

# 2026-2027 Student Handbook

## What's New?

### Technology & Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- Students may only use AI (such as ChatGPT or other AI tools) when a teacher allows it.
- AI should only be used for school assignments and educational purposes.
- Students must use their district-issued accounts for school work.
- School files and documents should only be shared with the appropriate people.
- Students may not turn in AI-generated work as their own unless a teacher gives permission.
- Misusing AI or school technology may result in disciplinary action.

### Attendance Updates

Students may have an excused absence for:

- Illness
- Religious holidays
- Death in the family
- Family emergencies
- Situations outside the student's control
- Safety or health concerns
- Mental or behavioral health needs (including up to 5 excused mental health days)
- Doctor, dentist, counseling, or therapy appointments
- Reasons protected by Illinois law (such as students who are parents, expectant parents, or victims of domestic or sexual violence)

### New Attendance Support Process

If a student has frequent absences, the school will:

- Review the student's attendance.
- Work with the student and family to identify barriers to attendance.
- Create a plan to improve attendance.
- Monitor progress and adjust the plan if needed.

Goal: Help students attend school regularly—not simply punish absences.

### Healing Paws Consent Form

Parents will now be asked to list any known pet allergies on the Healing Paws permission form.

## Discipline & Behavior Forms

Several acknowledgment forms have been combined into one simpler form. Parents and students will sign one form confirming they understand and will follow the school's discipline and behavior expectations.

### Quick Summary

Area	Change
Technology	New rules for AI and school technology
Attendance	More excused absences, including mental health days
Attendance Support	School team will help families improve attendance
Healing Paws	Permission form includes pet allergy information
Discipline Forms	Multiple forms combined into one