRICTLY PROHIBITED (ZERO TOLERANCE)**

The following are prohibited on all district transportation:

- Vape devices, e-cigarettes and THC devices
- Tobacco products
- Alcohol
- Controlled substances or drug paraphernalia
- Look-alike drugs
- Weapons of any kind
- Lighters or flammable materials
- Fighting, threats, intimidation or harassment
- Any item or behavior that may jeopardize the safety of anyone

Violation may result in:

- Immediate suspension from bus privileges
- Possible involvement of administration
- Possible involvement of law enforcement

## **DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES**

Progressive discipline applies; however, serious violations may result in immediate suspension from transportation.

1. Written referral and parent notification (by transportation director)
2. Suspension of bus privileges (up to 3 days)

3. Suspension of bus privileges (up to 1 week)
4. Suspension of bus privileges (up to 30 calendar days)

Administration reserves the right to escalate through the above consequences for behaviors deemed excessive or threatening. Severe, threatening or illegal behavior may result in extended suspension or removal from bus privileges for the remainder of the semester.

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## **CONCLUSION**

Safe transportation depends upon responsible choices.

Students who choose to follow expectations will maintain their transportation privileges.

Students who choose **NOT** to follow expectations will lose those privileges.

## **STUDENT AND PARENT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT (SIGNATURE FORM)**

### **STUDENT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT**

Transportation is a privilege, not a right.

I understand that:

- The bus driver is in charge.
- I must follow all safety rules.
- Vape devices, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons or prohibited items are not allowed.
- Unsafe or disruptive behavior can result in suspension from bus privileges.
- Bus activity is monitored by video/audio recording.

I agree to follow all district transportation rules.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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## **PARENT/GUARDIAN ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I have reviewed the district transportation expectations with my child and understand that bus privileges may be suspended for misconduct or safety violations.

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

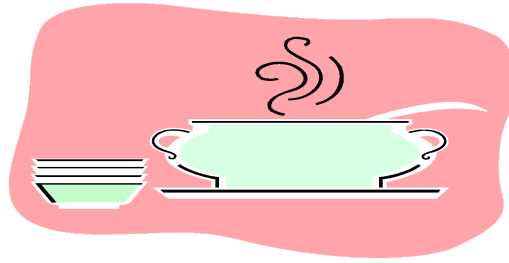
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Transportation Changes**

Parents are to inform the bus driver if their child does not plan to ride the bus. The bus barn telephone number is 826-5922.

# Food Service



## Breakfast & Lunch Fees

Breakfast and lunch are available for kindergarten through fifth grade. Breakfast is served every morning at the Middle School for the elementary students. Following breakfast, students may ride the shuttle bus over to the elementary.

Lunch and breakfast may be paid in the office on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. It is expected that meals will be paid for in advance. The computer accounting system will keep track of meals and the office will give students a note to take home when funds are due. Applications for free and reduced priced meals are available in the office. Applications must be renewed each year.

### Students: Single Purchase

Breakfast 1.50 per day

Lunch 2.50 per day

Adult 5.00 per day

Extra milk is available for 40 ¢ per day.

Note: The price of lunches may be increased during the school year upon approval from the Board of Education.

## Lunchroom

All students will remain in the lunchroom until dismissed. Adult supervisors are in charge during lunch periods. Any allergies affecting eating habits of a student shall require a doctor's note to be on file with the school nurse. As for lunch, students may bring a sack lunch, however, soda is not allowed in the lunchroom by students.

## Eating Lunch with Your Child

Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their children after the first two weeks of school. **We recommend waiting until after the first two weeks of school so routines can be established. Please call by 9:00 AM to make reservations and to be added to the lunch count.** Sign in and pay for your meal at the office when you arrive.

## **Lunchroom Rules**

Students will remain orderly and quiet in the serving line.

Conversations during the meal are to be at a low volume level.

Students will clean up his/her own area.

Students will not throw food.

Students will follow supervisors' directions.

Students are given a 5-minute warning at the end of the lunch period.

Students violating the above rules are subject to immediate removal and/or community service or other appropriate consequences as deemed necessary by supervisors.

## **Lunch Balance Policy**

**USDA Memo 46-2016 identifies the implementation requirement for a written document explaining how the school will handle situations where children, eligible to receive reduced price or paid meals, do not have money in their account or in hand to cover the cost of their meal at the time of service. Following is the policy for all Southwest Valley campuses.**

Once a lunch account balance reaches a \$25.00 negative balance, the student will not be allowed to purchase another meal, breakfast or lunch, until they pay their account in full or have cash in hand. No a la carte purchases can be made if a student's account is negative, unless they have cash in hand.

Once the negative balance is reached, the student will be offered sandwich, depending on the building, and a carton of milk.

# Medical Information



## Administering Medication

Absolutely no medications will be administered by school personnel or the nurse unless written permission from the child's parent and the following recommendations have been met:

### Prescription Medication:

1. The drug must be in the original container, prepared and labeled by the pharmacist, clearly showing the name of the child, the name of the medication, time of day that it is to be given, duration it is to be given, and the name of the doctor. The prescription must be current.
2. Written or verbal permission from the parent must be on file.
3. Under no circumstances will drugs (such as aspirin or Tylenol) be furnished by the school.
4. All medication shall be left in the charge of the nurse to be given at prescribed periods.
5. The registered nurse may contact the student's doctor if there is any question regarding the administration of the medication.
6. A written record shall be maintained showing all medications administered, the dosage, the name of the person administering the medication, the name of the student, the date and time of administration, and any reaction to the medication. A written record shall also be kept if it is determined that such medication should not be given and the reasons therefore.
7. All medication shall be sent home with the student at the end of the school year. Controlled substances, such as Ritalin, shall be picked up by a parent at the end of the school year. The controlled substances that are not retrieved by a parent at the end of the year shall be destroyed by the school nurse, in the presence of a witness. The date, time, and number of pills destroyed shall be noted. The notation shall be signed by the school nurse and the witness and placed in the cumulative folder of the student.

### Non-Prescription / Over-the-Counter Medication:

1. Written or verbal permission giving the student's name, name of medication, dosage, and times of administration should be on file.
2. Medications shall be provided by the parent in the original container labeled by the manufacturer.
3. Under no circumstances will the school furnish medications.
4. All medication shall be left in charge of the nurse or school official to be given to the child at the prescribed periods.
5. A written record shall be maintained showing all medication administered, the dosage, the name of the person administering the medication, the name of the student, the date and time of administration, and any reactions to the medication. A written record shall also be kept of any refusal to administer medication.
6. The registered nurse may determine that such medication should not be administered to the student. In such cases, the nurse shall attempt to contact the parent verbally. If the nurse determines that such medication should not be given, the nurse shall then notify the parent or guardian in writing that the medication was not given and the reason.
7. All medication shall be sent home with the student at the end of the school year. Students will be notified to pick up their medication. Medications that are not retrieved shall be destroyed by the school nurse.

## **Communicable & Infectious Diseases**

If/when there is a communicable disease outbreak, guidance/recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, Iowa Department of Public Health and local public health agencies will be followed. If there is a question about whether a student should continue to attend classes, the student shall not attend class or participate in school activities without their personal physician's approval. Infectious or communicable diseases include, but are not limited to chicken pox, conjunctivitis, impetigo, head lice, ringworm, strep throat, influenza, Covid 19, etc. Please contact your building's school nurse for further guidance.

## **Health Screening**

Throughout the year, the school district sponsors health screenings for vision, hearing, scoliosis, height and weight measurements. Students are automatically screened unless the parent submits a note asking the student be excused from the screening. Grade levels included in the screening are determined by the type of screening and the appropriateness to that grade level.

## **Illness & Injuries**

If a student becomes ill at school and is unable to attend school or has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more, parents will be contacted to come and pick up the student. When ill, it is the parent's responsibility to make arrangements for pick up of ill children

who should not remain at school because it poses an unhealthy situation. After 24 hours fever-free, without medication, the child may return to school. Note: if a communicable disease is suspected, additional time may be required before a student returns to school. Guidance/recommendations from the CDC, IDPH, and local public health will be followed.

If a student is injured at school, he/she is to immediately inform the teacher or person on duty. The teacher or nurse will decide whether the student needs medical treatment and whether parents need to be notified.

## **Immunizations**

Prior to starting school or when transferring into the school district, students must present an approved Iowa Department of Public Health immunization certificate signed by a health care provider stating that the student has received the immunizations required by law. Students without the proper certificate are not allowed to attend school until they receive the immunizations or the student makes arrangements with the principal. Only for specific medical or religious purposes are students exempted from the immunization requirements. Students may also be required to pass a TB test prior to attending school. Parents who have questions should contact the office.

Exemptions are recognized only for specific medical or religious purposes as recognized by the law. The student must provide a valid Iowa State Department of Health Certificate of Immunization Exemption. Information related to immunization requirements as well as exemption requirements are included in Southwest Valley's registration documentation as well as on the district website [southwestvalley.org](http://southwestvalley.org).

## **Diagnosing Illness**

Only a licensed physician is qualified to make a diagnosis and prescribe drugs. If there is reason to suspect a possible health problem, the child's parents should be notified with the suggestion that the child be seen by a doctor.

# **Educational Information**

## **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Students will be formally evaluated four times a year (at the end of each nine-week period). Teachers will discuss progress with students and will send a report home to parents. Conferences will be held once in the fall and spring to discuss the student's progress. Parents and/or guardians are urged to attend at the scheduled time. We strongly encourage parents to schedule a conference with a teacher as the need arises anytime during the school year.

## **Human Growth & Development**

Southwest Valley provides instruction in age appropriate, research-based health education in compliance with the Department of Education's Human Growth and Development Education requirements adapted appropriately for each grade level.

Upon request, parents may review the health education curriculum prior to their use. Parents who object to the health education instruction in human growth and development may file a written request that the student be excused from the instruction. Written requests must include a proposed alternative activity or study that is subject to the approval of the building principal. Parents who wish to review or file a written request must contact the building administrator.

## **Promotion & Retention of Students**

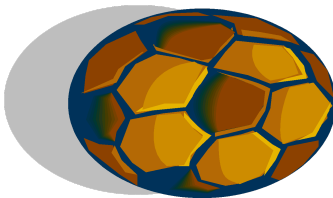
Children will be placed at the grade level to which they are best adjusted academically, socially, and emotionally. The educational program shall provide for the continuous progress of children from grade to grade when possible. Some children may benefit from staying another year in the same grade. The teachers and the principal shall make a recommendation for promotion or retention. This decision will be based on the student's academic performance, maturity, age, achievement test scores, Light's Retention Scales, and of the most importance, what is best for the student.

Parents will be notified as early in the year as practical of the possibility of retention of their child. This will be followed by parent conferences and progress reports, with the final determination of promotion or retention made at the end of the school year. In case of a recommended retention, the parent will sign a support/denial form to be put in the student's permanent records.

## **Title I Math and Reading**

The elementary offers a school wide Title I program to assist students who need assistance in reading and/or math. A parent involvement policy is included at the end of this handbook.

## **Physical Education**



Physical education is a required class according to Iowa law. Each student must participate unless a doctor's statement to the contrary is presented to the office.

## **English Language Learners**

It is the policy of the district to identify and provide programming for students of limited English proficiency. When new students register, the district will identify those students from homes where English is the second language, so that they can be evaluated for possible ELL educational assistance.

## **Extended Learning Program (ELP)**

In order to meet the special needs of the above average learner, Enarson Elementary offers special enrichment opportunities for identified students. Activities may include: competition, extended learning opportunities, and reading discussion groups.

## **Support Services & AEA Services**

To ensure the success of all students we sometimes must make accommodations and/or modifications for particular students. These modifications and accommodations are referred to as general education interventions. They involve attempts to correct a student's academic or behavioral difficulties in a systematic fashion in a student's regular classroom. Teachers, sometimes working with a team of teachers from their building, develop interventions to correct a student's difficulties. If initial interventions are ineffective at correcting the difficulty, further interventions may be attempted or a child's parent(s) may be contacted about the possibility of a full and individual evaluation for their child.

At times, we enlist the support of professional staff from Green Hills Area Education Agency to assist in developing these accommodations and modifications. Professional staff from GHAEA consists of Speech-Language Pathologists, Itinerant Hearing and Vision Teachers, Occupational Therapists, Transition/Work Experience Instructors, School Social Workers, School Psychologists, and Special Education Consultants. If involved, staff from GHAEA may assist through their work with our team of teachers in a particular building, through observations of a child in the child's classroom, and through review of a student's educational record. Prior to any direct involvement (i.e., talking with a student) of the GHAEA staff with a particular student a parent's permission must be secured through their signing of an "Informed Consent" form. Regardless of the type of involvement direct or indirect, GHAEA staff keep the length of their involvement brief (i.e., through indirect contact on no more than two occasions for a particular child).

## **Parents Right to Know/Highly Qualified Staff**

Parents/Guardians in the Southwest Valley Community School District have the right to learn about the following qualifications of their child's teacher: state licensure requirements for the grade level and content areas taught, the current licensing status of your child's teacher, certification and degree. You may also request the qualifications of an instructional paraprofessional who serves your student. Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 712-826-2552

or sending a letter of request to the Elementary Principal, 219 Central Street, Villisca, Iowa 5086

## **Administrative Notices**

### **Access to Students**

To ensure the safety of our students, the school administration, teachers, and staff will make a reasonable effort to see that students are released only to parents and/or guardians who have legal custody of the child. If a parent, other than the home providing parent, calls upon the school to talk with a student or attempts to communicate with the student by way of the telephone, the school official in charge will grant such permission only if he/she believes it is in the best interest of the student, and if it does not interfere with the normal educational process. If a parent, other than the home providing parent, asks to pick up the child, or in some way be in charge of the student, the school official will require proof of custodianship. This proof may be a court order, divorce decree, the home providing parents personal request, or by police action.

Persons other than parents and/or guardians requesting to communicate with students or to take custody of students are to make their requests through the principal's office. The principal will determine the access upon the merits of the request, and the decision will be for the welfare of the student. BOTH parents have the right to examine their son or daughter's record unless their son or daughter is over 18 years old.

### **Homeless Students**

According to Board Policy 501.16, the Southwest Valley Community School District Board of Directors will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their receiving an education which may exist in district policies or practices.

Chapter 33 of Iowa Administrative Code defines "homeless child or youth" as a child or youth from the age of 3 years through 21 years who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and includes the following:

- A child or youth who is sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; is living in a motel, hotel, trailer park, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; is living in an emergency or transitional shelter; is abandoned in a hospital; or is awaiting foster care placement.
- A child or youth who has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- A child or youth who is living in a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or similar setting; or

- A migratory child or youth who qualifies as homeless because the child or youth is living in circumstances described in paragraphs “1” through “3” above.

Inquiries regarding identification of homeless children or youth shall be directed to the district liaison for homeless children and youth: Building principal, by telephoning at 712-826-5982.

## **Educational Records & Notification**

The Southwest Valley Community School District maintains records on each student in order to facilitate instruction, guidance, and educational progress of the student. The records contain information about the student and his/her education and may include but are not limited to the following types of records: identification data, attendance data, record of achievement, aptitude tests, honors and activities, discipline data, objective counselor or teacher ratings and observations, and external agency reports.

Certain persons, agencies and organizations may have restricted access to student records without prior written consent of the parent or student over the age of 18 years.

Those who have access: school officials, teachers, and AEA personnel with a legitimate educational interest; representatives of state and local government when auditing and evaluating Federal educational programs; organizations which process and evaluate standardized tests; accrediting organizations for accreditation purposes; parents of dependent children regardless of the child's age; appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency. Any other access to student records shall be only upon written consent of the student's parent/guardian or upon court order or legally issued subpoena.

## **Directory Information: Notice to Students and Parents**

Information from student's educational records, designated as directory information by the school district in compliance with board policy, "Student Directory Information," may be released without the consent of parents. Parents will have an opportunity to deny release of directory information without their consent. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to approve parents with notice annually informing them of their rights under this policy and allowing them to deny the release of directory information. It shall be within the discretion of the Superintendent to determine the method of notice that will inform parents. It shall be the responsibility of the principal under direction of the board secretary to approve requests for access to student records. Students' educational records may be accessed during the regular business hours of the school district. If copies of documents are requested, a fee for such copying may be charged. If a release of information is desired by a person other than a custodial parent/guardian, a release of confidential information form must be signed at the office by the custodial parent/guardian.

## **Admission of Students From Other Schools**

Students entering the Enarson Elementary School by transfer from private or parochial schools or from schools outside of the district shall submit evidence of achievement on the grade last attended as a prerequisite to enrollment. Grade

placement of a student may be adjusted on the basis of examination of his/her previous record, on the basis of achievement tests administered, or on the basis of other factors, which the principal and the staff of the school concerned believe make such adjustment desirable.

### **Transfer to Other Schools**

The school district automatically transfers a student's records to a new school district upon receipt of a written request from the new school district for the student's records. Parents notified of student records being sent are given an opportunity to view them. Parental consent is not necessary to forward records to a student's new school district or for the school district to request them from a previous school district. When a new student transfers into the school district, the student's records are requested from the previous school district.

### **Dual Enrollment Students**

Home school or home school assistance program students enrolled in classes or participating in school activities in the school district are subject to the same policies, rules and regulations as other students and are disciplined in the same manner as other students. Dual enrollment students interested in participating in school activities or enrolling in classes should contact the principal.

### **Open Enrollment**

Iowa's open enrollment law allows students residing in one school district to request a transfer to another school district upon the parent's request. According to recent law changes, there are no deadlines for open enrollment requests. Students interested in open enrolling out of the school district must contact the superintendent for information and forms.

### **Legal Status of Student**

If a student's legal status, such as the student's name, address, or the student's custodial arrangement, should change during the school year, the parent or guardian must notify the school district. The school district needs to know when these changes occur to ensure that the school district has a current student record.

### **Mandatory Reporting**

The Code of Iowa, Chapter 235 A.3, requires all school employees to report suspected child abuse or willful neglect. When a mandatory reporter suspects a student is the victim of child abuse, the mandatory reporter shall orally or in writing notify the Iowa Department of Human Services.

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the Southwest Valley Community School District by the board in matters over which it has jurisdiction. Sexual harassment by board members, administrators, certified and non-certified personnel, students, vendors, and any others having contact with the agency is prohibited.

Persons found in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, including but not limited to, reprimand, probation, demotion, suspension, termination, or other sanctions as determined by the board.

## **Allegations of Abuse of Students By School Employees**

It is the policy of the Southwest Valley Community School District to respond promptly to allegations of abuse of students by school employees. The district will investigate any allegation and process the complaint or allegation confidentially to the maximum extent possible. The Southwest Valley Community School District has appointed a level-one investigator and an alternate. The district has also arranged to have a trained, experienced professional to serve as a level-two investigator. The building principal will serve as the level-one investigator.

## **Search & Seizure**

All school property is held in public trust by the Board of Directors. School authorities may, without a search warrant, search a student, student lockers, desks, work areas, or student automobiles under the circumstances as outlined in the following regulations to maintain order and discipline in the schools, promote the educational environment, and protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel.

School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search.

It is recognized that such illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials generally cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors on school premises.

Items of contraband may include but are not limited to non-prescription controlled substances, such as cocaine, marijuana, amphetamines, barbiturates, apparatus used for the administration of controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons, and stolen property. Such items are not to be possessed by a student anywhere on school premises. All non-maintenance searches must be based on a reasonable suspicion and be reasonable in scope.

## **Expulsion: Board Action**

Board expulsions are extreme measures of discipline to be employed only when all available school resources are unable to cope constructively with pupil misconduct. The removal of a student from the educational environment for any lengthy period of time is viewed as a severe form of punishment to be used sparingly. Students whose actions are of such a serious nature as to warrant expulsion may be recommended for expulsion regardless of the number of, or absence of, any prior offenses.

A student upon reaching a five-day suspension will have his/her discipline record reviewed by the principal. Severity of the offenses may warrant further disciplinary action. A student, upon reaching a ten-day suspension will be taken to the board of education for possible disciplinary action.

## **Procedures for Long-term Suspensions & Expulsions**

The board of directors, following a recommendation of the superintendent or building administrator, may suspend a student for a period of time to be determined by the board or may expel a student from school. Written notice of the charges prompting the administrative recommendation and notice of the district policy, rules, shall be mailed or delivered personally to the parent or guardian and to the president of the board. The president of the board shall schedule a meeting of the board of directors for a time within ten school days after the notice has been mailed or delivered. Not less than three calendar days before the hearing, the student's parents or guardians shall be given written notice of the time, date, and place for hearing.

The hearing shall be before a majority of the members of the board. The student may be accompanied to the hearing or be represented by parents, guardians, legal counselor, or other representative of the student's choice and the administration and/or representative of their choice.

## **Equal Educational Opportunity**

Southwest Valley School District does not discriminate in its education programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, creed, marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. The belief in equal educational opportunity serves as a guide for the board and employees in making decisions relating to school district facilities, employment, selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum, and regulations affecting students. The school district's goal is to educate students in programs and activities that foster a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept. Each student has the opportunity to use Southwest Valley School District's educational programs and activities. Each student is expected to conduct themselves in a manner that assures each student the same educational opportunity.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination.

Inquiries by students regarding compliance with equal educational opportunity and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination should be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator in writing. The Affirmative Action Coordinator is Superintendent Erickson and can be contacted at [jerickson@southwestvalley.org](mailto:jerickson@southwestvalley.org).

Inquiries by students regarding compliance with equal educational opportunity laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, John C. Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn St., 37th Floor, Chicago, IL, 60604 (312) 730-1560, fax (312) 730-1576 [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov), the Iowa Civil Rights Commissioner, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321 <https://icrc.iowa.gov>, (515) 281-4121 or the Iowa Dept. of Education, Grimes State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA 50319. (515) 281-5294. This inquiry or complaint to the federal or state office may be made instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Southwest Valley School District, in its educational program, has an intervention process to assist students experiencing behavior and learning difficulties. Building principals and school counselors are responsible for this process. Parents wanting access should contact the student's administrator in his or her respective building.

# Parent Involvement Policy

## Southwest Valley Community School District

It is the policy of the Southwest Community School that parents of children participating in Title I programs shall have the opportunity to be involved in the development of the district plan and in the district's review process for the purpose of school improvement. Recognizing that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement, we seek to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students. The district provides support necessary to aid in the planning and implementation of parent involvement activities. The district encourages parent involvement and supports this partnership through providing information about standards and assessments and also providing training and materials for parents to help their children.

1. This policy is distributed to parents through the Parent Handbook, which is distributed to every family at registration.
2. One annual meeting is held for all parents of children participating in Title I programs. Additional meetings with flexible times may be held throughout the year and be determined by parent suggestions.
3. Parents are given assistance in understanding the Title I requirements, standards, and assessments through the annual meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
4. Parents receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the expected proficiency levels in the annual progress report posted on the district's website, through individual reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.
5. Parents are informed of and involved with their child's participation in the Title I program. They also are informed about the curriculum, instructional objectives, and methods used in the program. This information is delivered through newsletters, conferences and the annual meeting.
6. Parent recommendations are encouraged and responded to in a timely manner.
7. School/parent /student compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact also describes the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve our local high standards.
8. The Title I program provides opportunities for parents to become partners with the school in promoting the education of their children both at home and at school. Parents are given help monitoring their student's progress and provided assistance on how to participate in decisions related to their student's education. The school also provides other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents. Individual conferences will also be held upon request.
9. The school continues to coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, the parent involvement policy and other programs and activities within the district.

10. An annual evaluation of this parental involvement policy shall be conducted to determine its effectiveness. Findings will be used to design strategies for school improvement and revision of policies.

Providing all Southwest Valley Community School District's children with equal access to quality education is our primary purpose. It is crucial that all partners (students, parents, educators, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this purpose. As these partnerships are mutually beneficial, developing cooperative efforts will ensure improved academic achievement for all students.