

Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Monday, July 14, 2014 8:15 PM

Board Room  
1301 Centennial Avenue  
Utica, NE 68456-0187

## **Agenda**

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER
  1. Reading of Public Meeting Notice
    1. Open Meetings Act
  2. Roll Call
  3. Consent Agenda
    1. Additions/Deletions and Agenda Approval
    2. Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) and Their Approval
    3. Consider Current Bills and Their Approval
    4. Consider Activity Accounts and Treasurer's Report
    5. Excuse Wayne Heine's Absence
  4. Introduction of Guests; Invite Comments
2. OLD BUSINESS
  1. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TEACHER HANDBOOKS
  2. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2014-15 STUDENT HANDBOOKS
3. NEW BUSINESS
  1. FBLA PRESENTATION
  2. CONSTRUCTION - MATERIALS REVIEW
  3. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY OR REAFFIRM IN ITS PRESENT FORM
  4. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STUDENT FEE POLICY OR REAFFIRM IN ITS PRESENT FORM
  5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE STUDENT INTERNET AND COMPUTER ACCESS POLICY OR REAFFIRM IN ITS PRESENT FORM
  6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MILK BIDS FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR
  7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FUEL BIDS FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR
  8. APPROVE NEW HIRES
  9. CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL ATTORNEY
  10. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE POLICY SERVICE FROM HARDING & SCHULZ
  11. BUDGET REVIEW
  12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS
  13. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
4. ADJOURN

# CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

1301 Centennial Avenue  
P.O. Box 187  
Utica, NE 68456-0187  
402-534-2321  
FAX 402-534-2291

Tim DeWaard  
Superintendent  
402-534-2291

Colin Bargaen  
Secondary Principal

Dean Davis  
Activities Director

Megan Hammer  
Elementary Principal

Bob Fish  
Counselor

Sue VanHousen  
Special Services

## CENTENNIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION Special Meeting June 17, 2014

Notice of special meeting was published in York News Times on June 7, 2014.

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. with five board members present. Administrator present was Mr. DeWaard. Heine arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Motion made by Tonniges, seconded by Avery, to approve the Southeast Nebraska Powerschool Cooperative Interlocal Agreement. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, absent; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Tonniges, seconded by Heine, to approve the following board goals: 1) To continue to ensure efficient use of staff to best meet the needs of our students; 2) To recognize the importance of alternative school and gather information to begin an alternative school; 3) To continue to encourage professional development of the board members by attending local, state, and national activities; 4) To recognize the importance of an after school program and to gather information to begin an after school program; 5) To have teachers present periodically at board of education meetings; 6) To explore community educational opportunities in the school. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Heine, seconded by Hahn, to approve the cash in lieu of insurance to Mike Wright. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, against; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges for. Motion carried 5-1.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Mike Hahn, Secretary  
Centennial Board of Education

MH:mr

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Special Services

## CENTENNIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING June 9, 2014

Notice of meeting was published in York News Times on May 31, 2014.

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. with all board members present. Administrators present were Mr. DeWaard, Mr. Bargaen and Mrs. Hammer. Guests were Tonia Mae Nantkes, Deena Haberman, Gary Haberman, Lanette Simmerman, Adam Simmerman, Chelsea Simmerman, Teresa Nichelson, Rebecca Gaffney, Savannah Nichelson, Emily Farley, Jensen Schulz, Megan Dinkelman, Cheyenna Simmerman, Krysta Haberman, Becky Hoffschneider, and Renae Dinkelman.

In lieu of dissent, the consent agenda was approved as presented.

Motion made by Tonniges, seconded by Cast, to approve the 2014-15 extra duty assignments as presented. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Heine, seconded by Tonniges, to approve an increase of 10 cents in lunch and breakfast prices for the 2014-15 school year and a change in the admission prices as presented adding all Centennial K-6 will be admitted in free if accompanied by an adult in attendance. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Avery, seconded by Hahn, to approve the 2014-15 Athletic Budget. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Heine, seconded by Avery, to approve the application for fiscal year 2014-15 Title I funds. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Tonniges, seconded by Cast, to accept the resignation from Darlene Rockenbach with regrets and best wishes. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Heine, seconded by Avery, to approve the courses for horizontal movement for Ms. Sladky. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by Tonniges, seconded by Heine, to continue the same limits for option enrollment purposes for the 2015-16 school year. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Held discussion on budget process.

Update on construction project.

Heard board member reports.

Heard Administrator reports.

Motion made by Hahn, seconded by Paxson, to approve a 3.4% increase of pay for 2014-2015 school year for non-certified staff and approximately 3.4% for administration and miscellaneous rates. Members polled: Avery, for; Cast, for; Hahn, for; Heine, for; Paxson, for; Tonniges, for. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Mike Hahn, Secretary  
Centennial Board of Education

MH:mr

**Board Report for Newspaper**

JULY 2014

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Vendor Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4-TETRA MEDICAL SUPPLY CORP	SUPPLIES	23.85
ACCO BRANDS USA LLC	SUPPLIES	229.32
AFFORDABLE OVERHEAD DOORS	EQUIP/MAINTENANCE	60.00
ALL MAKES OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO,	EQUIPMENT	175.86
ALL STAR AUTO GLASS OF COLUMBUS	REPAIRS	213.08
AMSAN	SUPPLIES	33.85
APPLE	SUPPLIES	3,295.00
ASSET GENIE, INC	REPAIR/HARDWARE	99.00
AUTO VALUE PARTS STORES	PARTS/SUPPLIES	156.40
BARGSTEN, MARILYN	REIMBURSEMENT	16.03
BARJENBRUCH, CRAIG	REIMBURSEMENT	189.13
BEAVER HARDWARE	PARTS	131.70
BLICK ART MATERIALS	SUPPLIES	320.63
BOYS TOWN	CONTRACT SERVICES	1,491.00
BSN SPORTS INC	SUPPLIES	143.92
CCS PRESENTATION SYSTEMS	COMP HARDWARE	653.66
CENTENNIAL ACTIVITY FUND	DISTRICT REIMBURSEMENT	989.04
CENTRAL NEBRASKA REHABILITATION SERVICES	PHYSICAL THERAPY	10,123.96
COMMERCIAL ART SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	190.27
COMPUTERS ETC	SUPPLIES	951.08
CORNHUSKER CLEANING SYSTEMS, INC	TIRES/PARTS	110.62
CULLIGAN OF CRETE	SUPPLIES	81.95
DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	PSYCH SERVICES	3,596.42
DELL MARKETING L.P.	COMPUTER HARDWARE	55,448.60
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT #5	SERVICES	155.00
EGAN SUPPLY CO	SUPPLIES	2,764.73
ESU #6	CONTRACTED SERVICES/SUPPLIES	378.00
ETA HAND2MIND	SUPPLIES	311.80
FALCON HEATING & AIR	MAINTENANCE	3,520.25
FEHLHAFFER'S INC	PARTS/MAINTENANCE	101.21
FISHER SCIENTIFIC	SUPPLIES	57.07
FOWLER, JARRETT	REIMBURSEMENT	153.98
FREY SCIENTIFIC	SUPPLIES	190.04
GENERAL FIRE-SAFETY	ALARM INSPECTION	614.65
GIERHAN, BRENDA	REIMBURSEMENT	7.50
GOVCONNECTION, INC	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	1,072.29
HARDING & SHULTZ, P.C.	LEGAL SERVICE	332.00
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY	HARDWARE	2,183.91
HIRERIGHT SOLUTIONS INC	PHYSICAL/TESTING	84.00
HOUCHEM BINDERY LTD	TEXTBOOKS	298.50
J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC	SHEET MUSIC	30.25
JAYMAR BUSINESS FORMS INC	SUPPLIES	374.78
JOHANSEN, ROBERT	REIMBURSEMENT	7.50
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	PARTS	69.05
JOHN KOHL AUTO CENTER	MAINTENANCE	166.53

JULY 2014

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Vendor Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
JOSTENS	SUPPLIES	11.21
KENWORTH OF LINCOLN	EQUIPMENT	2,000.70
KONICA MINOLTA	SERVICES	706.71
KRATOCHVIL, RANAY	REIMBURSEMENT	8.50
MATH OLYMPIADS	FEES	109.00
MEAD LUMBER - YORK	SUPPLIES	317.58
MEMORIAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS	PHYSICALS	876.00
MIDWEST COMPUTER PRODUCTS, INC	SUPPLIES	147.85
MIDWEST TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES	717.58
NABER'S LOCKSMITH SERV	REPAIRS/SUPPLIES	65.00
NAEIR	FREIGHT	69.43
NANTKES, JENNIFER	CONTRACTED SERVICES	162.50
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DIRECT INSTR	READING FORMS	2,380.00
NE COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMIN	FEES	2,436.00
NEBRASKA SAFETY CENTER @ UNK	OTHER EXP	7,965.00
NECO	EQUIP MAIN	146.70
NRCSA	DUES/FEES	700.00
OMAHA TRUCK CENTER	PARTS	279.14
OMAHA WORLD HERALD	ADV/PRINTING	316.00
PAC N SAVE	FOOD/SUPPLIES	56.09
PAYFLEX	FEES	158.40
PIEPER PLUMBING & WELL DRILLIN	PLUMBING	342.00
PRESTO-X CO	EXT FEE	100.76
PYRAMID SCHOOL PRODUCTS	SUPPLIES	2,705.14
S & S WORLDWIDE	SUPPLIES	47.99
SATCO SUPPLY	SUPPLIES/EQUIP	616.22
SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT	PERIODICALS/ADV/PRINTING	206.50
SEWARD COUNTY PPD	ELECTRICITY	7,336.25
SOFTWARE UNLIMITED INC	SUPPLIES/FEES	3,200.00
SOURCEGAS	FUEL	866.79
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	SUPPLIES	21.99
STATE OF NEBRASKA	TELEPHONE	466.42
STUDENT ASSURANCE SERVICES INC	INSURANCE	751.25
SUPREME SCHOOL SUPPLY	SUPPLIES	20.15
TASTE OF HOME	PUBLICATION	7.00
TROXELL COMMUNICATIONS, INC	EQUIPMENT	316.72
TYCO INTEGRATED SECURITY LLC	SERVICES	383.41
UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS, LLC	LEASE	1,871.63
UNITED FARMERS COOPERATIVE	FUEL	1,495.49
UNITED HEALTH SUPPLIES	SUPPLIES	183.55
UTICA PARTS & SERVICE	REPAIRS	2,124.86
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONE	102.08
VILLAGE OF UTICA	WATER/SEWER	1,010.61
VIRCO INC	SUPPLIES	761.19
WALMART COMMUNITY	SUPPLIES	190.57
WINDSTREAM	TELEPHONE	245.98
WINGATE INN	RESERVATIONS	464.75

Board Report for Newspaper

JULY 2014

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Vendor Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
WISNER-PILGER SCHOOLS	REGISTRATION	1,000.00	
WORKS COMPUTING, INC	SOFTWARE	5,401.03	
YORK GENERAL HOSPITAL	SERVICES	148.95	
YORK NEWS TIMES	ADV/PRINTING	559.32	
			Fund Total: 144,175.40
			Checking Account Total: 144,175.40

Building Fund

BVH Architects	8,538.05
Cheever Construction	351,893.73
Public Risk Management	7,324.00
Total	\$367,755.78

July 2014  
June 2014 Bank Statement

CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL INVESTMENTS

FUND	BANK	TYPE OF INVESTMENT	INT. RATE AMOUNT	INT.REC
Lunch Fund	First Bank of Utica	Checking 180000	Total \$2,391.55	
Depreciation Fund	Farmers & Merchants	MMA 436 949	Total \$94,551.73	\$12.04
Unemployment Ins.	Cornerstone Bank Cornerstone Bank	Certificate 66245 MMA 81190	Total \$53,145.60 \$11,878.33	\$1.14
2013 Bond	Cornerstone Bank	Construction Fund	Total \$4,177,917.72	
Building Fund	First Bank of Utica	Checking 18 064 6 Qualified Cap Bond 180554	Total \$522,567.31 \$14,033.60	\$255.65 \$1.92
General Fund	Farmers & Merchants Farmers & Merchants Farmers & Merchants First Bank of Utica First Bank of Utica Cornerstone Bank Cornerstone Bank Cornerstone Bank York State, Gresham York State, Gresham York State, Gresham First Bank of Utica	MMA 436 436 CD 71455 24mo CD 80211 17 mo 7/2/2014 MMA 18 065 3 General Acct CD16282 MMA 300079871 CD 16634 24mo 02/17/2015 CD 71241 16 mo 4/15/15 MMA 1027291 CD 5204 CD 5215 PayFlex Acct	Total \$92,513.91 \$121,804.87 \$119,676.33 \$103,286.60 \$121,597.67 \$56,162.67 \$129,790.94 \$130,100.05 \$55,453.33 \$189,006.26 \$128,387.70 \$11,218.70	\$11.78   \$42.43  \$5.38   \$6.16  \$159.66
	First Bank of Utica	Checking 180505	Total \$1,834,274.82	\$306.03
			Total Invested All Accounts Combined	\$3,791,811.97

Total amount invested at Farmers & Merchants ..... \$428,546.84  
 Total amount invested at First Bank of Utica ..... \$2,609,370.25  
 Total amount invested at Cornerstone Bank, Waco ..... \$381,047.59  
 Total amount invested at York State, Gresham ..... \$372,847.29  
 Total Invested \$3,791,811.97

**Centennial Teacher Handbook  
Elementary School Edition  
2014-2015 School Year**

**Intent of Handbook**

Welcome to Centennial School. This handbook is intended to be used by teachers and other certificated staff to provide general information about Centennial School and to serve as a guide to the District's policies, rules, and regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

References in this handbook to "teachers" are intended to apply to all certificated staff. This includes administrative staff to the extent the handbook deals with professional expectations and conduct.

Each teacher is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract, the negotiated agreement between the Centennial Public School and the Centennial Education Association, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law, the negotiated agreement, and Board policies and regulations will control.

This handbook does not create a "contract" of employment. Staff positions and assignments which do not legally require a certificate or are otherwise not protected by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an "at will" basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except for a contract approved by the Board of Education.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon applicable school district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interests of the District.

The handbook, issued this school year (2014-15) will be in effect for the 2014-2015 and subsequent school years unless replaced by a later edition.

## **Information About Centennial Public School**

### **FORMED:**

School districts of Beaver Crossing, Utica and Waco merged in 1967 (Thayer merged with Waco earlier). The school district of Gresham and part of the Cordova district joined in 1986.

### **SIZE:**

Approximately 316 square miles located primarily in eastern York and western Seward counties. Some parcels of land from Butler and Polk counties are also in our district.

### **LOCATION:**

Pre-K - 12 District at Utica. All students under one roof!

### **FACILITIES:**

A 100,000 square foot school was built on a 40 acre site at Utica in 1977. A 3,840 square foot weight room/wrestling practice area was added in 1988. A 12,000 square foot elementary addition was added in 1992. A 7,650 square foot secondary addition (three classrooms and a girls locker room) was added in 1997. A performing arts theatre will be constructed beginning in the fall of 2007. Two auxiliary buildings are located in Utica and a bus barn in Beaver Crossing. A new performing arts addition was opened in 2010.

### **ENROLLMENT:**

K-12 student enrollment averages between 400-450 students yearly.

## **Mission and Goals**

### **School Mission Statement:**

Welcome to Centennial Elementary School. The People of this district are committed to educational excellence in a positive, creative, and caring environment, preparing each student to be a responsible, productive citizen in our ever-changing global community.

### **Governing Values:**

The governing values of the Centennial Elementary School are:

We believe...

- Every student can learn.
- In the dignity of each student.
- In the individual growth of each student.
- Every student can be an adaptable life-long learner.
- Every student can be a responsible, productive citizen.
- the development of self-esteem leads to greater learning.

- In providing curriculum and strategies to meet the needs of all students.
- In the shared responsibility and commitment of the family and school-community to education excellence.

**Members of the Board of Education:**

Name	Position (2013-14)
Larry Paxson	President
Mark Avery	Vice President
Mike Hahn	Secretary
Doug Tonniges	Treasurer
Wayne Heine	Member
Jodi Cast	Member

**Administrative Staff:**

Name	Position
Tim DeWaard	Superintendent
Colin Bargaen	Secondary Principal
Megan Hammer	Elementary Principal
John McClarnen	Special Services Director
Dean Davis	Athletic Director

## Teaching Staff

Name	Position	Grade
Heather Riley	Classroom Teacher	PreSchool
Bridget Huppert	Classroom Teacher	Kindergarten
Jody Wiemer	Classroom Teacher	Kindergarten
Dana Chrisman	Classroom Teacher	First Grade
Danae Stuhr	Classroom Teacher	First Grade
Jarrett Fowler	Classroom Teacher	Second Grade
Molly Pracheil	Classroom Teacher	Second Grade
Crystal Becker	Classroom Teacher	Third Grade
Julie Dey	Classroom Teacher	Third Grade
Janice Buss	Classroom Teacher	Fourth Grade
Carol Erks	Classroom Teacher	Fourth Grade
Jordan Barjenbruch	Classroom Teacher	Fifth Grade
Kristin Foley	Classroom Teacher	Sixth Grade
Brittni Peltz	Instructional Coach/Assessment Director	K-12
Elizabeth Purdham	Instrumental Music/Vocal Music	5-6/1-2
Dean Davis	Keyboarding	5-6
Jessica Breitreutz	Media Specialist	K-6
Evan Klanecky	Physical Education	6
Joe Dey	Physical Education/Reading	2-5/3-6
Mark Ortmeier	Physical Education/Science	K-1/6
Alex Anstine	Special Education	K-6
Hillary Sander	Special Education	K-6
Kelly Fehlhafer	Speech Pathologist	PreK-6
Linda Rafert	Title 1	K-6
Ben Rickert	Vocal Music	K/3-6

## Support Staff

Name	Position
Shannon Henry	Behavioral Counselor
Virgil Heine	Custodian Supervisor
Marilyn Bargsten-Blake	Custodian
Pat Kirkpatrick	Custodian
Bill Moge	Custodian/Transportation
Lydia Popovich	Custodian
TBA	Custodian
Marge Rhodes	District Office Bookkeeper
Susan Dickey	District Office Secretary
Sherry Winkelman	Elementary Office Secretary
TBA	Food Service Supervisor
Wendy Dodson	Food Service
Ron Erks	Food Service/Transportation
Kathy Heine	Food Service/Transportation
Cristy Richters	Food Service
Vada Schleusener	Food Service
TBA	Food Service
Sue Arnold	Nurse
Dana Yamber	Para Educator - Media
TBA	Para Educator -- Preschool
TBA	Para Educator – Special Education
TBA	Para Educator – Special Education
Karin Cradick	Para Educator – Special Education
Mary Eikenhorst	Para Educator – Special Education/Transportation
Sheri Hafer	Para Educator – Special Education
Beth Johnson	Para Educator – Special Education
RaNay Kratochvil	Para Educator – Special Education/Transportation
Tammie Poole	Para Educator – Special Education
Kim Sheehan	Para Educator – Special Education
Jo Steckly	Para Educator – Special Education
Tonia Vavra	Para Educator – Special Education
Veronica Waegli	Para Educator – Special Education
Gladys Luebbe	Para Educator – Title I
Leah Bjerrum	Student Services Office Secretary
Dan Tesar	Technology Coordinator
Mike Wright	Transportation Supervisor
Mary Eikenhorst	Transportation/Para Educator
Barb Erks	Transportation
Ron Erks	Transportation/Food Service
Brenda Geirhan	Transportation
Kathy Heine	Transportation/Food Service
RaNay Kratochvil	Transportation/Para Educator
Cindy Redfield	Transportation
Roy Richters, Jr.	Transportation

**Academic Calendar  
August 2014 - May 2015**

**August**

18 Teacher Inservice  
19 Teacher Inservice  
20 First Day of School

**September**

1 Labor Day -- No School  
19 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice  
24 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conference 4:00 - 8:30 P. M.

**October**

1 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conference 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
10 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice  
17 End of 1st Qtr  
20 No School -- Teacher Inservice  
21 Start 2nd quarter  
24 No School

**November**

21 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice  
26 Early Dismissal 1:30  
27 No School - Thanksgiving  
28 No School

**December**

19 2 Hour late start -- Teacher Inservice  
23 End 2nd quarter -- Dismiss at 1:30  
25 Christmas

**January**

1 New Year's Day  
5 No School - Teacher Inservice  
6 Start 3rd quarter  
16 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**February**

11 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conferences 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
12 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conferences 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
13 No School  
27 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**March**

11 End 3rd quarter  
12 No School - Spring break  
13 No School - Spring break  
16 No School - Teacher Inservice  
17 Start 4th quarter  
27 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**April**

3 No School - Good Friday  
5 Easter  
6 No School  
17 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**May**

16 Graduation  
22 Dismiss at 12:00 -- Last day of school

## Daily Schedule

The Centennial Elementary School student attendance day begins at 8:16 a.m. and ends at 3:26 p.m. Students are allowed to go to their classrooms beginning at 8:05 a.m.

## Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed.** In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Some staff may be designated as being required to come to school even in the event of a school closing.

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closed during the day staff will be notified and parents will be notified via media broadcast. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. You should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Emergency Conditions. Centennial Public School has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** In the event of an emergency exit alert or tornado warning, you should implement the school's established safety procedures.

## Contract Days

Teachers are contracted for 185 days (hereinafter referred to as the "contract year"). Such contract days shall be serviced by individual teachers on varying schedules as established by the Board of Education and administration.

## **EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

### **Employment**

A teacher is employed by Centennial Public School when the teacher signs the Teacher's Contract and the Board of Education approves such contract of employment. The teacher's employment continues absent action by the administration or the Board of Education to non-renew, terminate, amend or cancel the teacher's employment contract with the school district, or action by the Board of Education to accept a resignation of employment.

On or after March 15 of each school year a teacher may be requested to accept employment for the next school year and shall be required to signify such acceptance on or before April 1 or such other date after March 15 as may be designated in the notice. It is important for teachers to respond to the request to signify acceptance. Failure to signify acceptance of employment by the April 1 or other designated date shall constitute cause for amendment or termination of the teacher's contract. If a teacher signifies acceptance of employment for the next school year the teacher may either be issued a new Teacher's Contract or a "Contract Renewal Agreement."

Should a teacher wish to resign from employment the teacher should give written notice of resignation to the Superintendent. The request to resign will be acted upon by the Board of Education. Mid-year resignations and resignations given late in the spring for the following school year can present significant planning problems for the District. If a mid-year resignation is submitted, or a resignation for the following school year is submitted after May 15 or after the teacher has signified acceptance of employment for the next school year, the Board of Education may act to not accept the resignation unless a suitable replacement can be found. The District will enforce the continuing contract of teachers accepting employment for the next school year under the provisions of Neb Rev. Stat. §79-820.

### **Assignments**

The professional duties to be performed by a teacher with the District shall be subject to assignment by the Superintendent of the District with the approval of the Board of Education. A teacher will be expected to devote full time during days of school to the teacher's position and to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the teacher's professional ability. Job descriptions, where available, provide additional information about the position duties.

In addition to the normal duties traditionally required of teachers, a teacher may be assigned such "extra duty" assignments to support the extra-curricular programs of the District, which shall be upon such terms and conditions and at such additional rate of compensation as the Teacher and the District may agree upon or as set forth in the negotiated agreement. The extra-curricular program of the school district is an integral part of the overall educational program of the school district. As such, a teacher shall not unreasonably refuse to accept such extra-duty assignments. In addition, performance in an extra duty assignment is a part of the evaluation of the teacher's overall performance to the District.

### **Personnel File**

The District will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulation with regard to a teacher's personnel file, including but not limited to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-8,109.

## **Grievances and Complaints**

Teacher grievances regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment set forth in the negotiated agreement shall be governed by the grievance or complaint procedure in the negotiated agreement. All other employment related grievances or complaints shall be addressed through the administrative chain of command following the process set forth in board policy.

## **Compensation**

Regular Salary and Extra-Duty Compensation. Compensation is paid only as authorized by the Board of Education. Teachers are paid a salary based on placement on the salary schedule set forth in the collectively bargained negotiated agreement between the District and the collective bargaining agent for the certificated teaching staff (referred to in this handbook as the “negotiated agreement”), and the extra-duty salary schedule also incorporated into the negotiated agreement.

Changes in Salary Schedule Placement. Changes in a teacher’s placement on the salary schedule shall be governed by the provisions of the negotiated agreement. Teachers are expected to provide the Superintendent with a transcript for all graduate hours earned for purposes of advancement on the salary schedule on or before September 1 of the school year in which such hours are to be credited for the teacher’s placement on the salary schedule. Failure to timely provide an official transcript from the post-graduate institution of the graduate hours earned will result in a loss of such credit for such school year.

Salary Payments. Salary is payable over twelve equal installments. Teachers will be paid on the 15th of the month, or the last preceding school day, if the 15th falls on a vacation or week-end day. In emergency cases exceptions may be made, subject to the approval of the Board. In no case shall the Board advance more than one month's salary. Upon separation of a teacher’s employment, or upon fulfillment of the contract, the teacher may, at the option of the Board, be paid all salary due in one lump sum.

Additional compensation over and above regular compensation, extra-duty pay and supplemental pay shall be disbursed as it is earned and deductions from compensation due to unpaid leave shall be taken out as they are reported to the payroll office. Reimbursements for mileage or other expenses will be considered separate from compensation.

## **Extended Duty Pay**

Extended duty for any teacher beyond the number of contract days established by the Board of Education for the school year shall be paid at a rate agreed upon between the superintendent and the teacher and approved by the Board of Education.

## **Benefits**

Teachers are provided benefits in accordance with the negotiated agreement, group health insurance plan requirements, and the school district’s Section 125 Plan document. Teachers shall make annual fringe benefit elections by September 1 of each school year. Should a teacher fail to make such election, the teacher election from the immediately preceding school and contract year shall be continued. Each teacher is responsible for informing the Office of the Superintendent in writing of any changes in benefit status.

Continued health insurance benefits are available through COBRA subject to certain qualifying requirements. A Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights is attached to this handbook as Appendix "A."

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides rights and protections for participants and beneficiaries in group health plans. HIPAA includes protections for coverage under group health plans that limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status; and allow a special opportunity to enroll in a new plan to individuals in certain circumstances. HIPAA may also give you a right to purchase individual coverage if you have no group health plan coverage available, and have exhausted COBRA or other continuation coverage. Further information may be obtained from the Plan Administrator of the group health plan.

### **Payroll and Payroll Deductions**

Salary and benefits are paid in accordance with the individual employment contracts and negotiated agreement. Payroll deductions shall be made in accordance with law and the negotiated agreement.

### **Expense Reimbursement**

Reimbursement for authorized mileage will be paid to teachers required to drive their own vehicles during their regular scheduled working hours between two or more work sites. Claims for reimbursement should be submitted to the appropriate supervisor. The allowable rate shall be governed by Board policy, unless otherwise required by law. The District is not liable for physical damage to employee vehicles.

Materials necessary for instruction are provided by the District. If teachers need additional materials for instruction or school-related purposes, the request should be made to the Principal.

Reimbursement for purchase of materials or for meals or other expenses related to travel must be submitted to and approved by either the Principal or, if the expense relates to an activity, by the Athletic Director. The request for reimbursement should include a voucher sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and that the expense was reasonable and related to a school-purpose.

### **403(b) Salary Reduction Agreements**

The District will cooperate with any teacher who chooses to participate in an investment program under a Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) provided that the certificated employee executes a "Salary Reduction Agreement" provided by the District and the vendor of the 403(b) Plan elected by the teacher has entered in to a "Service Provider Agreement" with the District holding the District harmless from any liability that may arise out of such 403(b) Plan, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the maximum exclusion allowance, tax reporting, notices and income withholding.

### **Overtime**

Teaching professionals are classified as exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The overtime exemption for teaching professionals is not dependent on whether the employee is paid on a "salary basis." Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime or compensatory time. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about the FLSA is attached as Appendix "A" to this handbook.

Any non-exempt employees must receive prior approval from their supervisor to work additional hours beyond their regular work schedule. Non-exempt employees must be paid for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. The regular workweek is from 12:00 a.m. on Monday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. The administration may establish a different 7-day period workweek from time to time for specified employees or employee groups.

Overtime pay for non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of not less than 1½ times the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of the 40 hour workweek. Employees with two or more non-exempt positions may be eligible for overtime pay based upon the total number of hours worked in one workweek. If applicable, the employee and the Superintendent will agree upon the overtime rate, in compliance with FLSA regulations. A non-exempt employee may request compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, with approval of the employer, with the rate figured as 1½ times the number of hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any work week. Compensatory time may be accumulated up to 40 hours upon approval by their supervisor. Any accumulation of compensatory time over 40 hours must be approved by the Superintendent. The FLSA limits the accumulation of compensatory time to 240 hours.

The District's policy is to not permit improper deductions from the salary of exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. (Teaching professionals are not subject to the "salaried basis" test). An employee who feels an improper deduction affecting exemption status has occurred may submit a complaint to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, who shall promptly investigate the complaint. Reimbursement shall be made and a good faith commitment to comply in the future will be given in the event it is determined that an improper deduction affecting overtime exemption has been made.

The District's policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance. Deductions of pay of a partial day or of a full day or more may be made for FMLA leaves and in the first and last weeks of employment. In addition, based on principles of public accountancy, deductions from pay of a partial day or of a full day or more will be made for absences for illness, injury or personal reasons when accrued leave is not used or not available, and for absences due to any budget-required furlough.

## **ABSENCES FROM WORK**

### **Paid Leave - Sick and Personal Leaves**

Teachers are provided with paid sick and personal leaves (professional leaves, bereavement leaves, etc.) in accordance with the negotiated agreement. During such paid leaves, teachers shall continue to receive all salary and fringe benefits called for by the negotiated agreement.

The leaves provided by the District are to be used for the purpose intended. Abuse of leave privileges affects the students, other staff, and the entire District and will not be tolerated.

### Requests for Leave

Advance reporting of the need to take a leave and having effective lesson plans and materials prepared and readily available for the substitute are important.

A teacher who becomes ill and is unable to work is to contact Megan Hammer before 6:15 a.m. Before the end of the school day on the first day of the sick leave, and on each subsequent day of absence, a report should be made to Megan Hammer as to whether the teacher will be able to return to duty on the next duty day. For illnesses or medical situations where the need for the leave can be determined in advance, the teacher is to make such advance report of need for leave as possible.

For personal and other leaves, a Request for Leave form is to be submitted to Megan Hammer at least one week prior to the leave, or such other advance notice as is practicable under the circumstances.

### Return from Leave

Upon return from leave, teachers are to review information supplied by the substitute teacher as to progress made in the class and any student behavior concerns. The substitute should be contacted directly if the written information supplied is not adequate.

A teacher who is absent for any period of time because of injury requiring care from a physician or health care provider, or for a period of one week or more due to illness, must present a written statement to the Principal from the teacher's physician or health care provider stating that the teacher is physically able to return to duty. This statement is to be presented in person before the teacher returns to duty in order that the present stage of convalescence can be observed and discussed.

### **Payroll Deductions for Absences in Excess of Paid Leave**

Should a teacher be absent from work in excess of the teacher's accumulated sick leave or other paid leaves called for in the negotiated agreement, the teacher's salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) shall be reduced by the day or days or work missed on a per diem basis calculated using the number of days missed as the numerator, and the number of total contract days for the school years as the denominator; e.g. one day missed =  $1/185$  of total salary and fringe benefits.

### **Leaves of Absence**

A teacher may apply to the Board of Education for a leave of absence from the teacher's duties. The Board of Education will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. No leave of absence shall extend beyond one school year. All leaves of absence shall be without pay except for the payment of health insurance benefits as may be required under applicable state or federal laws.

### **Jury Duty**

A teacher who is summoned for jury service shall promptly notify the Principal of such summons. The teacher's salary will continue during time spent in jury service, and no deduction of leave time shall occur, except that the District may reduce the pay by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty. Teachers are to notify the Principal of the amount received for such jury duty.

If a teacher, upon reporting for jury duty in the morning, is dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the teacher is to report for duty and resume duties for the balance of the day. When a teacher is entirely dismissed from jury duty, the teacher is directed to report for duty and the substitute will be dismissed.

Teachers are expected to promptly notify the Principal of any other form of legal summons which may require an absence from duty. In the event the summons involves a school-related matter, the matter shall be treated similar to a jury duty absence. In the event the summons involves a personal matter, the teacher will be required to use available leave days.

### **Military Leave**

Teachers who are members of the National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Coast Guard Reserve (hereinafter, “reserves”), are entitled to a military leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, when employed with or without pay under the orders or authorization of competent authority in the active service of the state or of the United States. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work 120 hours or more in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence of 120 hours each calendar year. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work less than 120 hours in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence each calendar year equal to the number of hours they normally work or would normally be scheduled to work, whichever is greater, in three consecutive weeks. Such military leave of absence may be taken in hourly increments and shall be in addition to the teacher’s regular annual leave.

When the governor of this state shall declare that a state of emergency exists, and any teacher who is a member of the reserves is ordered to active service of the state, the teacher shall be granted a state of emergency leave of absence until released from active service by competent authority. The leave of absence shall not be a military leave of absence; other forms of leave may be granted. The teacher shall receive normal salary or compensation minus the state active duty base pay the teacher receives in active service of the state.

### **Family and Medical Leave Act**

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides for 12 weeks of job-protected unpaid leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees in specified circumstances. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about FMLA Centennial Public School:

- a. The plan year for FMLA is a rolling year. A rolling year is a 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee last used any FMLA leave.
- b. Employees will be required to substitute remaining applicable paid leave prior to using unpaid leave. In other words, the total of job-protected paid and unpaid leave is 12 weeks.

If you need to take an FMLA leave, or have any questions regarding an FMLA leave, you should contact the Superintendent.



## **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Hours of Work & Meetings**

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher's employment position.

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the performance of duties and the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system.

Certificated employees are to spend seven hours and 45 minutes on site, including lunch break (30-minute lunch), except that duty-free lunch time can be spent off-site. The Principal will determine the length of time prior to and after the student class schedule for staff to be on-site in order to meet the required seven hours and 45 minutes. Staff may leave the building earlier when called to a professional meeting.

Certificated employees are required to serve on playground, lunchroom, bus and hall supervision as designated by the Principal. The Principal will attempt to make an equitable distribution of such assignments and professional staff shall assume such duties as part of their work and agreement of employment.

Teachers shall attend meetings called by the Superintendent of Schools, principals, department heads and team leaders, except those meetings which are designated for optional attendance.

### **Arrival to Duty Assignments**

Full-time teachers have a designated on-site work day of 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Elementary school teachers are to be in the building by no later than 8:00 a.m., to be in their classroom no later than 8:05 a.m., and to remain on duty until 3:45 p.m. Certificated employees other than teachers are expected to meet the same guidelines for entry to the building, being in their assigned duty area, and duty departure time. Teachers and other certificated employees who are part-time or work on adjusted schedules are to be in the building at least 10 minutes before their class or assigned duty begins, and to be in their classroom or assigned duty area at least 10 minutes before their class or assignment begins. During the school day, teachers are to be in their assigned classroom at least five minutes before each period begins to assure that students are not unsupervised within the classroom.

### **Leaving School**

Teachers are to be on duty at all times during the school day. Teachers are considered on duty even during designated planning periods. An uninterrupted lunch period of not less than 30-minutes each day is provided to teachers during which they are not assigned teaching, supervisory, or other duties. Teachers who leave the school during the designated lunch period must check out with the Principal's office.

Teachers may not leave school during duty hours without approval of the Principal. If the absence has been approved, the teacher must check out with the Principal's office when leaving, and check back in with the Principal's office upon return. Teachers who need to leave during the school day for reason of

illness or emergency are to check out with the Principal's office and make sure that a responsible person has been notified of their unexpected absence so student coverage may be provided.

### **Lesson Plans**

Teachers will prepare written lesson plans which cover at least five days of advance instruction. A copy of the lesson plans, class rosters, etc. must be in a place readily available in the teacher's absence.

The lesson plans must be sufficiently clear in establishing objectives and related activities so that they are easily used by a substitute teacher or other staff member not familiar with previous classroom activities or progress. The plan must give specific reference to other instructional sources immediately available which will enhance the instructional lesson.

### **Daily Class Record Books**

Every teacher is required to keep a complete and easily understandable written record of the attendance and achievement of every student. This written record must be kept current and include the following minimum information in a readily understandable fashion:

1. A complete record of the attendance of each student enrolled showing:
  - A. Days on which the student was tardy.
  - B. Days on which the student was absent, with a differentiation between excused and unexcused absences.

### **Classroom and School Procedures**

Teachers are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedure in the performance of their duties:

1. Bulletin Boards

Each teacher shall be responsible for completing appropriate bulletin boards regarding curriculum related matters in their primary classroom. Bulletin boards are to be completely changed no less than twice during each school year.

2. Text Book and Room Inventory

All school purchased materials must be inventoried. Textbooks are to be numbered. Teachers should keep good records of which student is issued which book. At the start of the year, note condition of the textbook on the inventory sheet and keep this sheet. When a book is turned in, again note its condition, and if the book shows abuse (other than normal wear) assess a fine based on the table found in the student handbook. Encourage students to put covers on their books by the end of the first week after receiving them.

3. Use of Teacher Aides

Teacher aides provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A teacher aide must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Teacher aides may be

used to assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculating grades and recording grades. Teacher aides are to work only on their assigned work days and within their assigned work day. If the teacher desires the aide to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, contact the administration for approval.

4. Use of Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the teacher by helping supervise another student or record grades. School keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

5. Checking Out of Equipment

All equipment must be checked out through the building principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes. No school equipment may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

6. Requisition of Equipment and Supplies

Books and supplies which are needed for instruction should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the District may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

7. E-mail

Each teacher will be assigned a school e-mail address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school e-mail correspondence. Teachers should check for e-mail through out the day, and should timely respond to e-mails which require a response, but should avoid checking and responding to e-mails during instructional time. Use of the District's e-mail system for personal communications should be limited, and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in Board policy and this handbook.

8. Teacher Mail Box

Each teacher will be assigned a mailbox located in the teacher's lounge. Teachers should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer, teachers are responsible for responding promptly. Teacher mail boxes are to be limited to communication regarding school business.

9. Teachers Meetings

Teachers' meetings will be held as needed. **ALL** teachers are expected to be present for the meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

## **Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices**

While employees are allowed to possess and carry electronic communications devices on school property, such possession and use are subject to the following rules:

#### District-Issued Communications Devices

Communication devices issued by the District may include, for example, cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, personal digital assistants (PDA's) or laptop computers with "beaming capabilities," citizen band radios, either installed in vehicles or hand-held, and pagers/beepers.

Employees in receipt of District-issued equipment shall be held responsible for the safekeeping of the equipment and exercise reasonable efforts to see that the equipment is not lost, stolen, or damaged. Reckless or irresponsible use of District equipment, resulting in loss or damage may result in the employee having to reimburse the District for any associated costs of replacement or repair.

Any such devices issued shall be with the expectation that they are to be used, almost exclusively, for District-related business purposes and are not intended for personal use except in emergencies involving employee health or safety.

District-issued equipment shall be used in a manner that does not disrupt instruction and should not be used during school-sponsored programs, meetings, in-services, or other events where there exists a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness unless there is a reason of personal health or safety involved.

Any District-issued equipment is to be surrendered back to the District immediately upon request.

#### Personally Owned Electronic Communications Devices

Employees may possess and carry cellular telephones, pagers/beepers, and PDA's or laptops with "beaming capabilities" during the school day on school property.

Personally owned hand-held citizens band radios, portable police scanners, and long or short-range walkie-talkies should not be used or carried by employees on school property during the school day unless by specific permission of their immediate supervisor based on a personal health or safety need.

Cellular telephones and pagers/beepers should not be used during the employee's normal duty times to send or receive messages of a personal nature, but such use is allowable during normal break times, lunch times, and preparation times. Use of cellular telephones or audible pagers/beepers should be curtailed during instructional time or at school –sponsored programs, meetings, in-services, parent/guardian conferences, or any other time when there would be a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness.

Any employee violating the above rules may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **Supervision of Students**

Proper supervision of students is an important responsibility for teachers and other adults responsible for

our students. Teachers and other adults responsible for student supervision are expected to meet the four “P’s” for student supervision and safety.

1. Proper Supervision

- Report to all duty assignments on time.
- Circulate through your duty area. Pay particular attention to areas and activities that pose an increased risk of injury.
- Be vigilant while supervising students. Never leave your classroom unattended; the need to make a copy is not greater than the need to supervise your students. If an emergency requires that you leave your classroom, request that another nearby staff member cover your class, or notify the office so someone can provide assistance. If you are on recess duty, your responsibility is to supervise the students in your assigned area. When talking with other adults or students, remember that your primary duty is supervision and make sure you are aware of what all students who you are to be supervising are doing.
- If you have seen or have been informed that a particular student has a propensity to act dangerously or in an unpredictable manner, your supervision of that student must increase with the known risk of injury. (Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential—do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).
- Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited at Centennial Public School. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g., falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationships.
- Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language should not be used by you. Be a good role model for students. If a student uses such language, you should correct the student and take such disciplinary action as is appropriate, which may include making a report to administration.

2. Proper Instructions

- Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.
- Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.
- When you go over safety rules with students note it in your written records (e.g., your lesson plan book or daily reports).
- Review playground and classroom safety rules with students at least once each semester and note when you do it in your written records. Also, if any students are absent when you review the rules contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in your written records.

3. Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment

- Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of

supervision.

- If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service (if it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign) and notify the office so those repairs may be undertaken.
- Check the intercom in your supervision area periodically to make sure you can communicate with the office immediately in the event of an emergency.

#### 4. Proper Warnings

- If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students. Tell the office so additional warnings may be given.

#### Contact the Office for Assistance

The office administration should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- student fight
  - student health problem (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc.); if the office can not be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern
- a report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)

#### Student Searches

Office administration should also be contacted before performing searches of students or their belongings. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until another adult is present, or to follow you to the office if you can leave your assigned area without causing risk of harm to others. Do not use physical force to detain the student or to make the student accompany you except as reasonably necessary to protect the student or others.

#### Student Rights

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

### **Managing Student Conduct**

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations on a consistent basis, and being familiar with the student handbook. All staff are responsible for **all students** in the hallways, in the rest rooms, at assemblies, at pep rallies, and during lunch. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include a parent conference or a referral to an administrator.

The following guidelines will assist in maintaining appropriate student conduct and complying with the process required for student discipline.

1. On the first day of class make students aware of classroom expectations. Students will accept them if they know in advance and if they are fair and consistent. Students often appreciate giving input on classroom rules. These expectations should be in writing. Give one copy to the students, post one copy in the room and provide one copy for the principal.
2. It is important to document student behavior in your classroom, calls to parents, referrals, and/or communications with a student.
3. If, after attempts to improve student behavior, the problems continue, talk to the student's counselor or the Principal about possible alternatives in discipline procedures. **Be attentive and respond to "bullying."**
4. If a student continues to cause problems, inform the administration for disciplinary action using the approved reporting forms. Be sure to state the problem clearly and expectations in terms of assistance, as at times the student's and teacher's stories are different. Be prepared to provide documentation.
5. Follow up on any referral. The student may not go to the principal or the counselor when sent. The administrator will inform the teacher of the consequences.
6. Refer students with continued and significant behavioral problems to the student assistance team for a determination of whether the student is in need of special services. Contact the counselor if you have questions as to the procedure.
7. Talk with other teachers about the classroom management techniques they use to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning in their classroom. A large repertoire of classroom management techniques always enhances learning.
8. Read and understand the student handbook and the student conduct rules of the District.
9. Use good judgment when dealing with difficult situations involving students. Physical confrontation generally escalates tense situations. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district and is not to be used. Physical force may only be used to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the student, yourself and others, and to protect property as may be reasonable.
10. Violations of student rules, which are also violations of state law, are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the Principal so this law may be followed.

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT**

Discipline of students is one of the most important factors in the success of any teacher. The ability to control student behavior is directly related to the quality of the learning experience provided for students in the school building. Students interfering with the learning opportunities of others should be dealt with immediately. Responsibilities for classroom teachers include:

1. Classroom discipline problems are the responsibility of the teacher. If the discipline problem is such that the teacher feels unable to handle the situation, it should be referred to the principal. The administration will do everything they can to help you.

**THE GOAL OF ALL STUDENT BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT SHOULD BE TO BRING ABOUT SELF-CONTROL ON THE PART OF THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT. BEFORE DISCIPLINING A STUDENT, BE CERTAIN YOU ARE RIGHT AND HAVE ALL THE FACTS. DO NOT DISCIPLINE ON OPINION, ONLY ON EVIDENCE. IN ALL INSTANCES OF DISCIPLINE PLEASE AVOID HATE, PREJUDICE, AND DISCIPLINING IN ANGER. ABOVE ALL ELSE BE FAIR, REASONABLE, AND CONSISTENT.**

- 2 . When you observe student misbehavior in any situation in the school building, on school grounds, or at a school sponsored activity, it is your duty to intervene with that child. Do not forgo the opportunity to assist that child in making a better choice. This applies to not only the students assigned to your classroom, but ALL children regardless of age.
3. Teachers do not have the authority to suspend students from their classes or school, but they may temporarily remove students from class by sending them to the principal. The superintendent or principal may order student suspension, emergency exclusion, long term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PURSUANT TO 79-4, 170 THROUGH 79-4, 205-  
DUE PROCESS.
4. Hallway supervision is expected of all faculty members before school, during school, and after school. Running in the school has traditionally been a problem, can create a potentially dangerous situation, and will not be tolerated. It is your obligation to supervise the hallways to prevent student running, to intervene when you observe running, and to avoid other problems from arising.
5. When the students from your classroom are moving about the building as a group, it is your responsibility to ensure they travel in a QUIET and respectful manner. Keep them in a group and don't allow them to string out down the hallway where they cannot be observed by you. Please do not allow them to disrupt other classrooms. If this means you must walk with them to and from their destination, please choose to do so.
6. According to state law that became effective in 1988, corporal punishment in schools is prohibited. Teachers will not use physical force with a student unless in self-defense.
7. Playground and bus supervision can be part of the assigned duties for your position. If assigned, please be sure you are on duty at the appropriate time and in the appropriate place. If you are unable to do so, please make arrangements ahead of time to have your supervision covered. This can become a liability issue.
8. Bus supervision is an important part of our duties. Please take seriously your responsibilities and see that students do not run to or from the buses, do not walk on the street side of the yellow line, are not engaged in horseplay which could result in someone ending up in the street, and that they do walk on the sidewalk (not the lawn) at all times.

The expectations for all faculty is they will provide the student behavior management necessary to create an environment in the school which allows for all children to be/feel safe and have the best possible opportunity to learn. The methods used are not dictated to you and no single program is prescribed as the one you must employ. You have several options to choose from, or combine, which you have been

instructed about. Find what works best in your classroom and make it work for you and your children. The administration is always available to assist you in any way, please ask. **REMEMBER** the goal of all student behavior management as it is stated above and use it to guide you in ALL situations as you assist children in making good choices.

### **Dispensing Medication**

Teachers are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6718 to 71-6743. Students who need to take prescription medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office. Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom except in accordance with the District's Safety and Security Management Plan and the District's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol).

If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication.

### **Reporting Child Abuse**

Nebraska State Law and school policy mandates school officials to make a report to the proper law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a situation, which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska State Law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

- (a) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- (b) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- (c) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
- (d) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- (e) Sexually abused; or
- (f) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Teachers are to inform their principal or supervisor that they intend to make a report. Administrative staff may sometimes choose to make the report for a teacher. However, informing a principal or supervisor does not end the teacher's responsibility; teachers are obligated to make certain a report was made if they do not do it themselves.

It is vital that the report be made as accurately and as soon as possible. To assure accuracy, you are encouraged to document the date of the incident and specific statements or explanations made by a child regarding an abuse/neglect concern. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk

to the child by allowing the police or Child Protective Services workers to interview the child during the school day and prior to an evening or weekend. In cases of physical injury (e.g., bruising or other marks), it is essential the police observe and document the injury. A counselor, the school social worker or an administrator will help you.

## **PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

### **Professional Ethics Standards**

The Centennial Public School expects its certificated employees to adhere to the professional ethics standards established by the Nebraska Department of Education as such standards may be modified from time to time. The professional ethics standards, which certificated employees are expected to adhere to, include those set forth below. References to “educator” shall include all certificated employees of the District.

#### **Preamble**

The educator shall believe in the worth and dignity of human beings. Recognizing the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, the devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic citizenship, the educator shall regard as essential to these goals the protection of the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator shall accept the responsibility to practice the profession to these ethical standards.

The educator shall recognize the magnitude of the responsibility he or she has accepted in choosing a career in education, and engages, individually and collectively with other educators, to judge his or her colleagues, and to be judged by them, in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics.

The standards listed in this section are held to be generally accepted minimal standards for public school certificate holders in the State of Nebraska and for all educators, including administrators, with respect to ethical and professional conduct.

#### **Principle I - Commitment as a Professional Educator:**

Fundamental to the pursuit of high educational standards is the maintenance of a profession possessed of individuals with high skills, intellect, integrity, wisdom, and compassion. The educator shall exhibit good moral character, maintain high standards of performance and promote equality of opportunity.

In fulfillment of the educator's contractual and professional responsibilities, the educator:

- A. Shall not interfere with the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members.
- B. Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, ethnic background, or handicapping condition.
- C. Shall not use coercive means, or promise or provide special treatment to students, colleagues, school patrons, or school board members in order to influence professional decisions.
- D. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible.
- E. Shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage.

- F. Shall not sexually harass students, parents or school patrons, employees, or board members.
- G. Shall not have had revoked for cause in another state a teaching certificate, administrative certificate, or any certificate enabling a person to engage in any of the activities for which a special services counseling certificate is issued in Nebraska.
- H. Shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.
- I. Shall report to the Superintendent any known violation of paragraphs G, E, or B above.
- J. Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported a violation of this rule.

**Principle II - Commitment to the Student:**

Mindful that a profession exists for the purpose of serving the best interests of the client, the educator shall practice the profession with genuine interest, concern, and consideration for the student. The educator shall work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

- A. Shall permit the student to pursue reasonable independent scholastic effort, and shall permit the student access to varying points of view.
- B. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter for which the educator is responsible.
- C. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety.
- D. Shall conduct professional educational activities in accordance with sound educational practices that are in the best interest of the student.
- E. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes, or is required by law.
- F. Shall not tutor for remuneration students assigned to his or her classes unless approved by the Board of Education.
- G. Shall not discipline students using corporal punishment.

**Principle III - Commitment to the Public:**

The magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the education process requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The educator bears particular responsibility for instilling an understanding of the confidence in the rule of law, respect for individual freedom, and a responsibility to promote respect by the public for the integrity of the profession.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the public, the educator:

- A. Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the educator is affiliated, and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal and institutional views.
- B. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities.**
- C. Shall neither offer nor accept gifts or favors that will impair professional judgment.
- D. Shall support the principle of due process and protect the political, citizenship, and natural rights of all individuals.

- E. Shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, nor commit any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory.
- F. Shall, with reasonable diligence, attend to the duties of his or her professional position.

**Principle IV - Commitment to the Profession:**

In belief that the quality of the services to the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education. The educator shall believe that sound professional relationships with colleagues are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator:

- A. Shall provide upon the request of an aggrieved party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
- B. Shall not misrepresent his or her professional qualifications, nor those of colleagues.
- C. Shall practice the profession only with proper certification, and shall actively oppose the practice of the profession by persons known to be unqualified.

**Principle V - Commitment to Professional Employment Practices:**

The educator shall regard the employment agreement as a pledge to be executed both in spirit and in fact. The educator shall believe that sound personnel relationships with governing boards are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to professional employment practices, the educator:

- A. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- B. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or employer, or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- C. Shall give prompt notice to the employer of any change in availability of service.
- D. Shall conduct professional business through designated procedures, when available, that have been approved by the employing agency.
- E. Shall not assign to unqualified personnel, tasks for which an educator is responsible.
- F. Shall permit no commercial or personal exploitation of his or her professional position.
- G. Shall use time on duty and leave time for the purpose for which intended.

**Evaluations**

Evaluations of teachers will be conducted in accordance with the District's evaluation policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise or evaluate teachers more frequently than required by policy on an as-needed basis. Teachers are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration.

**Role Model**

Teachers serve as role models for students and their actions and conduct reflect on the school as a whole. Teachers are in all respects to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

**Relationships**

It is important for teachers to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration and all co-workers, including other teachers and support staff. Teachers are also to maintain appropriate relationships with students. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and Board policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding into personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping or spreading rumors about others. Concerns need to be addressed early on before they become major problems.

If you have a concern about something you have heard, something someone has told you, something you have seen, or any other circumstances, it is your OBLIGATION to take your concern in a reasonable, non-accusatory, rational and professional manner to the closest person involved.

If you are disturbed about something to the point of needing to tell it to someone else, first visit with the person involved to be sure you have the whole, complete story. Do not spend your time “discussing” something you have heard from a third party, until you have checked out the validity of the statements from the person who made them initially. Don’t lose sleep over something that may not be true to begin with! **CLEAR, OPEN AND TIMELY COMMUNICATIONS IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING HURT FEELINGS AND THE SPREADING OF UNNECESSARY RUMORS.**

### **Professional Attire**

It is important for teachers to project a professional image to students, parents and co-workers. Appropriate attire and grooming is one of the means of projecting a professional image. Teachers are expected to maintain conservative and professional attire and grooming when on duty from the first teacher workday through the end of the final day of school. **Jeans, shorts and sweatpants are not considered professional attire at Centennial Elementary when children are present in the building.** Exceptions can be made by the Principal in advance of wearing such attire. As professionals, teachers are expected to be aware of the standard to be maintained. The administration may establish more detailed guidelines for individual teachers should that be necessary.

### **Private Tutoring**

Teachers are encouraged to provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Teachers who engage in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) are subject to the following rules:

1. The teacher may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the teacher’s class.
2. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
3. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
4. The teacher is not to advertise or promote the teacher’s private tutoring services in the school or in the school’s communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

### **Outside Employment**

Teachers shall not perform duties unrelated to District employment during duty hours. In addition, teachers shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties. Teachers are not

required to notify the District of outside employment except: (1) teachers who are also employed by another Nebraska school district in order to comply with Nebraska State Retirement System regulations and (2) teachers who have a work-related injury in order to comply with workers' compensation requirements.

## **ACADEMIC MATTERS**

### **Purpose and Goals of Academic Achievement**

The Centennial Public School Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for all Centennial students consistent with the school's mission statement. Effective, quality instruction by teachers is an essential means of meeting the District's mission of providing a quality education.

### **Teaching to Student Understanding to Assure Learning**

Each teacher is responsible for teaching in a manner to meet the mission of the District and to assure student understanding and learning of the principles and concepts to be presented to students within the curriculum adopted by the District. Teachers will model classroom instruction on the educational model implemented by the District and reflected in the teacher evaluation instrument adopted by the Board of Education. Teachers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the instructional model and the principles of instruction set forth in the evaluation instrument. The administration shall provide periodic in-services regarding the instructional model.

State and federal laws and regulations have been enacted which require that students with certain needs be provided instruction and services consistent with those special needs. Examples include students who have been verified as in need of special education ("special education students"), students with other disabilities which impact the educational program ("504 students"), and limited English proficient students ("LEP or ELL students"). The District's policy is to comply with the state and federal laws and regulations in all respects. Teachers who are assigned special education, 504, or LEP/ELL students are required to provide instruction and services consistent with legal requirements and the requirements of Board policy and regulation.

### **Instruction in the Curriculum**

Teachers shall instruct students in the curriculum, including the use of curriculum materials, adopted and implemented by the Board of Education and as directed by the administration.

### **Measuring and Reporting Academic Achievement**

Grades and Grading. Measuring and accurately reporting the level of each student's academic achievement is of critical importance to students, parents, staff, the board of education and community. To this end, each teacher shall develop a variety of assessment instruments and techniques to measure student achievement in the curriculum adopted and implemented by the school district, record the results of such assessment, and report such results on Report Cards. Teachers should endeavor to measure student learning and understanding on a frequent basis during each quarter to provide an accurate evaluation of each student's academic achievement for that period. It is recommended that the teacher record at least three grades per week. It is generally preferable to give numerical grades for tests, quizzes, and daily work. **GRADES MUST BE RECORDED FOR ALL CURRICULAR AREAS.**

Recording Grades. Each teacher shall record grades in PowerSchool. A sufficient number of grades must be recorded in the grade book to justify all quarter and semester grades for each student. Please

keep consistent and complete records. Teachers must be able to support and justify the grades that each individual student earns.

Grade Scales. Teachers are to use only the grading scales set forth below. Any deviation from the approved grade scales must be approved by the building principal.

**STUDENT EVALUATION SCALE:**

The grade scales to be used for reporting student progress in Centennial Elementary are as follows:

**Kindergarten** students are graded by mastery of skills. The grade symbols are:

- S = Satisfactory
- N = Needs Improvement
- X = Unable to do this

**Grade 1 and 2** students receive report card grades: The following letter grades/symbols are used:

- Grading Symbol and Effort Code
- O = 95 – 100 Outstanding
  - S+= 90- 94 Very good
  - S = 80 – 89 Satisfactory
  - N = 70 – 79 Needs Improvement
  - U = 0 – 69 Unsatisfactory

**Grade 3-6** students receive report card grades. The following symbols are used:

- Grading System Achievement
- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| A+ = 99-100 | C = 80-83  |
| A = 95-98   | C- =78-79  |
| A- = 93-94  | D+= 76-77  |
| B+ = 91-92  | D = 72-75  |
| B = 88-90   | D- = 70-71 |
| B- = 86-87  | F = 0-69   |
| C+ = 84-85  |            |

Elementary physical education, instrumental music, vocal music and library skills are graded as follows:

Excellent, Satisfactory, Improving, Growth Needed, and Unsatisfactory.

Each teacher should define for students the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

The preceding grade scales are expected to be used according to the following guidelines:

1. No other grade scales are to be used on official records or reports.
2. "Failing," "unsatisfactory" or equivalent terms indicate that student performance does not meet the minimum requirements established for the course. A final mark of "failing" or

- "unsatisfactory" in a credit-bearing course means that credit hours will not be granted.
3. The mark given at the end of each reporting period is considered an evaluation of the pupil's status at the time (for example, the final mark in a semester course is an evaluation of the pupil's status as of the close of the semester; not an average of two nine-week marks).
  4. Teachers may exercise professional judgment in distributing marks. Marks are not expected to be distributed on a normal curve.

#### Reconsideration of Grades/Marks

Questions raised concerning duly assigned grades will be resolved cooperatively in a conference which includes the teacher(s) involved and the Principal. In the event a grade is questioned by parents or students, the parents/guardians and/or student may be included in the conference.

Failure to resolve the issue will result in a second conference involving the Superintendent or designee and the participants in the initial conference described above. The grades, designated by teachers, will not be changed unilaterally by the Superintendent unless the Superintendent determines that the grade is not consistent with the requirements of law, Board policy, or the best interests of the District.

Transfer Grades. A student transferring into [Insert Name of School] at the fifteen-to eighteen-week time period will have all grades on transcript from an accredited school accepted for semester credit. Grades must be approved for credit by the Principal.

Reports to Parents. Grades and credit are assigned on a quarter (9 weeks) or semester basis (18 weeks). Reports are sent to parents at the close of each nine weeks during the school year; the reporting periods are referred to as first quarter, first semester, third quarter, and second semester.

The grade reports are produced from information supplied by teachers and distributed to students at school or are mailed to parents.

All term or mid-quarter grades are calculated on a cumulative basis; i.e., the grade given at the end of the first quarter represents an evaluation of work done during that quarter, and the grade given at the close of the semester represents an evaluation of all the work done during the entire eighteen weeks.

The end-of-quarter and end-of-semester reports are directed to parents, not to students. Students probably know quite well how they stand in such areas as citizenship, attitude, cooperation, attendance, preparation of assignments, etc. The parents do not have this knowledge. If any such factors have significant bearing on the student's grades or their relationship with teachers, notes should be sent to parents. Arrangements will be made to place these teacher-written notes with the grade report forms. The notes may call attention to deficiencies, faults, or failures; or they may be commendatory in nature. If carefully prepared, they can be most valuable. Parents need to have information about areas of strengths and areas needing improvement and progress being made by their child. For their instruction, and for our ultimate well-being, if and when problems arise, it is essential that the reports be as informative as possible. Teachers should, in all cases, plan to keep on file duplicate copies of the notes which are sent to parents.

Please accept, cooperatively and professionally, the responses that parents may make subsequent to the distribution of term or mid-quarter reports. Parents are not always helpful or reasonable under these

circumstances but they do need information and direction. Please encourage parents to discuss their student-centered problems with you and give them all possible assistance.

Mid-Quarter Progress Reports To Parents. Mid-quarter progress reports are prepared at or near the middle of the fourth and the thirteenth weeks of each semester. These reports will be mailed to all parents.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher conferences are a critical opportunity for teachers to dialogue with parents (or guardians) of students regarding student achievement and learning. To this end, Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled and held during the school year. Teacher attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences is mandatory. A teacher may only be excused from attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences in writing by the Superintendent. The schedule setting forth the dates and times for the Parent-Teacher conferences for the school years is as follows:

Teachers are expected to be prepared for such conferences. Being prepared includes having completed grade books which include all student assignments, work or tests completed within five (5) days of the date of the Parent-Teacher conference

### **Drug-Free Workplace**

The District has established the school as a drug-free workplace. The drug-free workplace for this purpose includes school grounds, school utilized vehicles, and places in which school activities are held. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, disposition, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the work place. The possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol, the use of glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, and being under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, is prohibited in any place while teachers are on duty time. Any level of impairment from illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, and the presence of any odor of illicit drugs (such as marijuana) or alcohol on a teacher in the work place or on duty time shall be a violation of the drug-free workplace. The possession or distribution of a look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance is prohibited. In addition, teachers are expected to serve as role models for students and will be considered to have violated the District's expectations in the event the teacher commits a criminal drug or alcohol offense off the work place or off duty time.

Disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution will be imposed upon teachers who violate the aforementioned standards of conduct. Sanctions may include the requirement that the teacher complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, a reprimand, and termination of employment. Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs are available through local health agencies.

### **Smoke and Tobacco-Free Workplace**

The use of tobacco products in the District's buildings and on school grounds, all owned or leased facilities and vehicles is prohibited.

### **Weapon-Free Workplace**

The District prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school-sponsored function. Any teacher found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The term "weapon" means an instrument or object used, or which may be used, as a means of attack, defense, or destruction, including, without limitation:

- a. Any object which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other means;
- b. The frame or receiver of any object described in the preceding example;
- c. Any firearm muffler or silencer;
- d. Any explosive, incendiary or gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket, (d) missile, (e) mine, or similar device;
- e. Any bludgeon, sandclub, metal knuckles, or throwing star;
- f. Any knife other than as used for strictly instructional or personal care or eating purposes. A pocket knife with a blade of 2-1/2 inches or more is a prohibited weapon. A switch-blade knife is prohibited regardless of size of the blade. A switch-blade knife is defined as a knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of a knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement;
- g. Any electronic device designed to discharge immobilizing levels of electricity, commonly known as a stun gun; and
- h. A teacher may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon. Usage of mace or other similar chemical agents will be considered as usage of a weapon if the usage is found to be for non-defensive purposes. A teacher who is negligent in their possession of mace or other similar chemical agents will be subject to disciplinary action.
- i. A teacher may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the teacher has received approval of the administration to possess the item, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such manner as the administration has directed.
- j. Any other object that is designed for or intended for use as a destructive or injurious device.

The phrase "possession of a weapon" includes, without limitation, a weapon in a teacher's personal possession, as well as in a teacher's motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

### **Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy**

#### **A. Internet Safety Policy**

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). With respect to the District’s computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (e) implement measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. “Inappropriate material” for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District’s online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
4. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s designees.
5. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for

the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.

6. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.

B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general, for educational purposes, meaning activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.
4. Unacceptable Uses.

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. Personal Gain: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. Personal Matters: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. Campaigning: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- d. Technology-Related Limitations: Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation,
  - 1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
  - 2. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
  - 3. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
  - 4. Users shall not engage in "hacking" to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
  - 5. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
  - 6. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
  - 7. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.

8. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.

e. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:

1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.

5. Disclaimer. The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.

6. Filter. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks

and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

7. Monitoring. Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.
8. Sanctions. Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254  
FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011  
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act)

Date of Adoption: [Insert Date]

### **Use of School Facilities**

Teachers will be issued keys to the school. Teachers are expected to not lose their keys and to not allow others to have access to or to use their keys. Teachers are permitted to have access to school facilities during non-school time provided such access is for work-related purposes. When teachers leave the building, they are to close all windows, lock their classroom door, and make sure that the entry door is fully closed and locked. This is especially important when teachers are using the school facilities prior to the beginning of the school year and during any weekend or evening usage.

School property is to be used for approved work-related purposes and not for personal purposes or for personal gain or benefit. Use of school supplies (paper, staples, etc.), school equipment (copiers, fax machines, telephones, etc.), and school postage is to be used for approved school-related purposes only. Excess or surplus supplies or equipment, including items which have been placed in the trash, should not be removed for non-school use without approval from the administration.

### **Care of School Property**

Teachers are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. If an item is in need of maintenance or repair, report it to the Principal. If you learn that a

student has damaged school property or equipment, or if you are responsible for damage to school property, promptly report it to the Principal so the item may be replaced or repaired if possible and appropriate responsibility for the cost of replacement or repair may be determined.

### **Use of Telephone**

Personal telephone calls shall not be made during duty time except in the event of an emergency. You will need to promptly log long distance calls and be responsible for any charges which are for personal use.

### **Visitors**

Teachers are not to have visitors on school property except on a short-term basis and only with permission of the principal. Included in the definition of visitors are family members of the teacher. Visitors should follow posted procedures for being on school property. Teachers are not to bring their children to school with them in lieu of taking them to childcare.

### **Salespersons**

Teachers need not allow, and should not permit, any salesperson or representative or agent of any commercial enterprise or theatrical presentation to contact the teacher while engaged in the teacher's duties except for such times as may be designated by the Superintendent or designee. By law, the hours of no solicitation are between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all days school is in session. If you are required to be at work earlier than 8:30 a.m., the hours are extended to that earlier time as well.

Teachers shall not use classrooms, buildings or other school property for personal use or profit without specific approval from the Superintendent or designee. Teachers shall not use time for which the teacher is on duty or paid by the District to engage in any activity for personal financial profit. Any violation of this policy will be held to be willful insubordination.

### **Security of Desks and Lockers**

Offices, teacher desks, lockers, file cabinets and other such storage devices ("storage devices") are owned by the school and are to be properly cared for and maintained. Appropriate security measures should be used to protect school and personal property kept in storage devices from theft or vandalism and to protect confidential student records.

The school exercises exclusive control over school property and reserves the right to search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file. School-related documents or records must remain readily available to administration and other appropriate school staff. Any personal items a teacher wants to have kept private should be kept in a separate personal storage device, such as a brief case, purse or backpack.

The District is not responsible for any personal property teachers may bring to school. Teachers are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of significant value to school.

### **Video Surveillance**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

### **Bulletins and Announcements**

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

### **Copyright and Fair Use Policy**

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is "fair." Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

### **Lost and Found**

Teachers who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner.

## **Safety**

### Safety Program and Safety Committee

The District has established a Safety and Security Management Plan which includes safety and security plans and procedures, including plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Teachers are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Management Plan. The Plan may be obtained for review or copy from the Principal or the Superintendent.

The District also has a safety committee to address employee accidents, injuries and work place conditions. Representatives from various school groups, plus representatives appointed by administration serve on the committee. If you have a desire to serve on the committee, you should contact the Superintendent. Teachers can make suggestions and/or report concerns to the safety committee in the following ways: (1) contact the teachers association representative of the safety committee, (2) contact the Superintendent.

### Safety Practices

Guidelines for safe work practices which teachers should follow include the following:

1. Never stand on chairs, counters, tables, etc. Only use step stools, ladders and locking stools to stand, climb, etc., to reach high places, put things on bulletin boards, etc.
2. Always wear protective equipment (i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves, and ear protection).
3. Wipe up spills or report promptly to appropriate personnel. DO NOT assume someone else will do it.
4. Be aware of your surroundings. Pick up clutter, keep your work area or room clean and free of clutter, debris, etc.
5. Identify and report all hazards (i.e., broken equipment, broken or uneven floor surfaces, non-operating tools, windows, doors, etc.). Follow up if not repaired.
6. Do not use equipment if you are not familiar with it or operate machinery without proper training.
7. Do not carry heavy or bulky objects. Get a cart, dolly or assistance. Know how to properly lift.
8. Report any injuries or medical problems to your supervisor immediately and complete the employee accident report.
9. Wear seatbelts when in vehicles where provided.
10. Do not do repetitive tasks for long periods of time (i.e., keyboarding, dipping cookies, cutting out things, filing, typing, etc.). Take breaks, learn and do stretching exercises, etc. Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal.

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

### Use of Personal Vehicles

Teachers who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Teachers will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information and to be given instruction on emergency evacuation and first aid. Teachers who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Teachers are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting children.

### Accidents

Every accident which results in a personal injury must be reported to the Principal immediately. In the event the injury involves a student, the teacher responsible for the student either as teacher, coach or sponsor is responsible for making the report. If the injury occurs in the presence of the teacher, the teacher is also responsible for making a report.

### Workers Compensation

Teachers are required to immediately report any work-related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their supervisor and complete all appropriate paperwork.

## **STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The Centennial Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The Coordinators listed in Section 2 have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination.

Local complaint or grievance procedures are provided for by the District and set forth in this handbook. If an employee does not feel that a complaint of nondiscrimination has been satisfactorily resolved at the school level, the employee may file a complaint with the appropriate federal or state agency. Complaints are to be filed with the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights where the complaint relates to Title IX (discrimination, harassment or lack of equity based on gender), Title VI (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin) or Section 504 (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability). Complaints are to be filed with the the regional U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) if the complaint relates to Title VII (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, or religion), the Americans with Disabilities Act (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (discrimination based on age). The contact information for the OCR and the EEOC in this regard are:

Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway  
Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
816-268-0550  
FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 800-437-0833

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)  
1801 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20507  
(800) 669-4000; TDD: (800) 669-6820

A publication provided by the federal government concerning rights of non-discrimination is attached as Appendix “D” to this handbook.

**Designation of Coordinators**

Any person having inquiries concerning the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Mark Buss, Centennial Public School, 1301 Centennial Ave., Utica, NE 68456,

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Colin Borgen
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Colin Borgen
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Colin Borgen
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Tim DeWaard
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Colin Borgen

**Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy**

Elimination of Discrimination

The Centennial Public School hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination

Purpose: Centennial Public School is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Centennial Public School will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably

interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment. Sexual harassment may exist when:

- Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time;
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, classroom or educational environment.
- Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

#### Complaint and Grievance Procedures

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Centennial Public Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstance will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

#### **Grievance Procedure for Persons with a Disability**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act address discrimination, harassment or failure to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with a disability. The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations of the ADA or Section 504:

1. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator. Complaints shall be made in writing, unless the Complainant's disability prevents such, in which event the Complaint can be made verbally.
2. Complaints shall set forth: (a) the name of the Complainant, (b) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the Coordinator to contact the Complainant, (c) a brief description of the alleged violation, and (d) the relief requested by the Complainant.
3. Complaints shall be investigated by the Coordinator or the Coordinator's designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the Complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
4. The Coordinator shall make a decision on the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement of the Complainant. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the Coordinator's proposed resolution of the Complaint, and shall be forwarded to the Complainant.
5. The Complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant to accept or reject the Coordinator's proposed resolution, and shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution unless the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period. In the event the complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within the ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's division is sent to the Complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall consider any additional information provided in the request for reconsideration and make a decision on the request for reconsideration within 10 (ten) days after the request for reconsideration was filed.

### **Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Employees are expected to provide access rights and maintain the confidentiality of education records in accordance with FERPA and Board policy. Further information about FERPA and the District's policies under FERPA are found in Board policy and in the student handbook.

### **Disclosure of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the school not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written consent. Employees are expected to follow these requirements.

### **Disclosure of Staff Qualifications**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child’s classroom teachers. The District designates the following information as “directory information” and will give parents/guardians such information upon request:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher, along with information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the parent/guardian’s child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the NCLB.

### **Student Privacy Protection**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to protect the privacy of students. Further information about student privacy and the District’s policies with regard to student privacy are found in Board policy and in the student handbook. In general, employees are expected to comply with these provisions of the NCLB and related Board policy, as follows:

1. Student surveys created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District)—give parent/guardian the opportunity to inspect the survey upon request before the survey is administered or distributed to the students;
2. Student surveys which involve “sensitive” matters—make suitable arrangements to protect student privacy (that is, do not include the name or other identifying information about a particular student) and give parents the opportunity, in advance, to “opt-out” their child from the survey. Sensitive matters include:
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
  8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
3. Instructional materials—permit parents upon reasonable request to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. The term “instructional materials” does not include academic tests or academic assessments for purposes of this parent inspection requirement. If you receive such a request, direct the parent to contact your building principal and also inform the building principal yourself about the request to get instructions.

4. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information—the District policy is to not gather such information for such purposes.

## **Parental Involvement**

### General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools

The District's policy is to welcome parental involvement in the education of their children. As a part of this policy, employees are expected to:

1. provide parents timely information about their child's progress, including use of quarterly report cards, active and constructive attendance at parent-teacher conferences, and more frequent parent contacts where warranted by the student's academic and behavioral needs;
2. make textbooks, completed tests and other curriculum materials available for review by parents upon request;
3. permit parents access to their child's records according to law and school policy;
4. encourage parents to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher, counselor or administrator, provided that such parent attendance be educationally appropriate and not disruptive to the educational program;
5. assure that testing occurs to assure proper measurement of each child's educational progress and achievement;
6. permit parents to excuse their child from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences when possible and educationally appropriate;
7. notify parents of student surveys in accordance with district policy, obtain parental permission for surveys where required by District policy or law, and allow parents to opt-out of such surveys in accordance with District policy and law; and
8. encourage parents to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their child's education.

### Title I Parental Involvement

The District has a separate policy established pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 relating to parental involvement applicable to parents of children enrolled in Title I programs. The policy requires that parents of Title I children be given the opportunity to participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in the parental involvement policy. Employees are expected to comply with the Title I parental involvement policy.

### **Homeless Students**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that homeless students not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The Superintendent serves as the District's designated

Homeless Coordinator and should be contacted for questions relating to a homeless student.

### **Lunch Programs**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program. Employees are expected to keep information about the participation of students in the program confidential.

### **Confidentiality of Protected Health Information**

It is the policy of the District to develop and implement all necessary practices, policies, and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) where and to the extent applicable and to maintain the privacy of protected health information (PHI), as that term is defined by HIPAA, that it receives, obtains, or transmits for employees and students. The District designates the Superintendent as its HIPAA privacy officer. Student and employee records containing PHI shall be accessible only to those who require such information to carry out their duties.

### **Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights**

#### **\*\* Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA\*\***

#### **Introduction**

You are receiving this notice because you have recently become covered under Centennial Public School health plan (the “Plan”). This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. **This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it.** This notice gives only a summary of your COBRA continuation coverage rights. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should either review the Plan’s Summary Plan Description or get a copy of the Plan Document from the Plan Administrator.

The Plan Administrator is Mr. Tim DeWaard, Centennial Public School, 1302 Centennial Ave Utica, NE 402 534-2291. The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage.

#### **COBRA Continuation Coverage**

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a “qualifying event.” Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a “qualified beneficiary.” A qualified beneficiary is someone who will lose coverage under the Plan because of a qualifying event. Depending on the type of qualifying event, employees, spouses of employees, and dependent children of employees may be qualified beneficiaries. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

1. Your hours of employment are reduced, or
2. Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

1. Your spouse dies;
2. Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
3. Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. Your spouse becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both); or
5. You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they will lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

1. The parent-employee dies;
2. The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
3. The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
4. The parent-employee becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both);
5. The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
6. The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the employer and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee is a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also be qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer to the extent retiree health coverage is provided, or enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both),

the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event within 30 days of any of these events.

**For the other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator. The Plan requires you to notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must send this notice to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.**

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. For each qualified beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date of the qualifying event.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

#### **Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family can receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. You must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the Social Security Administration's determination within 60 days of the date of the determination and before the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. This notice should be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

#### **Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, up to a maximum of 36 months. This extension is available to the spouse and dependent children if the former employee dies, enrolls in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated. The extension is also available to a dependent child when that child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. In all of these cases, you must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

#### **If You Have Questions**

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Superintendent or Plan Administrator or you may contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA).

Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's web site at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

**Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes**

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

**RECEIPT OF 2013-2014 TEACHER HANDBOOK  
OF CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL  
ELEMENTARY EDITION**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2013-2014 Teacher Handbook of Centennial Public School – Elementary Edition. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the I am to read and be familiar with the handbook, that I understand the handbook contains a disclaimer of contract and that I understand that the handbook includes the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used for responding to harassment or discrimination.

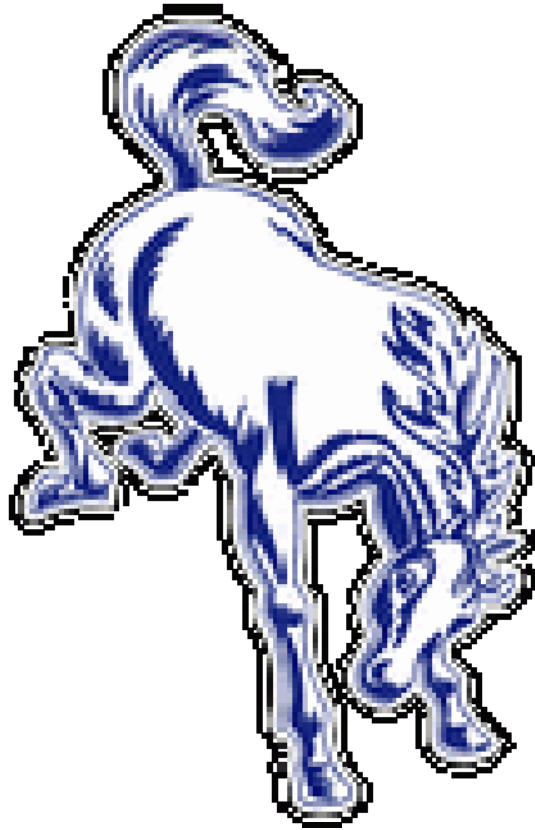
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Signature

Return to:

Megan Hammer, Elementary Principal  
Centennial Public School  
1301 Centennial Ave  
Utica, NE 68456

2014 - 2015



CENTENNIAL  
PUBLIC SCHOOL  
*Teacher Handbook*

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Centennial Public School  
Teacher Handbook Secondary Edition  
2014-15 School Year

**FOREWORD**

**Section 1      Intent of Handbook**

Welcome to Centennial Public School. This handbook is intended to be used by teachers and other certificated staff to provide general information about Centennial Public School and to serve as a guide to the District’s policies, rules, and regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

References in this handbook to “teachers” are intended to apply to all certificated staff. This includes administrative staff to the extent the handbook deals with professional expectations and conduct.

Each teacher is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract, the negotiated agreement between the Centennial Public School and the Centennial Public School Education Association, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law, the negotiated agreement, and Board policies and regulations will control.

This handbook does not create a contract of employment. Staff positions and assignments which do not legally require a certificate or are otherwise not protected by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an “at will” basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except for a contract approved by the Board of Education.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon applicable school district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interests of the District.

This handbook will be in effect for the 2014-2015 and subsequent school years unless replaced by a later edition.



## **Section 2 Information About Centennial Public School**

### **FORMED:**

School districts of Beaver Crossing, Utica and Waco merged in 1967 (Thayer merged with Waco earlier). The school district of Gresham and part of the Cordova district joined in 1986.

### **SIZE:**

Approximately 316 square miles located primarily in eastern York and western Seward counties. Some parcels of land from Butler and Polk counties are also in our district.

### **LOCATION:**

Pre-K - 12 District at Utica. All students under one roof!

### **FACILITIES:**

A 100,000 square foot school was built on a 40 acre site at Utica in 1977. A 3,840 square foot weight room/wrestling practice area was added in 1988. A 12,000 square foot elementary addition was added in 1992. A 7,650 square foot secondary addition (three classrooms and a girls' locker room) was added in 1997. Two auxiliary buildings are located in Utica and a bus barn in Beaver Crossing. A 22,000 square foot auditorium/administrative offices addition was added in 2009. We are in the process of adding a new competition gym, 3 science classrooms, new voc. ed. shops with adjoining classrooms, and renovating the commons area and old voc. ed. shop area.

### **ENROLLMENT:**

PK-12 student enrollment averages between 350-450 students yearly.

## **Section 3 School Mission Statement**

The people of this district are committed to educational excellence in a positive, creative and caring environment, preparing each student to be a responsible, productive citizen in our ever-changing global community.

## **Section 4 Members of the Board of Education**

### **Members of the Board of Education**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Larry Paxson	President
Wayne Heine	Vice-President
Mike Hahn	Secretary
Doug Tonniges	Treasurer
Mark Avery	Member
Jody Cast	Member

**Section 5 Administrative Staff**

Name	Position
Tim DeWaard	Superintendent
Colin Bargaen	Secondary Principal
Megan Hammer	Elementary Principal
John McClarnen	Special Education Director

**Section 6 Teachers and Counselors Staff**

Name	Department	Grades
Barth, Barb	Special Education	7-12
Ernst, Crystal	English/Reading	7-9
Ernst, Mark	Social Studies	9-12
Breitkruetz, Jessica	Art/Media	7-12
Davis, Dean	Math/AD	7-9
Eitzmann, Barry	Math	8-12
McClure, Leah	Business/Keyboarding	7-12
Sams, Brian	Science	9-12
Sladky, Ashlee	Family Consumer Science	7-12
Barjenbruch, Craig	Business/Math	7-12
Scholl, Cam	Special Education	7-12

Heser, Kelly	Physical Education/Art/Reading	7-12
Payne, Phil	Social Studies	7-9
Anderson, Arne	Vo. Ag.	9-12
Hottovy, Amy	English, Reading	7-12
Johansen, Rob	Industrial Technology	7-12
Rickert, Ben	Vocal Music	3-12
Miller, Kim	Science	9-12
Klanecky, Evan	Physical Education	7-12
Ortmeier, Mark	Physical Education/Science	K-12
Díaz, María José	Spanish	7-12
Rickert, Ashlee	English	9-12
Bargen, Jennifer	Math	7-12
Tesar, Dan	Technology	K-12
Purdham, Liz	Instrumental Music	K-12
Klanecky, Nikki	Life Skills, Special Education	
Fish, Bob	Counseling	K-12
Peltz, Brittni	Assessment/Reading Coach	K-12

## Section 7 Support Staff

Name	Position
Marge Rhodes	Bookkeeper

Virgil Heine	Custodian
Bill Mogee	Custodian
Marilyn Bargsten-Blake	Custodian
TBA	Custodian
TBA	Custodian
Lydia Popovich	Custodian
TBA	Food Service
Ron Erks	Food Service
Kathy Heine	Food Service
Wendy Dodson	Food Service
Christy Richters	Food Service
Vada Schleusner	Food Service
Dana Yamber	Media
Susan Arnold	Nurse
Karin Cradick	Paraeducator
TBA	Paraeducator
Sheri Hafer	Paraeducator
Tonia Vavra	Paraeducator
RaNay Kratochvil	Paraeducator
Gladys Luebbe	Paraeducator
Veronica Waegli	Paraeducator
Tammie Poole	Paraeducator
Mary Eikenhorst	Paraeducator

TBA	Paraeducator
Beth Johnson	Paraeducator
Pam Vandelloo	Study Hall Supervisor
Leah Bjerrum	Secretary
Susan Dickey	Secretary
PJ Jackson	Secretary
Velma Watson	Secretary
Mike Wright	Transportation Supervisor
Mary Eikenhorst	Transportation
Ron Erks	Transportation
TBA	Transportation
Brenda Geirhan	Transportation
Kathy Heine	Transportation
RaNay Kratochvil	Transportation
Bill Mogee	Transportation
TBA	Transportation
Cindy Redfield	Transportation
Roy Richters, Jr.	Transportation
TBA	Transportation
Kathy Calder	Athletic Trainer

# Article 1 - SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES

## Section 1 2014-2015 Centennial School Calendar

### CENTENNIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2014 - JULY 2015

Aug 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sep 2014						
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28	29	30				

Oct 2014						
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Nov 2014						
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30						

Dec 2014						
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Jan 2015						
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

#### August

- 18 TEACHER INSERVICE
- 19 TEACHER INSERVICE
- 20 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

#### September

- 1 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 19 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 24 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30

#### October

- 1 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30
- 10 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 17 END OF 1ST QTR - 42 DAYS
- 20 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 21 START 2ND QUARTER
- 24 NO SCHOOL

#### November

- 21 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 26 EARLY DISMISSAL - 1:30
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 28 NO SCHOOL

#### December

- 19 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 23 END 2ND QTR - 43 DAYS; 1ST SEMESTER 85 DAYS; EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30
- 25 CHRISTMAS

#### January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 5 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 6 START 3RD QUARTER
- 16 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE

#### February

- 11 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30
- 12 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30
- 13 NO SCHOOL
- 27 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE

#### March

- 11 END 3RD QTR - 46 DAYS
- 12 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
- 13 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
- 16 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 17 START 4TH QTR

#### April

- 3 GOOD FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL
- 5 EASTER
- 6 NO SCHOOL

#### May

- 16 GRADUATION
- 22 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - 47 DAYS; 2ND SEMESTER 93 DAYS; DISMISS AT NOON

Feb 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Mar 2015						
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30	31					

Jun 2015						
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28	29	30				

Jul 2015						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Daily Schedule

The Centennial Junior-Senior School student attendance day begins at 8:16 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Students are allowed to go to their classrooms beginning at 8:05 a.m.

### Section 2 Bronco Schedule

BRONCO "A"	BRONCO "B"
------------	------------

Period 1: 8:16 – 8:59	Periods 1-5: Regular Schedule
Period 2: 9:02 - 9:45	Period 6: 1:00 - 1:41
A Schedule: 9:45 - 10:05	Period 7: 1:44 - 2:25
Period 3: 10:08 - 10:51	B Schedule: 2:25 - 2:45
Period 4: 10:54 - 11:37	Period 8: 2:48 - 3:30
Periods 5-8: Regular Schedule	

### Section 3 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed. In addition, the phone messaging system will be activated.** In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Some staff may be designated as being required to come to school even in the event of a school closing.

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closed during the day staff will be notified and parents will be notified via media broadcast. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in

session will be marked absent. You should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Emergency Conditions. Centennial Public School has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** In the event of an emergency exit alert or tornado warning, you should implement the school's established safety procedures.

#### **Section 4 Contract Days**

Teachers are contracted for 185 days (hereinafter referred to as the "contract year"). Such contract days shall be serviced by individual teachers on varying schedules as established by the Board of Education and administration.

### **Article 2 - EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

#### **Section 1 Employment**

A teacher is employed by Centennial Public School when the teacher signs the Teacher's Contract and the Board of Education approves such contract of employment. The teacher's employment continues absent action by the administration or the Board of Education to non-renew, terminate, amend or cancel the teacher's employment contract with the school district, or action by the Board of Education to accept a resignation of employment.

On or after March 15 of each school year a teacher may be requested to accept employment for the next school year and shall be required to signify such acceptance on or before April 1 or such other date after March 15 as may be designated in the notice. It is important for teachers to respond to the request to signify acceptance as a failure to signify acceptance of employment by the April 1 or other designated date shall constitute cause for amendment or termination of the teacher's contract. If a teacher signifies acceptance of employment for the next school year the teacher may either be issued a new Teacher's Contract or a "Contract Renewal Agreement."

Should a teacher wish to resign from employment the teacher should give written notice of resignation to the Superintendent. The request to resign will be acted upon by the Board of Education. Mid-year resignations and resignations given late in the spring for the following school year can present significant planning problems for the District. If a mid-year resignation is submitted, or a resignation for the following school year is submitted after May 15 or after the teacher has signified acceptance of employment for the next school year, the Board of Education may act to not accept the resignation unless a suitable replacement can be found. The District will enforce the continuing contract of teachers accepting employment for the next school year

under the provisions of Neb Rev. Stat. '79-820.

## **Section 2      Assignments**

The professional duties to be performed by a teacher with the District shall be subject to assignment by the Superintendent of the District with the approval of the Board of Education. A teacher will be expected to devote full time during days of school to the teacher's position and to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the teacher's professional ability. Job descriptions, where available, provide additional information about the position duties.

In addition to the normal duties traditionally required of teachers, a teacher may be assigned such "extra duty" assignments to support the extra-curricular programs of the District, which shall be upon such terms and conditions and at such additional rate of compensation as the Teacher and the District may agree upon or as set forth in the negotiated agreement. The extra-curricular program of the school district is an integral part of the overall educational program of the school district. As such, a teacher shall not unreasonably refuse to accept such extra-duty assignments. In addition, performance in an extra duty assignment is a part of the evaluation of the teacher's overall performance to the District.

## **Section 3      Personnel File**

The District will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulation with regard to a teacher's personnel file, including but not limited to Neb. Rev. Stat. ' 79-8,109.

## **Section 4      Grievances and Complaints**

Teacher grievances regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment set forth in the negotiated agreement shall be governed by the grievance or complaint procedure in the negotiated agreement. All other employment related grievances or complaints shall be addressed through the administrative chain of command following the process set forth in board policy.

## **Section 5      Compensation**

Regular Salary and Extra-Duty Compensation. Compensation is paid only as authorized by the Board of Education. Teachers are paid a salary based on placement on the salary schedule set forth in the collectively bargained negotiated agreement between the District and the collective bargaining agent for the certificated teaching staff (referred to in this handbook as the "negotiated agreement"), and the extra-duty salary schedule also incorporated into the negotiated agreement.

Changes in Salary Schedule Placement. Changes in a teacher's placement on the salary schedule shall be governed by the provisions of the negotiated agreement. Teachers are expected to provide the Superintendent with a transcript for all graduate hours earned for purposes of advancement on the salary schedule on or before September 1 of the school year in which such hours are to be credited for the teacher's placement on the salary schedule. Failure to timely provide an official transcript from the post-graduate institution of the graduate hours earned will result in a loss of such credit for such school year.

Salary Payments. Salary is payable over twelve equal installments. Teachers will be paid on the 15th of the month, or the last preceding school day, if the 15th falls on a vacation or week-end day. In emergency cases exceptions may be made, subject to the approval of the Board. In no case shall the Board advance more than one month's salary. Upon separation of a teacher's employment, or upon fulfillment of the contract, the teacher may, at the option of the Board, be paid all salary due in one lump sum.

Additional compensation over and above regular compensation, extra-duty pay and supplemental pay shall be disbursed as it is earned and deductions from compensation due to unpaid leave shall be taken out as they are reported to the payroll office. Reimbursements for mileage or other expenses will be considered separate from compensation.

### **Section 6 Extended Duty Pay**

Extended duty for any teacher beyond the number of contract days established by the Board of Education for the school year shall be paid at a rate agreed upon between the Superintendent and the teacher and approved by the Board of Education.

### **Section 7 Benefits**

Teachers are provided benefits in accordance with the negotiated agreement, group health insurance plan requirements, and the school district's Section 125 Plan document. Teachers shall make annual fringe benefit elections by September 1 of each school year. Should a teacher fail to make such election, the teacher election from the immediately preceding school and contract year shall be continued. Each teacher is responsible for informing the Office of the Superintendent in writing of any changes in benefit status.

Continued health insurance benefits are available through COBRA subject to certain qualifying requirements. A Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights is attached to this handbook as Appendix "A." The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides rights and protections for participants and beneficiaries in group health plans. HIPAA includes protections for coverage under group health plans that limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status; and allow a special opportunity to enroll in a new plan to individuals in certain circumstances. HIPAA may also give you a right to purchase individual coverage if you have no group health plan coverage available, and have exhausted COBRA or other continuation coverage. Further information may be obtained from the Plan Administrator of the group health plan.

### **Section 8 Payroll and Payroll Deductions**

Salary and benefits are paid in accordance with the individual employment contracts and negotiated agreement. Payroll deductions shall be made in accordance with law and the negotiated agreement.

### **Section 9 Expense Reimbursement**

Reimbursement for authorized mileage will be paid to teachers required to drive their own vehicles during their regular scheduled working hours between two or more work sites. Claims

for reimbursement should be submitted to the appropriate supervisor. The allowable rate shall be governed by Board policy, unless otherwise required by law. The District is not liable for physical damage to employee vehicles.

Materials necessary for instruction are provided by the District. If teachers need additional materials for instruction or school-related purposes, the request should be made to the Principal.

Reimbursement for purchase of materials or for meals or other expenses related to travel must be submitted to and approved by either the Principal or, if the expense relates to an activity, by the Athletic Director. The request for reimbursement should include a voucher sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and that the expense was reasonable and related to a school-purpose.

### **Section 10 403(b) Salary Reduction Agreements**

The District will cooperate with any teacher who chooses to participate in an investment program under a Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) provided that the certificated employee executes a "Salary Reduction Agreement" provided by the District and the vendor of the 403(b) Plan elected by the teacher has entered in to a "Service Provider Agreement" with the District holding the District harmless from any liability that may arise out of such 403(b) Plan, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the maximum exclusion allowance, tax reporting, notices and income withholding.

### **Section 11 Overtime**

Teaching professionals are classified as exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The overtime exemption for teaching professionals is not dependent on whether the employee is paid on a "salary basis." Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime or compensatory time. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about the FLSA is attached as Appendix "A" to this handbook.

Any non-exempt employees must receive prior approval from their supervisor to work additional hours beyond their regular work schedule. Non-exempt employees must be paid for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. The regular workweek is from 12:00 a.m. on Monday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. The administration may establish a different 7-day period workweek from time to time for specified employees or employee groups.

Overtime pay for non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of not less than 12 times the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of the 40 hour workweek. Employees with two or more non-exempt positions may be eligible for overtime pay based upon the total number of hours worked in one workweek. If applicable, the employee and the Superintendent will agree upon the overtime rate, in compliance with FLSA regulations. A non-exempt employee may request compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, with approval of the employer, with the rate figured as 12 times the number of hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any work week. Compensatory time may be accumulated up to 40 hours upon approval by their supervisor. Any accumulation of compensatory time over 40 hours must be approved by the Superintendent. The FLSA limits the accumulation of compensatory time to 240 hours.

The District's policy is to not permit improper deductions from the salary of exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. (Teaching professionals are not subject to the "salaried basis" test). An employee who feels an improper deduction affecting exemption status has occurred may submit a complaint to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, who shall promptly investigate the complaint. Reimbursement shall be made and a good faith commitment to comply in the future will be given in the event it is determined that an improper deduction affecting overtime exemption has been made.

The District's policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance.

Deductions of pay of a partial day or of a full day or more may be made for FMLA leaves and in the first and last weeks of employment. In addition, based on principles of public accountancy, deductions from pay of a partial day or of a full day or more will be made for absences for illness, injury or personal reasons when accrued leave is not used or not available, and for absences due to any budget-required furlough.

### **Article 3 - ABSENCES FROM WORK**

#### **Section 1 Paid Leave - Sick and Personal Leaves**

Teachers are provided with paid sick and personal leaves (professional leaves, bereavement leaves, etc.) in accordance with the negotiated agreement. During such paid leaves, teachers shall continue to receive all salary and fringe benefits called for by the negotiated agreement.

The leaves provided by the District are to be used for the purpose intended. Abuse of leave privileges affects the students, other staff, and the entire District and will not be tolerated.

#### Requests for Leave

Advance reporting of the need to take a leave and having effective lesson plans and materials prepared and readily available for the substitute are important.

A teacher who becomes ill and is unable to work is to contact Colin Borgen, the Principal, before 6:30 a.m. Before the end of the school day on the first day of the sick leave, and on each subsequent day of absence, a report should be made to Colin Borgen, the Principal, as to whether the teacher will be able to return to duty on the next duty day. For illnesses or medical situations where the need for the leave can be determined in advance, the teacher is to make such advance report of need for leave as soon as possible.

For personal and other leaves, a Request for Leave form is to be submitted to Colin Borgen, the Principal, at least a week prior to the leave, or such other advance notice as is practicable under the circumstances.

### Return from Leave

Upon return from leave, teachers are to review information supplied by the substitute teacher as to progress made in the class and any student behavior concerns. The substitute should be contacted directly if the written information supplied is not adequate.

A teacher who is absent for any period of time because of injury requiring care from a physician or health care provider, or for a period of one week or more due to illness, must present a written statement to the Principal from the teacher's physician or health care provider stating that the teacher is physically able to return to duty. This statement is to be presented in person before the teacher returns to duty in order that the present stage of convalescence can be observed and discussed.

### **Section 2 Payroll Deductions for Absences in Excess of Paid Leave**

Should a teacher be absent from work in excess of the teacher's accumulated sick leave or other paid leaves called for in the negotiated agreement, the teacher's salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) shall be reduced by the day or days or work missed on a per diem basis calculated using the number of days missed as the numerator, and the number of total contract days for the school years as the denominator; e.g. one day missed =  $1/185^{\text{th}}$  of total salary and fringe benefits.

### **Section 3 Leaves of Absence**

A teacher may apply to the Board of Education for a leave of absence from the teacher's duties. The Board of Education will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. No leave of absence shall extend beyond one school year. All leaves of absence shall be without pay except for the payment of health insurance benefits as may be required under applicable state or federal laws.

### **Section 4 Jury Duty**

A teacher who is summoned for jury service shall promptly notify the Principal of such summons. The teacher's salary will continue during time spent in jury service, and no deduction of leave time shall occur, except that the District may reduce the pay by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty. Teachers are to notify the Principal of the amount received for such jury duty.

If a teacher, upon reporting for jury duty in the morning, is dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the teacher is to report for duty and resume duties for the balance of the day. When a teacher is entirely dismissed from jury duty, the teacher is directed to report for duty and the substitute will be dismissed.

Teachers are expected to promptly notify the Principal of any other form of legal summons which may require an absence from duty. In the event the summons involves a school-related matter, the matter shall be treated similar to a jury duty absence. In the event the summons involves a personal matter, the teacher will be required to use available leave days.

## **Section 5 Military Leave**

Teachers who are members of the National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Coast Guard Reserve (hereinafter, “reserves”), are entitled to a military leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, when employed with or without pay under the orders or authorization of competent authority in the active service of the state or of the United States. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work 120 hours or more in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence of 120 hours each calendar year. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work less than 120 hours in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence each calendar year equal to the number of hours they normally work or would normally be scheduled to work, whichever is greater, in three consecutive weeks. Such military leave of absence may be taken in hourly increments and shall be in addition to the teacher’s regular annual leave. When the governor of this state shall declare that a state of emergency exists, and any teacher who is a member of the reserves is ordered to active service of the state, the teacher shall be granted a state of emergency leave of absence until released from active service by competent authority. The leave of absence shall not be a military leave of absence; other forms of leave may be granted. The teacher shall receive normal salary or compensation minus the state active duty base pay the teacher receives in active service of the state.

## **Section 6 Family and Medical Leave Act**

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides for 12 weeks of job-protected unpaid leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees in specified circumstances. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about FMLA leaves is attached as Appendix “C” to this handbook. Some specifics regarding FMLA leave at Centennial Public School:

1. The plan year for FMLA is a rolling year. A rolling year is a 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee last used any FMLA leave.
2. Employees will be required to substitute remaining applicable paid leave prior to using unpaid leave. In other words, the total of job-protected paid and unpaid leave is 12 weeks.

If you need to take an FMLA leave, or have any questions regarding an FMLA leave, you should contact the Superintendent.

## **Article 4 - DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Section 1 Hours of Work & Meetings**

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher’s employment position.

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the performance of duties and the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are

entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system.

Certificated employees are to spend seven hours and 45 minutes on site, including lunch break (30-minute lunch), except that duty-free lunch time can be spent off-site. The Principal will determine the length of time prior to and after the student class schedule for staff to be on-site in order to meet the required seven hours and 45 minutes. Staff may leave the building earlier when called to a professional meeting.

Certificated employees are required to serve on playground, lunchroom, bus and hall supervision as designated by the Principal. The Principal will attempt to make an equitable distribution of such assignments and professional staff shall assume such duties as part of their work and agreement of employment.

Teachers shall attend meetings called by the Superintendent of Schools, principals, department heads and team leaders, except those meetings which are designated for optional attendance.

## **Section 2      Arrival to Duty Assignments**

Full-time teachers have a designated on-site work day as 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Secondary school teachers are to be in the building by no later than 8:00 a.m., to be in their classroom no later than 8:05 a.m., and to remain on duty until 3:45 p.m. Certificated employees other than teachers are expected to meet the same guidelines for entry to the building, being in their assigned duty area, and duty departure time. Teachers and other certificated employees who are part-time or work on adjusted schedules are to be in the building at least 10 minutes before their class or assigned duty begins, and to be in their classroom or assigned duty area at least 10 minutes before their class or assignment begins. During the school day, teachers are to be in their assigned area (Example: Hall supervision) before each period begins to assure that students are not unsupervised within the classroom.

## **Section 3      Leaving School**

Teachers are to be on duty at all times during the school day. Teachers are considered on duty even during designated planning periods. An uninterrupted lunch period of not less than 30-minutes each day is provided to teachers during which they are not assigned teaching, supervisory, or other duties. Teachers who leave the school during the designated lunch period must check out with the Principal's office.

Teachers may not leave school during duty hours without approval of the Principal. If the absence has been approved, the teacher must check out with the Principal's office when leaving, and check back in with the Principal's office upon return. Teachers who need to leave during the school day for reason of illness or emergency are to check out with the Principal's office and make sure that a responsible person has been notified of their unexpected absence so student coverage may be provided.

#### **Section 4 Lesson Plans**

Teachers will prepare written lesson plans which cover at least five days of advance instruction. The plans must be in the plan book. Please keep the plan book, including lesson plans, class rosters, etc. in a place in which the plan book will be readily available in the teacher's absence.

The lesson plans must be sufficiently clear in establishing objectives and related activities so that they are easily used by a substitute teacher or other staff member not familiar with previous classroom activities or progress. The plan book must give specific reference to other instructional sources immediately available which will enhance the instructional lesson.

#### **Section 5 Daily Class Record Books**

Every teacher is required to keep a complete and easily understandable record of the attendance and achievement of every student in a class. This class record must be kept current.

\*A complete report of all recorded grades for each student. There is no minimum requirement for the frequency of recorded grades (or for the giving of written lessons or examinations). Be sure that you test frequently enough and that you record grades frequently enough to readily and realistically justify the term and final grades which are reported to parents.

Upon request a student's individual record in the teacher's class record shall be made available for review or copying. Information relating to other students should not be allowed to be seen by other students or parents.

Because the entries in the class record constitute a source of original entry for information which may be needed in the absence of the teacher, teachers are required to post the teachers' class record to the PowerSchool Administrative System at the close of the school year for filing in the permanent records. Teachers who return to Centennial and who wish to refer to the previous year's class record may request access to that information.

#### **Section 6 Classroom and School Procedures**

Teachers are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedure in the performance of their duties:

1. Bulletin Boards

Each teacher shall be responsible for completing appropriate bulletin boards regarding curriculum related matters in their primary classroom. Bulletin boards are to be completely changed no less than twice during each school year.

2. Text Book and Room Inventory

All school purchased materials must be inventoried. Textbooks are to be numbered. Teachers should keep good records of who has which book. **At the start of the year, note condition of the textbook on the inventory sheet and keep this sheet.** When a book is turned in, again, note its condition and if the book shows abuse (other than normal wear) assess a fine based on the table found in the student handbook. Encourage

students to put covers on their books by the end of the first week after receiving them.

3. Use of Cell Phones

Teachers shall not use personal cell phones for any non-school purpose during teacher duty time unless approved by the Principal.

4. Use of Teacher Aides

Teacher aides provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A teacher aide must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Teacher aides may be used to assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculating grades and recording grades. Teacher aides are to work only on their assigned work days and within their assigned work day. If the teacher desires the aide to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, contact the administration for approval.

5. Use of Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the teacher by helping supervise another student or record grades. School keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

6. Checking Out of Equipment

All equipment must be checked out through the building principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes. No school equipment may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

7. Requisition of Equipment and Supplies

Books and supplies which are needed for instruction should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the District may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

8. E-mail

Each teacher will be assigned a school e-mail address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school e-mail correspondence. Teachers should check for e-mail throughout the day, and should timely respond to e-mails which require a response, but should avoid checking and responding to e-mails during instructional time. Use of the District's e-mail system for personal communications should be limited, and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in Board policy and this handbook.

#### 9. Teacher Mail Box

Each teacher will be assigned a mailbox located in the Teacher's Lounge. Teachers should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer, teachers are responsible for responding promptly. Teacher mail boxes are to be limited to communication regarding school business.

#### 10. Teachers Meetings

Teachers' meetings will be held as needed. ALL teachers are expected to be present for the meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

#### 11. Room Housekeeping

- A neat, clean, orderly and properly ventilated room helps in motivating students to learn. It sets an example for them to follow, and increases their pride in the school.
- It shall be the duty of each teacher to keep his/her desk, bookshelves and counter top orderly and clean. Chalkboards should be erased before leaving the room. **DO NOT WASH CHALKBOARDS or WHITEBOARDS**
- The custodian will maintain the floors with special emphasis placed on "hard to get places" such as under table. If light bulbs burn out, switches become defective or windows need cleaning, the teacher should notify the custodian or principal.
- Supplies such as dust cloths, etc. may be obtained from the custodian as they are needed.
- Any requests for special services of the custodian are to be made through the principal or maintenance supervisor.
- Please ask eighth period students to pick up chairs and place them on top of desks and tables. The custodians will appreciate your assistance.**

#### 12. Study Hall

Since some students are in more than one study hall, it helps discipline for all study hall teachers to follow the same general procedures.

- Keep a seating chart.
- Maintain a quiet study atmosphere.
- Allow students on the floor only after permission has been obtained. Teachers will want to limit the number on the floor depending on the size of the study hall.
- Students must bring reading books or study material to study hall.
- Permission to talk must be obtained from the teacher. Permission will be granted to one student at a time.
- There is no reason why students should not be allowed to use the water fountain or rest room during the period, provided they ask permission and sign out. Limit the number to one.
- Students must have a pre-signed pass from another teacher if they wish to leave your study hall for reasons other than those above.
- The use of the library during study hall time rather than during class time should

- be encouraged. However, a pass must be used, granted by the study hall teacher.
- A reason for all library passes must be written on the pass. Students will be required to return to their study hall immediately after obtaining materials or completing stated reason for their library pass.
- Media Center passes will be limited to six students at one time. As students return, other students may go to the Media Center. Media Center passes will be limited to 15 minutes per students. (Special arrangements may be made.)
- Obviously, each day and each period, the study hall will present different problems. You will find that moving around is a big help. Check what the students are doing. It is always easier to relax discipline if needed than to tighten it up. A few simple rules enforced by you, the teacher will facilitate a more productive study hall.
- Sleeping will not be permitted.

### 13. Coaching and Activity Sponsor Responsibilities

Sponsor responsibilities on bus trips:

- A signed permission slip from a parent/guardian must be obtained before any student may be taken on a school sponsored trip.
- An emergency medical release form must accompany all permission slips.
- Submit transportation requests as soon as possible to facilitate proper trip preparations.
- Report to bus driver of any deviation from the requested trip, such as rest room stops, lunch stops, side trips, departure and return times, and any other change from original bus request information. Do not surprise the driver with a last minute change.
- Keep each student seated in his/her seat.
- Control the noise level.
- Make certain the trash, papers, cans, etc. are picked up and removed from the bus or placed in a waste basket.
- Take roll after you board the bus to leave and before you return home.
- Coaches and sponsors must notify parents guardians if a student fails to board the bus for any activity or field trip. If a secretary is on duty, the sponsor may ask her to notify parents. If a secretary is not on duty, the bus cellular phone may be used to contact parents.
- On all activity trips the students must travel to and from the activity in transportation provided by the school.

Only exceptions are:

1. Injury to participant which would require alternate transportation.
  2. Prior arrangement between the coach/sponsor and participant's parent/guardian.
  3. Students will not be permitted to ride home from a school activity with any minor (under age 21).
- Any special requests must be approved by the principal before the student(s) leave on school sponsored trips.

14. Food and Drink Consumption Areas

The following is the list of areas in which it is appropriate to consume food or drink:

- Lunch Room
- FCS Room
- Gym
- Vo-Ag Room
- Art Room
- Teacher's Workplace
- Commons/Concessions Area

Special permission may be obtained from the principal if you are wishing to allow students to consume food and/or drink in your classroom. This should be limited to special occasions only and not be a frequent occurrence.

15. Church Night

Any requests for Wednesday/Sunday activities must be approved by the appropriate principal and superintendent. If approval by both administrators, the Board of Education is to be informed no later than the next regular meeting.

16. Money Raising Activities

Money raising activities must have the approval of the principal and the superintendent. School projects to raise money except for the sale of tickets to school activities will be discouraged and kept to a minimum.

**Employee Use of Electronic Communication Devices**

While employees are allowed to possess and carry electronic communications devices on school property, such possession and use are subject to the following rules:

District-Issued Communications Devices

Communication devices issued by the District may include, for example, cellular telephones, walkie-talkies, personal digital assistants (PDA's) or laptop computers with "beaming capabilities," citizen band radios, either installed in vehicles or hand-held, and pagers/beepers.

Employees in receipt of District-issued equipment shall be held responsible for the safekeeping of the equipment and exercise reasonable efforts to see that the equipment is not lost, stolen, or damaged. Reckless or irresponsible use of District equipment, resulting in loss or damage may result in the employee having to reimburse the District for any associated costs of replacement or repair.

Any such devices issued shall be with the expectation that they are to be used, almost exclusively, for District-related business purposes and are not intended for personal use except in emergencies involving employee health or safety.

District-issued equipment shall be used in a manner that does not disrupt instruction and should not be used during school-sponsored programs, meetings, in-services, or other events where there exists a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness unless there is a reason of personal health or safety involved.

Any District-issued equipment is to be surrendered back to the District immediately upon request.

#### Personally Owned Electronic Communications Devices

Employees may possess and carry cellular telephones, pagers/beepers, and PDA's or laptops with "beaming capabilities" during the school day on school property.

Personally owned hand-held citizens band radios, portable police scanners, and long or short-range walkie-talkies should not be used or carried by employees on school property during the school day unless by specific permission of their immediate supervisor based on a personal health or safety need.

Cellular telephones and pagers/beepers should not be used during the employee's normal duty times to send or receive messages of a personal nature, but such use is allowable during normal break times, lunch times, and preparation times. Use of cellular telephones or audible pagers/beepers should be curtailed during instructional time or at school-sponsored programs, meetings, in-services, parent/guardian conferences, or any other time when there would be a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness.

Any employee violating the above rules may be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Section 7      Supervision of Students**

Proper supervision of students is an important responsibility for teachers and other adults responsible for our students. Teachers and other adults responsible for student supervision are expected to meet the four "P's" for student supervision and safety.

#### 1.      Proper Supervision

- Report to all duty assignments on time.
- Circulate through your duty area. Pay particular attention to areas and activities that pose an increased risk of injury.
- Be vigilant while supervising students. Never leave your classroom unattended; the need to make a copy is not greater than the need to supervise your students. If an emergency requires that you leave your classroom, request that another nearby staff member cover your class, or notify the office so someone can provide assistance. If you are on noon duty, your responsibility is to supervise the students in your assigned area. When talking with other adults or students, remember that your primary duty is supervision and make sure you are aware of what all students who you are to be supervising are doing.
- If you have seen or have been informed that a particular student has a propensity to act dangerously or in an unpredictable manner, your supervision of that student must increase with the known risk of injury. (Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential: do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).

- Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited at Centennial Public School. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g., falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationships.
- Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language should not be used by you. Be a good role model for students. If a student uses such language, you should correct the student and take such disciplinary action as is appropriate, which may include making a report to administration.

2. Proper Instructions

- Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.
- Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.
- When you go over safety rules with students note it in your written records (e.g., your lesson plan book or daily reports).
- Review classroom safety rules with students at least once each semester and note when you do it in your written records. Also, if any students are absent when you review the rules contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in your written records.

3. Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment

- Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of supervision.
- If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service (if it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign) and notify the office so those repairs may be undertaken.
- Check the intercom periodically to make sure you can communicate with the office immediately in the event of an emergency.

4. Proper Warnings

- If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students. Tell the office so additional warnings may be given.

Contact the Office for Assistance

The office administration should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- Student fight
- Student health problem (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc.); if the office can not be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern
- A report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous

- item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- Presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)

### Student Searches

Office administration should also be contacted before performing searches of students or their belongings. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until another adult is present, or to follow you to the office if you can leave your assigned area without causing risk of harm to others. Do not use physical force to detain the student or to make the student accompany you except as reasonably necessary to protect the student or others.

### Student Rights

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

## **Section 8 Managing Student Conduct**

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations on a consistent basis, and being familiar with the student handbook. All staff members are responsible for all students in the hallways, in the rest rooms, at assemblies, at pep rallies, and during lunch. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include a parent conference or a referral to an administrator.

The following guidelines will assist in maintaining appropriate student conduct and complying with the process required for student discipline.

1. On the first day of class make students aware of classroom expectations. Students will accept them if they know in advance and if they are fair and consistent. Students often appreciate giving input on classroom rules. These expectations should be in writing. Give one copy to the students, post one copy in the room and provide one copy for the principal.
2. It is important to document student behavior in your classroom, calls to parents, referrals, and/or communications with a student.
3. If, after attempts to improve student behavior, the problems continue, talk to the student's counselor or the Principal about possible alternatives in discipline procedures. Be attentive and respond to "bullying."
4. If a student continues to cause problems, inform the administration for disciplinary action using the approved reporting forms. Be sure to state the problem clearly and expectations in terms of assistance, as at times the student's

- and teacher's stories are different. Be prepared to provide documentation.
5. Follow up on any referral. The student may not go to the principal or the counselor when sent. The administrator will inform the teacher of the consequences.
  6. Refer students with continued and significant behavioral problems to the student assistance team for a determination of whether the student is in need of special services. Contact the counselor if you have questions as to the procedure.
  7. Talk with other teachers about the classroom management techniques they use to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning in their classroom. A large repertoire of classroom management techniques always enhances learning.
  8. Read and understand the student handbook and the student conduct rules of the District.
  9. Use good judgment when dealing with difficult situations involving students. Physical confrontation generally escalates tense situations. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district and is not to be used. Physical force may only be used to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the student, yourself and others, and to protect property as may be reasonable.
  10. Violations of student rules, which are also violations of state law, are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the Principal so this law may be followed.

### **Section 9     Dispensing Medication**

Teachers are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. '71-6718 to 71-6743. Students who need to take prescription medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office. Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom except in accordance with the District's Safety and Security Management Plan and the District's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol).

If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication.

### **Section 10    Reporting Child Abuse**

Nebraska State Law and school policy mandates school officials to make a report to the proper law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a situation, which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska State Law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or

permitting a minor child to be:

- (a) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- (b) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- (c) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
- (d) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- (e) Sexually abused; or
- (f) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Teachers are to inform their principal or supervisor that they intend to make a report. Administrative staff may sometimes choose to make the report for a teacher. However, informing a principal or supervisor does not end the teacher's responsibility; teachers are obligated to make certain a report was made if they do not do it themselves.

It is vital that the report be made as accurately and as soon as possible. To assure accuracy, you are encouraged to document the date of the incident and specific statements or explanations made by a child regarding an abuse/neglect concern. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk to the child by allowing the police or Child Protective Services workers to interview the child during the school day and prior to an evening or weekend. In cases of physical injury (e.g., bruising or other marks), it is essential the police observe and document the injury. A counselor, the school social worker or an administrator will help you.

## **Article 5 - PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

### **Section 1 Professional Ethics Standards**

The Centennial Public School expects its certificated employees to adhere to the professional ethics standards established by the Nebraska Department of Education as such standards may be modified from time to time. The professional ethics standards, which certificated employees are expected to adhere to, include those set forth below. References to "educator" shall include all certificated employees of the District.

#### Preamble

The educator shall believe in the worth and dignity of human beings. Recognizing the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, the devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic citizenship, the educator shall regard as essential to these goals the protection of the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator shall accept the responsibility to practice the profession to these ethical standards.

The educator shall recognize the magnitude of the responsibility he or she has accepted in choosing a career in education, and engages, individually and collectively with other educators to judge his or her colleagues, and to be judged by them, in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics.

The standards listed in this section are held to be generally accepted minimal standards for public school certificate holders in the State of Nebraska and for all educators, including administrators, with respect to ethical and professional conduct.

Principle I - Commitment as a Professional Educator:

Fundamental to the pursuit of high educational standards is the maintenance of a profession possessed of individuals with high skills, intellect, integrity, wisdom, and compassion. The educator shall exhibit good moral character, maintain high standards of performance and promote equality of opportunity.

In fulfillment of the educator's contractual and professional responsibilities, the educator:

- A. Shall not interfere with the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members.
- B. Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, ethnic background, or handicapping condition.
- C. Shall not use coercive means, or promise or provide special treatment to students, colleagues, school patrons, or school board members in order to influence professional decisions.
- D. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible.
- E. Shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage.
- F. Shall not sexually harass students, parents or school patrons, employees, or board members.
- G. Shall not have had revoked for cause in another state a teaching certificate, administrative certificate, or any certificate enabling a person to engage in any of the activities for which a special services counseling certificate is issued in Nebraska.
- H. Shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.
- I. Shall report to the Superintendent any known violation of paragraphs G, E, or B above.
- J. Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported a violation of this rule.

Principle II - Commitment to the Student:

Mindful that a profession exists for the purpose of serving the best interests of the client, the educator shall practice the profession with genuine interest, concern, and consideration for the student. The educator shall work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

- A. Shall permit the student to pursue reasonable independent scholastic effort, and shall permit the student access to varying points of view.

- B. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter for which the educator is responsible.
- C. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions, which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety.
- D. Shall conduct professional educational activities in accordance with sound educational practices that are in the best interest of the student.
- E. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes, or is required by law.
- F. Shall not tutor for remuneration students assigned to his or her classes unless approved by the Board of Education.
- G. Shall not discipline students using corporal punishment.

Principle III - Commitment to the Public:

The magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the education process requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The educator bears particular responsibility for instilling an understanding of the confidence in the rule of law, respect for individual freedom, and a responsibility to promote respect by the public for the integrity of the profession.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the public, the educator:

- A. Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the educator is affiliated, and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal and institutional views.
- B. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities.
- C. Shall neither offer nor accept gifts or favors that will impair professional judgment.
- D. Shall support the principle of due process and protect the political, citizenship, and natural rights of all individuals.
- E. Shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, nor commit any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory.
- F. Shall, with reasonable diligence, attend to the duties of his or her professional position.

Principle IV - Commitment to the Profession:

In belief that the quality of the services to the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education. The educator shall believe that sound professional relationships with colleagues are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator:

- A. Shall provide upon the request of an aggrieved party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
- B. Shall not misrepresent his or her professional qualifications nor those of colleagues.
- C. Shall practice the profession only with proper certification, and shall actively oppose the practice of the profession by persons known to be unqualified.

Principle V - Commitment to Professional Employment Practices:

The educator shall regard the employment agreement as a pledge to be executed both in spirit and in fact. The educator shall believe that sound personnel relationships with governing boards are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to professional employment practices, the educator:

- A. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- B. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or employer, or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- C. Shall give prompt notice to the employer of any change in availability of service.
- D. Shall conduct professional business through designated procedures, when available, that have been approved by the employing agency.
- E. Shall not assign to unqualified personnel, tasks for which an educator is responsible.
- F. Shall permit no commercial or personal exploitation of his or her professional position.
- G. Shall use time on duty and leave time for the purpose for which intended.

**Section 2 Evaluations**

Evaluations of teachers will be conducted in accordance with the District's evaluation policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise or evaluate teachers more frequently than required by policy on an as-needed basis. Teachers are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration.

**Section 3 Role Model**

Teachers serve as role models for students and their actions and conduct reflect on the school as a whole. Teachers are in all respects to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

**Section 4 Relationships**

It is important for teachers to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration and all co-workers, including other teachers and support staff. Teachers are also to maintain appropriate relationships with students. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and Board policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding into personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping or spreading rumors about others.

## CONCERNS:

Concerns need to be addressed early on before they become major problems. If you have a concern about something you have heard, something someone has told you, something you have seen, or any other circumstances, it is your OBLIGATION to take your concern in a reasonable, non-accusatory, rational and professional manner to the closest person involved.

If you are disturbed about something to the point of needing to tell it to someone else, first visit with the person involved to be sure you have the whole, complete and clear story. Do not spend your time “discussing” something you have heard from a third party, until you have checked out the validity of the statements from the person who made them initially. Don’t lose sleep over something that may not be true to begin with! CLEAR, OPEN AND TIMELY COMMUNICATIONS IS THE KEY TO AVOIDING HURT FEELINGS AND THE SPREADING OF UNNECESSARY RUMORS.

### **Section 5 Professional Attire**

It is important for teachers to project a professional image to students, parents and co-workers. Appropriate attire and grooming is one of the means of projecting a professional image. Teachers are expected to maintain conservative and professional attire and grooming when on duty. As professionals, teachers are expected to be aware of the standard to be maintained. As a minimal guide, teachers should not wear clothing which students would not be permitted to wear at school. The administration may establish more detailed guidelines for individual teachers should that be necessary.

### **Section 6 Private Tutoring**

Teachers are encouraged to provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Teachers who engage in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) are subject to the following rules:

1. The teacher may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the teacher’s class.
2. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
3. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
4. The teacher is not to advertise or promote the teacher’s private tutoring services in the school or in the school’s communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

### **Section 7 Outside Employment**

Teachers shall not perform duties unrelated to District employment during duty hours. In addition, teachers shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties. Teachers are not required to notify the District of outside employment except: (1) teachers who are also employed by another Nebraska school district in order to comply with Nebraska State Retirement System regulations and (2) teachers who have a work-related injury in order to comply with workers’ compensation requirements.

## **Article 6 - ACADEMIC MATTERS**

### **Section 1 Purpose and Goals of Academic Achievement**

The Centennial Public School Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for all Centennial Public School students consistent with the school's mission statement. Effective, quality instruction by teachers is an essential means of meeting the District's mission of providing a quality education.

### **Section 2 Teaching to Student Understanding to Assure Learning**

Each teacher is responsible for teaching in a manner to meet the mission of the District and to assure student understanding and learning of the principles and concepts to be presented to students within the curriculum adopted by the District. Teachers will model classroom instruction on the educational model implemented by the District and reflected in the teacher evaluation instrument adopted by the Board of Education. Teachers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the instructional model and the principles of instruction set forth in the evaluation instrument. The administration shall provide periodic in-services regarding the instructional model.

State and federal laws and regulations have been enacted which require that students with certain needs be provided instruction and services consistent with those special needs. Examples include students who have been verified as in need of special education ("special education students"), students with other disabilities, which impact the educational program ("504 students"), and limited English proficient students ("LEP or ELL students"). The District's policy is to comply with the state and federal laws and regulations in all respects. Teachers who are assigned special education, 504, or LEP/ELL students are required to provide instruction and services consistent with legal requirements and the requirements of Board policy and regulation.

### **Section 3 Instruction in the Curriculum**

Teachers shall instruct students in the curriculum, including the use of curriculum materials, adopted and implemented by the Board of Education and as directed by the administration.

### **Section 4 Measuring and Reporting Academic Achievement**

Grades and Grading. Measuring and accurately reporting the level of each student's academic achievement is of critical importance to students, parents, staff, the board of education and community. To this end, each teacher shall develop a variety of assessment instruments and techniques to measure student achievement in the curriculum adopted and implemented by the school district, record the results of such assessment, and report such results on Report Cards. Teachers should endeavor to measure student learning and understanding on a frequent basis during each quarter to provide an accurate evaluation of each student's academic achievement for that period. It is recommended that the teacher record at least three grades per week. It is generally preferable to give numerical grades for tests, quizzes, and daily work. **GRADES MUST BE RECORDED FOR ALL CURRICULAR AREAS.**

Recording Grades. Each teacher shall record grades in the Power School Administrative Record System. A sufficient number of grades must be recorded in the grade book to justify all quarter

and semester grades for each student. Please keep consistent and complete records. Teachers must be able to support and justify the grades that each individual student earns.

Grade Scales. Teachers are to use only the grading scales set forth below. Any deviation from the approved grade scales must be approved by the building principal.

STUDENT EVALUATION SCALE:

The grade scales to be used for reporting student progress in grades 7-12 are as follows:

Grading System

Centennial will use the letter grading system as follows:

A	93 - 100	Excellent
B	86 - 92	Above Average
C	78 - 85	Average
D	70 - 77	Below Average
F	Below 70	Failure
INC		Incomplete, failure unless removed

Each teacher should define for students the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

The preceding grade scales are expected to be used according to the following guidelines:

1. No other grade scales are to be used on official records or reports.
2. "Failing," "unsatisfactory" or equivalent terms indicate that student performance does not meet the minimum requirements established for the course. A final mark of "failing" or "unsatisfactory" in a credit-bearing course means that credit hours will not be granted.
3. The mark given at the end of each reporting period is considered an evaluation of the pupil's status at the time (for example, the final mark in a semester course is an evaluation of the pupil's status as of the close of the semester; not an average of two nine-week marks).
4. Teachers may exercise professional judgment in distributing marks. Marks are not expected to be distributed on a normal curve.

Reconsideration of Grades/Marks

Questions raised concerning duly assigned grades will be resolved cooperatively in a conference, which includes the teacher(s) involved and the Principal. In the event, a grade is questioned by parents or students, the parents/guardians and/or student may be included in the conference.

Failure to resolve the issue will result in a second conference involving the Superintendent or designee and the participants in the initial conference described above. The grades, designated by teachers, will not be changed unilaterally by the Superintendent unless the Superintendent determines that the grade is not consistent with the requirements of law, Board policy, or the best interests of the District.

### Transfer Grades

A student transferring into Centennial Public School at the fifteen-to eighteen-week time period will have all grades on transcript from an accredited school accepted for semester credit. Grades must be approved for credit by the Principal.

### Reports to Parents

Grades and credit are assigned on a quarter (9 weeks) or semester basis (18 weeks). Reports are sent to parents at the close of each nine weeks during the school year; the reporting periods are referred to as first quarter, first semester, third quarter, and second semester.

The grade reports are produced from information supplied by teachers and distributed to students at school or are mailed to parents.

All term or mid-quarter grades are calculated on a cumulative basis; i.e., the grade given at the end of the first quarter represents an evaluation of work done during that quarter, and the grade given at the close of the semester represents an evaluation of all the work done during the entire eighteen weeks.

The end-of-quarter and end-of-semester reports are directed to parents, not to students. Students probably know quite well how they stand in such areas as citizenship, attitude, cooperation, attendance, preparation of assignments, etc. The parents do not have this knowledge. If any such factors have significant bearing on the student's grades or their relationship with teachers, notes should be sent to parents. Arrangements will be made to place these teacher-written notes with the grade report forms. The notes may call attention to deficiencies, faults, or failures; or they may be commendatory in nature. If carefully prepared, they can be most valuable. Parents need to have information about areas of strengths and areas needing improvement and progress being made by their child. For their instruction, and for our ultimate well-being, if and when problems arise, it is essential that the reports be as informative as possible. Teachers should, in all cases, plan to keep on file duplicate copies of the notes, which are sent to parents.

Please accept, cooperatively and professionally, the responses that parents may make subsequent to the distribution of term or mid-quarter reports. Parents are not always helpful or reasonable under these circumstances but they do need information and direction. Please encourage parents to discuss their student-centered problems with you and give them all possible assistance.

### 1/3 & 2/3 Quarter Progress Reports To Parents

One-Third and Two-Third quarter progress reports are prepared by the teacher at or near the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> week and 6<sup>th</sup> week of each quarter. These reports are to be turned into the office and will be mailed to parents.

### **Section 5 Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher conferences are a critical opportunity for teachers to dialogue with parents (or guardians) of students regarding student achievement and learning. To this end, Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled and held during the school year. Teacher attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences is mandatory. A teacher may only be excused from attendance at Parent-

Teacher conferences in writing by the Superintendent. The schedule setting forth the dates and times for the Parent-Teacher conferences for the school years is as follows:

<b>Wednesday, September 24th</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 1st</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 11th</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, February 12th</b>	<b>4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</b>

Teachers are expected to be prepared for such conferences. Being prepared includes having grades updated in PowerSchool which includes all student assignments, work or tests completed within five (5) days of the date of the Parent-Teacher conference.

## **Article 7 - USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Section 1 Drug-Free Workplace**

The District has established the school as a drug-free workplace. The drug-free workplace for this purpose includes school grounds, school utilized vehicles, and places in which school activities are held.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, disposition, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the work place. The possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol, the use of glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, and being under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, is prohibited in any place while teachers are on duty time. Any level of impairment from illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, and the presence of any odor of illicit drugs (such as marijuana) or alcohol on a teacher in the work place or on duty time shall be a violation of the drug-free workplace. The possession or distribution of a look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance is prohibited. In addition, teachers are expected to serve as role models for students and will be considered to have violated the District's expectations in the event the teacher commits a criminal drug or alcohol offense off the work place or off duty time.

Disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution will be imposed upon teachers who violate the aforementioned standards of conduct. Sanctions may include the requirement that the teacher complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, a reprimand, and termination of employment. Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs are available through local health agencies.

### **Section 2 Smoke and Tobacco-Free Workplace**

The use of tobacco products in the District's buildings and on school grounds, all owned or leased facilities and vehicles is prohibited.

### **Section 3 Weapon-Free Workplace**

The District prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school-sponsored function. Any teacher found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The term "weapon" means an instrument or object used, or which may be used, as a means of attack,

defense, or destruction, including, without limitation:

1. Any object which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other means
2. The frame or receiver of any object described in the preceding example
3. Any firearm muffler or silencer
4. Any explosive, incendiary or gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket, (d) missile, (e) mine, or similar device
5. Any bludgeon, sandclub, metal knuckles, or throwing stars
6. Any knife other than as used for strictly instructional or personal care or eating purposes. A pocket knife with a blade of 2-1/2 inches or more is a prohibited weapon. A switch-blade knife is prohibited regardless of size of the blade. A switch-blade knife is defined as a knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of a knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement
7. Any electronic device designed to discharge immobilizing levels of electricity, commonly known as a stun gun
8. A teacher may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon.
9. A teacher may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon. Usage of mace or other similar chemical agents will be considered as usage of a weapon if the usage is found to be for non-defensive purposes. A teacher who is negligent in their possession of mace or other similar chemical agents will be subject to disciplinary action.
10. A teacher may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the teacher has received approval of the administration to possess the item, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such manner as the administration has directed.
11. Any other object that is designed for or intended for use as a destructive or injurious device.

The phrase "possession of a weapon" includes, without limitation, a weapon in a teacher's personal possession, as well as in a teacher's motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

#### **Section 4 Use of District Computer Network and Internet**

Teachers have access to the District's computer network and the Internet for the enhancement and support of student instruction. It is important to remember that the equipment and the

software are the property of the school district.

In using the computers and the Internet, teachers are agreeing to the following policies:

A. Internet Safety Policy

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). With respect to the District's computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (e) implement measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. "Inappropriate material" for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
4. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and

access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.

5. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.
6. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.

B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general, for educational purposes, meaning activities that are integral, immediate,

and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.

4. Unacceptable Uses. The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. **Personal Gain:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. **Personal Matters:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. **Campaigning:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- d. **Technology-Related Limitations:** Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation, users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
  - 1. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
  - 2. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.

3. Users shall not engage in “hacking” to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
  4. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
  5. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer’s memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
  6. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
  7. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.
- e. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
  2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
  3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
  4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
  5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
  6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
  7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.
5. Disclaimer. The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
  6. Filter. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies

and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

7. Monitoring. Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.
8. Sanctions. Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254  
FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011  
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act)

9. Date of Adoption: June 11, 2012

## **Section 5 Use of School Facilities**

Teachers will be issued keys to the school. Teachers are expected to not lose their keys and to not allow others to have access to or to use their keys. Teachers are permitted to have access to school facilities during non-school time provided such access is for work-related purposes.

When teachers leave the building, they are to close all windows, lock their classroom door, and make sure that the entry door is fully closed and locked. This is especially important when teachers are using the school facilities prior to the beginning of the school year and during any weekend or evening usage.

School property is to be used for approved work-related purposes and not for personal purposes or for personal gain or benefit. Use of school supplies (paper, staples, etc.), school equipment (copiers, fax machines, telephones, etc.), and school postage is to be used for approved school-related purposes only. Excess or surplus supplies or equipment, including items which have been placed in the trash, should not be removed for non-school use without approval from the administration.

### **Section 6 Care of School Property**

Teachers are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. If an item is in need of maintenance or repair, report it to the Principal. If you learn that a student has damaged school property or equipment, or if you are responsible for damage to school property, promptly report it to the Principal so the item may be replaced or repaired if possible and appropriate responsibility for the cost of replacement or repair may be determined.

### **Section 7 Use of Telephone**

Personal telephone calls shall not be made during duty time except in the event of an emergency. You will need to promptly log long distance calls and be responsible for any charges which are for personal use.

### **Section 8 Visitors**

Teachers are not to have visitors on school property except on a short-term basis and only with permission of the principal. Included in the definition of visitors are family members of the teacher. Visitors should follow posted procedures for being on school property. Teachers are not to bring their children to school with them in lieu of taking them to childcare.

### **Section 9 Salespersons**

Teachers need not allow, and should not permit, any salesperson or representative or agent of any commercial enterprise or theatrical presentation to contact the teacher while engaged in the teacher's duties except for such times as may be designated by the Superintendent or designee. By law, the hours of no solicitation are between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all days school is in session. If you are required to be at work earlier than 8:30 a.m., the hours are extended to that earlier time as well.

Teachers shall not use classrooms, buildings or other school property for personal use or profit without specific approval from the Superintendent or designee. Teachers shall not use time for which the teacher is on duty or paid by the District to engage in any activity for personal financial profit. Any violation of this policy will be held to be willful insubordination.

### **Section 10 Security of Desks and Lockers**

Offices, teacher desks, lockers, file cabinets and other such storage devices ("storage devices")

are owned by the school and are to be properly cared for and maintained. Appropriate security measures should be used to protect school and personal property kept in storage devices from theft or vandalism and to protect confidential student records.

The school exercises exclusive control over school property and reserves the right search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a noninvestigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file. School-related documents or records must remain readily available to administration and other appropriate school staff. Any personal items a teacher wants to have kept private should be kept in a separate personal storage device, such as a brief case, purse or backpack.

The District is not responsible for any personal property teachers may bring to school. Teachers are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of significant value to school.

### **Section 11 Video Surveillance**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

### **Section 12 Bulletins and Announcements**

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 1 week after the event.

A daily bulletin will be read by a National Honor Society member at the start of 3<sup>rd</sup> period and will be posted on the school website. It is requested that student announcements be limited to no more than two or three days. All announcements for the bulletin must be turned into the office secretary before school starts.

### **Section 13 Copyright and Fair Use Policy**

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format.

Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The “fair use” doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the “fair use” of a copyrighted work, including reproduction “for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research” is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted “fair use,” rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- The nature of the copyrighted work;
- The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is “fair.” Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

#### **Section 14 Lost and Found**

Teachers who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner.

#### **Section 15 Safety**

##### Safety Program and Safety Committee

The District has established a Safety and Security Management Plan which includes safety and security plans and procedures, including plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Teachers are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Management Plan. The Plan may be obtained for review or copy from the Principal or the Superintendent.

The District also has a safety committee to address employee accidents, injuries and work place conditions. A representative from various school groups plus representatives appointed by administration serve on the committee. If you have a desire to serve on the committee, you should contact the President of the teachers association. Teachers can make suggestions and/or report concerns to the safety committee in the following ways: (1) contact the teachers association representative of the safety committee, (2) contact the Superintendent.

##### Safety Practices

Guidelines for safe work practices, which teachers should follow, include the following:

1. Never stand on chairs, counters, tables, etc. Only use step stools, ladders and locking stools to stand, climb, etc., to reach high places, put things on bulletin boards, etc.

2. Always wear protective equipment (i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves, and ear protection).
3. Wipe up spills or report promptly to appropriate personnel. DO NOT assume someone else will do it.
4. Be aware of your surroundings. Pick up clutter, keep your work area or room clean and free of clutter, debris, etc.
5. Identify and report all hazards (i.e., broken equipment, broken or uneven floor surfaces, non-operating tools, windows, doors, etc.). Follow up if not repaired.
6. Do not use equipment if you are not familiar with it or operate machinery without proper training.
7. Do not carry heavy or bulky objects. Get a cart, dolly or assistance. Know how to properly lift.
8. Report any injuries or medical problems to your supervisor immediately and complete the employee accident report.
9. Wear seatbelts when in vehicles where provided.
10. Do not do repetitive tasks for long periods of time (i.e., keyboarding, dipping cookies, cutting out things, filing, typing, etc.). Take breaks, learn and do stretching exercises, etc. Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal.

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

#### Use of Personal Vehicles

Teachers who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Teachers will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information and to be given instruction on emergency evacuation and first aid. Teachers who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Teachers are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting children.

#### School Transportation

Staff members must requisition school transportation to attend out of town meetings, seminars, clinics, etc. If school transportation is not available, then and only then, mileage will be paid for the use of you own vehicle.

#### Car and Van Request:

- Forms in principal's office
- Requests submitted to the Transportation Supervisor one week in advance.
- Communicate with Transportation Supervisor on proper procedures.

2014-15 Travel Allowance rates as set by the Centennial Board of Education:

Mileage- State Rate (must use school vehicle if available)

Lodging- \$120.00 per night

Meals- \$15.00 per meal; not to exceed \$32.00 per day

Accidents

Every accident which results in a personal injury must be reported to the Principal immediately. In the event the injury involves a student, the teacher responsible for the student either as teacher, coach or sponsor is responsible for making the report. If the injury occurs in the presence of the teacher, the teacher is also responsible for making a report.

Workers Compensation

Teachers are required to immediately report any work-related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their supervisor and complete all appropriate paperwork.

**Article 8 - STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

**Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The Centennial Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The Coordinators listed in Section 2 have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination.

Local complaint or grievance procedures are provided for by the District and set forth in this handbook. If an employee does not feel that a complaint of nondiscrimination has been satisfactorily resolved at the school level, the employee may file a complaint with the appropriate federal or state agency. Complaints are to be filed with the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights where the complaint relates to Title IX (discrimination, harassment or lack of equity based on gender), Title VI (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin) or Section 504 (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability). Complaints are to be filed with the regional U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) if the complaint relates to Title VII (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, or religion), the Americans with Disabilities Act (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (discrimination based on age). The contact information for the OCR and the EEOC in this regard are:

Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway  
Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
816-268-0550

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)  
1801 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20507  
(800) 669-4000; TDD: (800) 669-6820

FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 800-437-0833

A publication provided by the federal government concerning rights of non-discrimination is

attached as Appendix “D” to this handbook.

**Section 2 Designation of Coordinators**

Any person having inquiries concerning the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Centennial Public School, 1301 Centennial Ave., Utica, NE 68456. (402) 534-2321.

<b>Law, Policy or Program</b>	<b>Issue or Concern</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Colin Bargaen
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Colin Bargaen
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Colin Bargaen
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Tim DeWaard
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Colin Bargaen

**Section 3 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy**

Elimination of Discrimination

The Centennial Public School hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination

Purpose: Centennial Public School is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Centennial Public School will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's

race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment. Sexual harassment may exist when:

- o Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
- o Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time;
- o The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, classroom or educational environment.
- o Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

### Complaint and Grievance Procedures

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Centennial Public School. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstance will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

#### **Section 4 Grievance Procedure for Persons with a Disability**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act address discrimination, harassment or failure to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with a disability. The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations of the ADA or Section 504:

1. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator. Complaints shall be made in writing, unless the Complainant's disability prevents such, in which event the Complaint can be made verbally.
2. Complaints shall set forth: (a) the name of the Complainant, (b) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the Coordinator to contact the Complainant, (c) a brief description of the alleged violation, and (d) the relief requested by the Complainant.
3. Complaints shall be investigated by the Coordinator or the Coordinator's designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the Complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
4. The Coordinator shall make a decision on the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement of the Complainant. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the Coordinator's proposed resolution of the Complaint, and shall be forwarded to the Complainant.
5. The Complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant to accept or reject the Coordinator's proposed resolution, and shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution unless the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period. In the event the complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within the ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's division is sent to the Complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall consider any additional information provided in the request for reconsideration and make a decision on the request for reconsideration within 10 (ten) days after the request for reconsideration was filed.

#### **Section 5 Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Employees are expected to provide access rights and maintain the confidentiality of education records in accordance with FERPA and Board policy. Further information about FERPA and the District's policies under FERPA are found in Board policy and in the student handbook.

#### **Section 6 Disclosure of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the school not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written consent. Employees are expected to follow these requirements.

## **Section 7 Disclosure of Staff Qualifications**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. The District designates the following information as "directory information" and will give parents/guardians such information upon request:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher, along with information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the parent/guardian's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the NCLB.

## **Section 8 Student Privacy Protection**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to protect the privacy of students. Further information about student privacy and the District's policies with regard to student privacy are found in Board policy and in the student handbook. In general, employees are expected to comply with these provisions of the NCLB and related Board policy, as follows:

1. Student surveys created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) - give parent/guardian the opportunity to inspect the survey upon request before the survey is administered or distributed to the students;
2. Student surveys, which involve "sensitive" matters - make suitable arrangements to protect student privacy (that is, do not include the name or other identifying information about a particular student) and give parents the opportunity, in advance, to "opt-out" their child from the survey. Sensitive matters include:
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;
  8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
3. Instructional materials - permit parents upon reasonable request to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child.

The term “instructional materials” does not include academic tests or academic assessments for purposes of this parent inspection requirement. If you receive such a request, direct the parent to contact your building principal and also inform the building principal yourself about the request to get instructions.

4. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information - the District policy is to not gather such information for such purposes.

## **Section 9 Parental Involvement**

### General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools

The District’s policy is to welcome parental involvement in the education of their children. As a part of this policy, employees are expected to:

1. provide parents timely information about their child’s progress, including use of quarterly report cards, active and constructive attendance at parent-teacher conferences, and more frequent parent contacts where warranted by the student’s academic and behavioral needs;
2. make textbooks, completed tests and other curriculum materials available for review by parents upon request;
3. permit parents access to their child’s records according to law and school policy;
4. encourage parents to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher, counselor or administrator, provided that such parent attendance be educationally appropriate and not disruptive to the educational program;
5. assure that testing occurs to assure proper measurement of each child’s educational progress and achievement;
6. permit parents to excuse their child from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences when possible and educationally appropriate;
7. notify parents of student surveys in accordance with district policy, obtain parental permission for surveys where required by District policy or law, and allow parents to opt-out of such surveys in accordance with District policy and law; and
8. encourage parents to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their child’s education.

### Title I Parental Involvement

The District has a separate policy established pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 relating to parental involvement applicable to parents of children enrolled in Title I programs. The policy requires that parents of Title I children be given the opportunity to participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring - (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in the parental involvement policy. Employees are expected to comply with the Title I parental involvement policy.

## **Section 10 Homeless Students**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that homeless students not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The Superintendent serves as the District's designated Homeless Coordinator and should be contacted for questions relating to a homeless student.

## **Section 11 Lunch Programs**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program. Employees are expected to keep information about the participation of students in the program confidential.

## **Section 12 Confidentiality of Protected Health Information**

It is the policy of the District to develop and implement all necessary practices, policies, and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) where and to the extent applicable and to maintain the privacy of protected health information (PHI), as that term is defined by HIPAA, that it receives, obtains, or transmits for employees and students. The District designates the Superintendent as its HIPAA privacy officer. Student and employee records containing PHI shall be accessible only to those who require such information to carry out their duties.

## **Appendix A – COBRA Notice**

### **Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights**

**\*\* Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA\*\***

#### **Introduction**

You are receiving this notice because you have recently become covered under Centennial Public School health plan (the "Plan"). This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it. This notice gives only a summary of your COBRA continuation coverage rights. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should either review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or get a copy of the Plan Document from the Plan Administrator.

The Plan Administrator is Mr. Tim DeWaard, Superintendent, 1301 Centennial Ave., Utica, NE 68456, (402) 534-2291. The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage.

#### **COBRA Continuation Coverage**

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." A qualified beneficiary is someone who will lose coverage under the Plan because of a qualifying event. Depending on the type of qualifying event, employees, spouses of employees, and dependent children of

employees may be qualified beneficiaries. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

1. Your hours of employment are reduced, or
2. Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

3. Your spouse dies;
4. Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
5. Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
6. Your spouse becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both); or
7. You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they will lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

8. The parent-employee dies;
9. The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
10. The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
11. The parent-employee becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both);
12. The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
13. The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the employer and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee is a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also be qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer to the extent retiree health coverage is provided, or enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event within 30 days of any of these events.

For the other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator. The Plan requires you to notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must send this notice to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. For each qualified beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date of the qualifying event.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

#### Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family can receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. You must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the Social Security Administration's determination within 60 days of the date of the determination and before the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. This notice should be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

#### Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, up to a maximum of 36 months. This extension is available to the spouse and dependent children if the former employee dies, enrolls in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated. The extension is also available to a dependent child when that child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. In all of these cases, you must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

#### If You Have Questions

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Superintendent or Plan Administrator or you may contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's web site at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

**Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes** In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator

**RECEIPT OF 2014-15 TEACHER HANDBOOK  
OF CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL - SECONDARY EDITION**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2014-15 Teacher Handbook of Centennial Public School. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that I am to read and be familiar with the handbook, that I understand the handbook contains a disclaimer of contract and that I understand that the handbook includes the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used for responding to harassment or discrimination.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS  
ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND STAFF AGREEMENT**

In order to make sure that all members of Centennial Public School's community understand and agree to these rules of conduct for use of the e-mail and Internet systems of the school district, the Centennial School District asks that you, as an administrator, faculty member, or staff member user, sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Centennial Public School, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Centennial Public School and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Centennial Public School, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Centennial Public School responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Employee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

**Return to: Colin Bargaen  
Secondary Principal  
Centennial Public School**



# CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL



2014-2015  
Centennial Elementary  
Student/Parent Handbook

# 2014-2015 STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK CENTENNIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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**Centennial Elementary School  
Student/Parent Handbook  
2014-2015 School Year**

**Intent of Handbook:**

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Centennial Elementary School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in the handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, this handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook do not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

**Dear Centennial Elementary Parents/Guardians and Students,**

We welcome all of you to the start of the 2014-15 school year at Centennial Elementary School. We want you to enjoy the school experience, to profit from the time spent, and to take advantage of the many opportunities offered at Centennial.

The educational experience is a joint effort between student, parent, and school. We at Centennial encourage the students to “put their best foot forward”, and the parents to become actively involved with your child’s education and the school. Cooperation and communication between all parties involved will create the best possible circumstances necessary to meet your child’s educational needs.

The elementary staff and administration look forward to the opportunity to work with parents and students. We wish you a very satisfying, challenging and successful school year.

Sincerely,  
Megan Hammer, Elementary Principal  
and the Centennial Elementary Staff

**Members of the Board of Education**

Name	Position
Larry Paxson	President

Mark Avery	Vice President
Mike Hahn	Secretary
Doug Tonniges	Treasurer
Wayne Heine	Member
Jodi Cast	Member

**Administrative Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Tim DeWaard	Superintendent
Colin Bargaen	Secondary Principal
Megan Hammer	Elementary Principal
John McClarnen	Student Services Director
Dean Davis	Athletic Director

## Teaching Staff

Name	Position	Grade
Heather Riley	Classroom Teacher	PreSchool
Bridget Huppert	Classroom Teacher	Kindergarten
Jody Wiemer	Classroom Teacher	Kindergarten
Dana Chrisman	Classroom Teacher	First Grade
Danae Stuhr	Classroom Teacher	First Grade
Jarrett Fowler	Classroom Teacher	Second Grade
Molly Pracheil	Classroom Teacher	Second Grade
Crystal Becker	Classroom Teacher	Third Grade
Julie Dey	Classroom Teacher	Third Grade
Janice Buss	Classroom Teacher	Fourth Grade
Carol Erks	Classroom Teacher	Fourth Grade
Jordan Barjenbruch	Classroom Teacher	Fifth Grade
Kristin Foley	Classroom Teacher	Sixth Grade
Brittini Peltz	Instructional Coach/Assessment Director	K-12
Elizabeth Purdham	Instrumental Music/Vocal Music	5-6/1-2
Dean Davis	Keyboarding	5-6
Jessica Breitreutz	Media Specialist	K-6
Evan Klanecky	Physical Education	6
Joe Dey	Physical Education/Reading	2-5/3-6
Mark Ortmeier	Physical Education/Science	K-1/6
Alex Anstine	Special Education	K-6
Hillary Sander	Special Education	K-6
Kelly Fehlhafer	Speech Pathologist	PreK-6
Linda Rafert	Title 1	K-6
Ben Rickert	Vocal Music	K/3-6

## Support Staff

Name	Position
Shannon Henry	Behavioral Counselor
Virgil Heine	Custodian Supervisor
Marilyn Bargsten-Blake	Custodian
Pat Kirkpatrick	Custodian
Bill Moge	Custodian/Transportation
Lydia Popovich	Custodian
TBA	Custodian
Marge Rhodes	District Office Bookkeeper
Susan Dickey	District Office Secretary
Sherry Winkelman	Elementary Office Secretary
TBA	Food Service Supervisor
Wendy Dodson	Food Service
Ron Erks	Food Service/Transportation
Kathy Heine	Food Service/Transportation
Cristy Richters	Food Service
Vada Schleusener	Food Service
TBA	Food Service
Sue Arnold	Nurse
Dana Yamber	Para Educator - Media
TBA	Para Educator -- Preschool
TBA	Para Educator – Special Education
TBA	Para Educator – Special Education
Karin Cradick	Para Educator – Special Education
Mary Eikenhorst	Para Educator – Special Education/Transportation
Sheri Hafer	Para Educator – Special Education
Beth Johnson	Para Educator – Special Education
RaNay Kratochvil	Para Educator – Special Education/Transportation
Tammie Poole	Para Educator – Special Education
Kim Sheehan	Para Educator – Special Education
Jo Steckly	Para Educator – Special Education
Tonia Vavra	Para Educator – Special Education
Veronica Waegli	Para Educator – Special Education
Gladys Luebbe	Para Educator – Title I
Leah Bjerrum	Student Services Office Secretary
Dan Tesar	Technology Coordinator
Mike Wright	Transportation Supervisor
Mary Eikenhorst	Transportation/Para Educator
Barb Erks	Transportation
Ron Erks	Transportation/Food Service
Brenda Geirhan	Transportation
Kathy Heine	Transportation/Food Service
RaNay Kratochvil	Transportation/Para Educator
Cindy Redfield	Transportation
Roy Richters, Jr.	Transportation

**Academic Calendar  
August 2014 - May 2015**

**August**

18 Teacher Inservice  
19 Teacher Inservice  
20 First Day of School

**September**

1 Labor Day -- No School  
19 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice  
24 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conference 4:00 - 8:30 P. M.

**October**

1 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conference 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
10 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice  
17 End of 1st Qtr  
20 No School -- Teacher Inservice  
21 Start 2nd quarter  
24 No School

**November**

21 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice  
26 Early Dismissal 1:30  
27 No School - Thanksgiving  
28 No School

**December**

19 2 Hour late start -- Teacher Inservice  
23 End 2nd quarter -- Dismiss at 1:30  
25 Christmas

**January**

1 New Year's Day  
5 No School - Teacher Inservice  
6 Start 3rd quarter  
16 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**February**

11 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conferences 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
12 Dismiss at 1:30 -- P-T Conferences 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.  
13 No School  
27 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**March**

11 End 3rd quarter  
12 No School - Spring break  
13 No School - Spring break  
16 No School - Teacher Inservice  
17 Start 4th quarter  
27 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**April**

3 No School - Good Friday  
5 Easter  
6 No School  
17 2 Hour late start - Teacher Inservice

**May**

16 Graduation  
22 Dismiss at 12:00 -- Last day of school

**ARTICLE 1 – MISSION AND GOALS****MISSION STATEMENT**

The People of this district are committed to educational excellence in a positive, creative, and caring environment, preparing each student to be a responsible, productive citizen in our ever-changing global community.

## **GOVERNING VALUES**

We believe...

- every student can learn.
- in the dignity of each student.
- in the individual growth of each student.
- every student can be an adaptable life-long learner.
- every student can be a responsible, productive citizen.
- the development of self-esteem leads to greater learning
- in providing curriculum and strategies to meet the needs of all students.
- in the shared responsibility and commitment of the family and school-community to education excellence.

## **MUTUAL RESPECT**

The Centennial Public School expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of the student will not be tolerated.

## **COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

The proper procedures for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns about school staff, school programs, or activities are set forth below. Other procedures exist to address discrimination or harassment, the bullying of students, and to challenge disciplinary actions. Such other procedures should be used to address those types of concerns.

1. Complaint procedure:

Step 1. Have a scheduled conference with the staff person involved in the complaint matter.

Step 2. Appeal to the principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.

Step 3. Appeal to the Superintendent if the matter is still unresolved at Step 2.

Step 4. Appeal to the Board of Education if the matter is still unresolved at Step 3.

2. Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure:

All information to be considered at each appeal step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective.

Appeal decisions shall be expedited as quickly as possible.

## **ARTICLE 2 – SCHOOL DAY**

### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

The Centennial Elementary School attendance day begins at 8:16 a.m. and ends at 3:26 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Students are allowed to go to their classrooms beginning at 8:05 a.m.

### **SEVERE WEATHER AND SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

#### SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Advance notice of school closings will be announced by the following radio and TV stations:

KZKX in Lincoln – 96.9 FM

KLKN TV in Lincoln

KAWL in York – 104.9 FM, 1370 AM

KFAB in Omaha – 1110 AM

KOLN TV in Lincoln

KZEN in Central City – 100.3

Decision to Close Schools: A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the

morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to the news media when school will be closed.**

After School Starts: Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases, as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.**

What Not To Do: Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

Emergency Conditions: Centennial Public School has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

Tornado Drills: Students are to move quietly and promptly to the location noted by the teacher. Follow all directions that are given.

Fire Drills: Sec. 81-52 of Nebraska School Law requires fire drills to be held once a month. When the alarm sounds, all people (employees included) will file out in a quiet and orderly fashion through the prescribed exit to a predetermined location. **ABSOLUTELY NO RUNNING.** The proper exit location from all rooms will be shared by each teacher. When the “return to building” announcement is given, students are requested to return quietly to their respective rooms.

#### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

All students are required to remain on campus during the school day.

## **ARTICLE 3 – USE OF BUILDING & GROUNDS**

#### **ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL**

Students are expected to arrive at school **NO MORE THAN 15 to 20 MINUTES PRIOR** to the first class or school program which they are participating. **Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students.** Students are to enter through their assigned entrance and proceed to designated areas.

#### **DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL**

Students will be dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, detention, etc.). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location unless participating in a school-sponsored activity. **The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students are to have left school grounds.**

#### **LATE STARTS/EARLY DISMISSALS**

Certain days on the calendar are “shortened days,” meaning that the school day starts or ends other than on the normal schedule. Parents are strongly encouraged to be aware of those days so their children are not left in an unsupervised situation or without a means to get home upon dismissal.

#### **SIGNING A CHILD IN/OUT OF SCHOOL**

Parents or guardians are required to sign their children in and/or out of school if they are entering after their first class or leaving prior to their final class. The parent or guardian must report to the main office for this purpose. The schools will only release children to adults designated by the parent.

If there is a special circumstance, such as a court order limiting access to a student by a parent or guardian, affecting who a student can be released to, the parent must inform the Principal and provide the Principal with a copy of that order to maintain on file at the school.

### **SUPERVISION AT DISMISSAL**

Parents or guardians of children in grades K to 6, where the child does not use district-provided transportation after dismissal, may request the school or program not release the child to walk home after dismissal unless the child is released to the parent or legal guardian or an escort designated by the parent or guardian. The parent or guardian may designate up to 2 escorts. Parents or guardians requesting their children only be released to the parent or guardian or a designated escort after dismissal must submit a completed written request with the Principal to this effect.

Students who leave before the end of the day are to be signed out by a parent or guardian or an escort designated by the parent or guardian.

### **EMERGENCY CLOSING PROCEDURES**

Parents are requested to provide an emergency contact telephone number to have on file in the event of an emergency closing or any other general or individual situation that requires the immediate presence of a parent/guardian. In the event that parents do not have such a number or cannot be contacted, it will be assumed that the parent has instructed their children concerning the procedure they are to follow should school be dismissed early. Realizing that the school might be unable to reach all parents, it is suggested that all children be advised as to what they are to do should they ever be dismissed early. It is recommended that parents give their children an alternate destination and that the building principal be made aware of this information.

If conditions allow and supervision is available in the event of an early dismissal, the child will be held in school until the normal dismissal time. If the parent or guardian has not arrived to pick up the child by the normal dismissal time, law enforcement or child protective services may be contacted to ensure the safety of the child.

### **VISITORS**

Upon entering the main entrance, all visitors must report to the superintendent's office to sign-in and receive a visitor's pass. Parents are welcome at all times. Please sign-in/out at the superintendent's office upon entering/exiting the school. Also, please check in at the elementary office upon entering the elementary school wing. Visitations during the first week of school and the last week of school will require extraordinary reasons or permission from administration. Please notify the child's teacher IN ADVANCE OF YOUR VISIT to avoid scheduling conflicts. Visits of two hours or less in duration are allowable.

### **SMOKE-FREE BUILDING**

Centennial Public School declares our entire school building to be smoke-free. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke and tobacco-free environment for our children. When you attend school events, including athletic events, please remember that our buildings are smoke and tobacco-free, and abide by our District's policy.

### **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

1. Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school.
2. Students who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

Fines are determined on books according to the following criteria:

1. **Broken covers** – replacement cost of the textbook
2. **Obscenities (words or pictures) written** – replacement cost of the textbook
3. **Torn pages** – tape if possible; if not possible, \$2.00 per page to cost of the textbook
4. **Torn or damaged cover** - \$5.00
5. **Ink marks (if not erasable)** - \$2.00 per page to cost of the textbook
6. **Water damage** - \$5.00 for minor damage; replacement cost of the textbook for major damage
7. **Defacing cover, edges, etc.** - \$10.00
8. **Lost** – replacement cost of the textbook

**9. Broken binding - \$10.00**

**10. Missing pages** – replacement cost of the textbook

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

## **LOCKERS**

Each student in grades 3-6 will be assigned a locker. Each locker will be provided with a built-in lock for security. Students must use their own lockers and are not to share lockers with other students except as assigned by school officials. We recommend that the locker remain locked at all times when not open for use by the student to whom it is assigned. Students are responsible for the cleanliness inside their locker and the door of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers.

## **SEARCHES OF LOCKERS & OTHER TYPES OF SEARCHES**

Student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules shall apply to searches of students and of a student's personal property and to the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a school rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be taken and kept by school officials. Any firearm or other weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as practicable.
3. Items which have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process (that is, "nuisance items") may be removed from student possession.

## **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

## **USE OF TELEPHONE**

Incoming Calls: The office will attempt to cooperate with parents or guardians in order to deliver messages to students during school hours. Messages will be written and delivered to students. Only in cases of extreme urgency will students be called out of class. Calls for students during school hours are disturbing to normal school routine and should be held to a minimum and for emergency purposes only.

Out-Going Calls: The school telephone is primarily for school business and shall not be used for personal calls. Students finding it necessary to make calls are to come to the office to gain permission to use the school's phone. In an emergency, an office phone may be used with permission from office personnel.

## **BICYCLES**

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided. All bicycles should be equipped with locks. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary safe-keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft, or damage.

### **EXERCISE & FRESH AIR**

The school believes in exercise and fresh air for active, healthy children. Because of that, all children will be expected to go outside except under extreme circumstances. Parents/Guardians should see that children are provided with appropriate dress and protective footwear. We realize that circumstances arise which make it necessary for the students to remain inside. Parents/Guardians are asked to send a written request when they do not want their child to go outside because of some short term cold or illness.

### **PERSONAL PARTY INVITATIONS**

Birthday and other party invitations may not be distributed at school. Because we value equity, we want to avoid hurt feelings when some children receive invitations while others do not. As such, all private party arrangements must be made outside of school -- this includes bringing overnight bags, sleeping bags and presents to school. **The school will not release directory type information about our students, including addresses or phone numbers, to be used for invitations.**

### **LOST & FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel.

### **ACCIDENTS**

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal or another district administrator.

### **INSURANCE**

Under Nebraska law, the District may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The District requires that all student participants in athletic programs have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. The district does not make recommendations, nor handle the premiums or claims for any insurance company, agent, or carrier. Information about student insurance providers will be available in the school office or on school bulletin boards.

### **BULLETINS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within a week after the event.

### **COPYRIGHT & FAIR USE POLICY**

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for

purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research” is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted “fair use,” rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is “fair.” Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

## ARTICLE 4 – ATTENDANCE

### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The Board's policies require such attendance, the administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance.

### ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES

#### Absences from School - Definitions

An absence from school will be reported as: (1) an excused absence or (2) an unexcused absence.

1. Excused Absences. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even by parental approval, may not be excused. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval. An absence for any of the following reasons will be excused, provided the required procedures have been followed:
  - a. Attendance at a funeral for a member of the immediate family (parents, siblings, and grandparents)
  - b. Illness which causes a student to be absent from school
  - c. Doctor or dental appointment which require student to be absent from school (**with note from doctor or dentist to verify excuse**)
  - d. Court appearances that are required by a court order and the **student is not responsible for needing to be in court**
  - e. School sponsored activities which require students to be absent from school
  - f. Family trips in which student accompanies parent(s)/legal guardian(s)
  - g. Other absences which have received prior approval from the Principal.

The Principal has the discretion to deny approval for the latter two reasons, depending on circumstances such as the student's number of other absences, the student's academic status, the tests or other projects which may be missed, and in the case of a family trip, whether the trip could be taken during non-school time and the educational nature of the trip.

2. Unexcused Absences: An absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is unexcused, the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence and may be required to make-up work and the time missed.

A student who engages in unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law, Neb.Rev.Stat. § 79-201. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of such action may include suspension from classes, and the student may be required to make up the time missed. Students who leave the school premises without permission during the school day will be considered truant.

### Mandatory Ages of Attendance

A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

### Exceptions for Younger Students

Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached the age of 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

### Exceptions for Older Students

Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

### Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools

A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

### Exit Interview

The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in Centennial Public School or resides in Centennial Public School and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

### Withdrawal Form

Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

### Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools)

A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

### **ABSENCE PROCEDURES**

A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written parental excuse, is issued by the Principal's office. Work must be made up within the time allowed on the admit slip. Students missing classes for school activities must present a completed activities dismissal slip to the sponsor before being allowed to leave for the activity.

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to make up work. If requested, assignment sheets will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents and/or students request assignment sheets, the school should be contacted by no later than 9:30 a.m.

For unexcused absences, the student will receive a failing mark for or in each class period missed.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Written make-up work may be assigned for each day missed, regardless of the type of absence. If make-up work is not completed, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed will be determined by mutual agreement between the student and teacher. The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments.

### **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN OR ATTEND ACTIVITIES**

Students must attend school all day the day of any scheduled school activity in order to participate in or attend the activity. This includes sports contests, practices, and music programs. Failure to attend on that day will result in a student being withheld from participation in or attendance at the activity. The principal retains the right to grant participation should exceptional circumstances prevail.

### **TRUANCY**

#### Reporting and Responding to Truant Behavior

Any administrator, teacher, or member of the Board of Education who knows of any failure on the part of any child age 6 to 18 to attend school regularly without lawful reason shall within three days report such violation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The Superintendent shall also investigate any case when, of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the Superintendent believes that any child is unlawfully absent from school. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to remediate the child's truant behavior. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed under the "Excessive Absenteeism" policy.

### Excessive Absenteeism

Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. One or more meetings shall be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker, the school principal or a member of the school administrative staff as designated by the school administration, the parent/guardian, and the student **to develop a collaborative plan to improve regular attendance.** If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place in the student's attendance records documentation of such refusal.
2. Educational counseling to determine whether curriculum changes, including but not limited to, enrolling the child in an alternative education program that meets the specific educational and behavioral needs of the child.
3. Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation, to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the excessive absenteeism problem, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
4. Investigation of the excessive absenteeism problem by the Seward County Truancy Prevention Office to identify conditions which may be contributing to the excessive absenteeism problem. If services for the child and his or her family are determined to be needed, the person performing the investigation shall meet with the parent/guardian and the child to discuss any referral to appropriate community agencies for economic services, family or individual counseling, or other services required to remedy the conditions that are contributing to the excessive absenteeism problem.

### Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney

- A. Twenty Excused Absences: If a student accumulates more than twenty (20) absences per year and all of the absences are due to documented illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable or are otherwise excused by school authorities, the attendance officer may report such information to the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides.
- B. Twenty Unexcused Absences: If a student accumulates more than twenty (20) absences per year, and any of the absences are not excused, the attendance officer shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides. The report shall be made on a form which includes the following two statements, one of which must be designated by the school representative signing the report: (a) The school representative requests additional time to work with the student prior to intervention by the county attorney; and (b) the school representative believes that the school has used all reasonable efforts to resolve the student's excessive absenteeism without success and recommends county attorney intervention. If further action is necessary to address the child's attendance, the initial meeting between the parent or guardian of the child, the school, and the county attorney or his or her designee shall be at a location determined by the school.
- C. Other: A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

### Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the Commissioner

The Superintendent or designee shall report on a monthly basis to the Commissioner of Education as directed by the Commissioner regarding the number of and reason for any long-term suspension, expulsion, or excessive absenteeism of a student; referral of a student to the office of the county attorney for excessive absenteeism; or contacting of law enforcement officials (other than law enforcement officials employed by or contracted with by the District as school resource officers) by the District relative to a student enrolled in the District.

### Advisory Procedures

- A. Advisory letters will be sent to parents or guardians when their child has accrued four (4) and seven (7) absences per class during the semester.
- B. After seven (7) absences, the parent/guardian/student will be notified of potential loss of credits by the principal.

### Student's Rights to Due Process

The following procedure will be followed to ensure due process.

**A. THE FACULTY COMMITTEE ON ABSENTEEISM**

1. Parents/Guardians/Students who wish to appeal the potential loss of credit must make this request within seven (7) days of notification. Requests for appeal must be made in writing on forms supplied by the principal.
2. The Faculty Committee on Absenteeism shall review all absences/tardies and exceptions to the limitation on absences. Chronic and/or extended illness and/or other unusual circumstances will be considered.
3. A determination will be made individually on each case.
4. The Faculty Committee on Absenteeism shall not exercise the right to take credits from a student.
5. The Faculty Committee on Absenteeism shall make its recommendation in writing to the principal.

**B. THE PRINCIPAL, PARENT/GUARDIAN, AND STUDENT**

1. The principal will render a decision within three (3) days after receiving the committee's recommendation and notify the student/parent/guardian.
2. The request for a hearing may be filed by the student or the student's parents/guardians and presented within seven (7) days following the notification of pending loss of credit.

**C. THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Upon rendering a decision, the principal will forward the decision to the superintendent. If the student is to be denied credit, the superintendent will either support the denial or grant an extension of absences. If the superintendent supports the principal's decision, he/she will notify the student/parent/guardian. The affected party may then request a hearing before the Board of Education. This request must be made within seven (7) days after receiving notification.

**D. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1. The Board of Education shall serve as the appeal body and may grant or deny an extension of absences after hearing the case.
2. The administration and Board of Education reserve the right to ask for a medical opinion in cases of prolonged or chronic illness.

**Attendance Hearings**

All attendance hearings will be scheduled for the last week of the semester.

**TARDINESS**

Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not seated in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area when the bell for their first class rings.

**LEAVING SCHOOL**

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to check in at the office. Students who leave without permission and/or without signing out in the proper manner will be considered truant.

**ARTICLE 5 – SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT**

Centennial Elementary School will use the following grading system:

Kindergarten students are graded on progress toward grade-level state/national standards. The grade symbols are:

- E = Exceeds the Standard
- M = Meets the Standard Consistently
- P = Progressing Toward the Standard
- B = Beginning Level of the Standard

Grade 1 and 2 students receive report card grades: The following letter grades/symbols are used:

- Grading Symbol and Effort Code
- O = 95 – 100 Outstanding

S+= 90- 94	Very good
S = 80 – 89	Satisfactory
N = 70 – 79	Needs Improvement
U = 0 – 69	Unsatisfactory

Grade 3-6 students receive report card grades. The following symbols are used:

Grading System Achievement			
A+ = 99-100	A = 95-98	A- = 93-94	
B+ = 91-92	B = 88-90	B- = 86-87	C+ =
84-85 C = 80-83	C- = 78-79		
D+ = 76-77	D = 72-75	D- = 70-71	
F = 0-69			

Elementary physical education, instrumental music, vocal music and library skills are graded as follows:  
Very Good (S+), Satisfactory (S), Progressing (S-), Needs Improvement (N).

Each teacher should define for students the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

### **PROMOTION/RETENTION**

Any elementary teacher considering the retention of a student must submit a report of the reasons to the elementary principal. The report shall include a summary of conferences held with the parents/guardians.

The teacher, parents and elementary principal will attempt to reach a unanimous decision on whether or not a student will be retained. If agreement cannot be reached the final decision will be made by the elementary principal.

### **HOMEWORK DETENTION**

After-school detention will begin in September for students in grades 3-6 who do not complete their homework. Students who do not complete their homework will be issued a **HOMEWORK TICKET**. When issued a Homework Ticket, the student will be required to call his/her parent/guardian. The student will inform the parent/guardian what was not completed and the time they can be picked up from detention. Students will no longer be kept in from recess to complete work that should have been completed at home. The Homework Ticket will be sent home with the student to be signed by parent/guardian and returned the next day. Parents are asked to make transportation arrangements. Tickets will be issued for Math, Reading/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies for the following reasons: homework not completed, homework left at home, homework left at school.

### **INTERIM REPORTS**

Various supplemental reports may be sent to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work which needs improving. These reports will be sent as the teacher determines.

### **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter, or nine-week sessions. Grades are used to designate a student's progress.

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held during the 1st quarter and 3rd quarter. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by calling the school office and making arrangements with one or more teachers as needed.

### **CENTENNIAL ACADEMIC FITNESS AWARDS PROGRAM**

This academic recognition program was modeled after the original Presidential Academic Fitness Awards Program and is designed to recognize those students in the 6th grade who have met the following criteria:

Grade Point Average - The student must have maintained a B+ grade average through the fourth, fifth, and first semester of the sixth grade years.

Test Score - The student must have scored at or above the 80th percentile on the composite score on an achievement test battery administered during the fifth grade year.

Sixth graders qualifying for the award will be recognized near the end of the school year and awarded a certificate showing their accomplishment.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

### A. Policy Statement

Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student's level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

### B. Definitions

The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

1. "Cheating" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

a. Tests (includes tests, quizzes, and other examinations or academic performances):

- i. Advance Information: Obtaining, reviewing, or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.
- ii. Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices, or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for "open book" tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.
- iii. Use of Other Student Answers: Copying or looking at another student's answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student's paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student's answers on the test paper.
- iv. Use of Other Student to Take Test. Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
- v. Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.

b. Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):

- i. Use of Another's Paper: Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
- ii. Re-use of One's Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.

- iii. Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.
- iv. Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.
- v. Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.

c. Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.

- 2. "Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own material a portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- i. Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.
  - ii. Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.
- 3. "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at test answers, to copy papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

### C. Sanctions

The following sanctions will occur for academic integrity offenses:

- 1. Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work. Credit for the class may be withheld pending successful completion of the replacement test or project.
- 2. Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the principal of the offense and the instructor or principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.
- 3. Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in a serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

## ARTICLE 6 – SUPPORT SERVICES

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION IDENTIFICATION & PLACEMENT PROCEDURES**

### What Does Special Education Mean?

Special education means educational experiences, curriculum and services, including transportation, through the use of staff, facilities, equipment and classrooms which have been adapted to provide special instruction for students with disabilities. In addition, special education provides the support services necessary for evaluation, placement, and instruction for students with disabilities. These services are free to parents, unless they elect to place their child in a program other than one approved by the school district.

### How are Students With Disabilities Identified?

The first step is for parents to provide written permission to have their child evaluated. The request for permission will include a description of the action to be taken and a description of each evaluation procedure. Written statements showing the results of the evaluation and the reasons for placement in a special education program must be kept on file. Within 30 days after a student has been verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. Advance notice will be given. At the conference, an Individual Education Program (IEP) will be developed.

### Students Who May Benefit

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorder, hearing impairment, mental handicap, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual handicap may be placed in regular education with support services or may benefit from a special education classroom or service.

### Independent Evaluation

If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at public expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

### Reevaluation

Students identified for special education will be reevaluated at least every three years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district shall obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

### Individual Education Program (IEP)

Each student with a disability must have a written IEP prepared by the staff in cooperation with parents specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. If necessary, the district will arrange for interpreters or other assistants to help parents in preparing and understanding the IEP. Once in place, the program is reviewed on a regular basis with the parent.

An IEP is developed in a conference setting. Parents will be notified of the persons who will be in attendance. The IEP conference shall include at least the following:

1. A representative of the school district;
2. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results;
3. One or both parents;
4. The child (when appropriate);
5. At least one regular education teacher if the child is or may be participating in the regular education environment;
6. At least one special education teacher;
7. A representative of the nonpublic school if the child is attending a nonpublic school;
8. A representative of a service agency if the child is receiving services from an approved service agency; and
9. Other individuals, at the discretion of the parent or school district.

It is permissible for parents to bring other persons to the IEP meeting, but it is a good idea to inform the school before the scheduled meeting. The school district will provide parents with a copy of the IEP.

### Special Education Placement

The student's placement in a special education program is dependent on the student's educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). The school district must assure that students with disabilities are educated to the maximum extent possible with students who do not have disabilities. Students are entitled to have supplementary aids and services to help them in a regular educational setting. Students with disabilities may be placed in special classes, separate schools, or other situations outside the regular educational environment when the nature of the child's needs require specialized educational techniques which are not available in current settings. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by a team of persons who knows the student and who understands the tests and procedures that assess the student's learning abilities. Team members know the available programs and services which might help the student. Parents are asked for written consent to determine whether they approve of the educational placement recommended for their child. If the parent does not speak English or is hearing impaired, an interpreter may be requested. Written notice shall be given to parents in a reasonable time before the school district: 1. Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification, or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2. Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

### Alternative Programs

Parents have a right to know about available private and public programs, other than those offered by the schools. The school district staff will provide information about those programs on request. If parents place the student in one of those programs, however, the school district is not required to pay for the student's education.

### Transportation of Students Receiving Special Education

The district special education staff will make arrangements for transportation for eligible students to the extent such is required by the student's IEP. Students assigned to special education programs requiring attendance at schools outside their regular attendance area will be transported. Special conditions may warrant that special education students receive transportation to their assigned schools. If parents are dissatisfied with a transportation decision, they may contact the superintendent for a review.

### Access to Student Records

Parents have the right to inspect and review any education records relating to their child which are collected, maintained, or used by the school district in providing educational services.

### Nonpublic School Students

Students in state-approved nonpublic schools may participate in special education programs in the same manner as public school students.

### Parental Review of Programs

Parents who want to review their child's placement for any reason should request an IEP team meeting. If parents are not satisfied with the results of the conference, they may appeal to the Nebraska Department of Education for a formal hearing to be conducted by a state hearing officer. Parents dissatisfied by the findings and decisions made in a state level hearing have the right to bring civil action.

### Plans and Budget

With the exception of personally identifiable student records, district special education plans and budgets are available for public inspection.

This is a summary of the Centennial Public School district plan for special education students. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the complete district policy or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (appeal procedures) may contact the superintendent at the Centennial Public School Superintendent's Office.

## **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

The Centennial Public School employs a guidance counselor for the purpose of assisting with the District's testing program, to assist with scheduling. We also have on staff a behavioral counselor for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts. If students wish to see a counselor, they are encouraged to stop by the counselor's office and make arrangements for an appointment.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

### School Nurse

Centennial

Public School employs a full-time school nurse. All students who become ill during the school day must visit the nurse's office. If she determines the illness warrants going home, she will initiate such proceedings.

### Student Illnesses

School health personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by the school nurse that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves.

Parents are encouraged to include emergency daytime phone numbers on each child's enrollment card so parents can be reached if their child becomes ill or injured while at school. Parents should also inform the school health office staff of health related information they feel is important for their student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

### Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible, children should be provided medications by parents outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that a child takes or has medication available at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school health office. If a child has asthma or diabetes and is capable of self-managing his or her health condition, parents should contact the health office to develop a self-management plan.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent/guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medications will not be accepted. All medications also require a physician's authorization to be given at school. The school nurse may limit medications to those set forth in the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR). Parents should limit the amount of medication provided to the school to a two-week supply.

### School Health Screening

Children in Preschool and Kindergarten through fourth grade, as well as children in seventh and tenth grades, are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height, and weight. Scoliosis screening is not required by the state and will not be done unless a request is made by the parent/guardian. Students entering the Student Assistance Process at any grade level, and those about whom health concerns are identified to the school nurse, may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

### Physical and Visual Examination

Evidence of a physical examination and a visual evaluation is required within six months prior to entrance into kindergarten and, in the case of transfer from out of state, to any other grade. A physical examination is also required prior to entrance into the seventh grade. The physical examination is to be completed by a physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse; the visual evaluation is to be completed by any of the foregoing or an optometrist. A parent or guardian who objects to the physical examination and/or visual evaluation may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. Waiver forms are available in the school health office. Additional physical examination requirements exist for students participating in athletic participation.

### Immunizations

Students must show proof of immunization. A student who does not comply with the immunization requirements will not be permitted to continue in school. Students with medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs which do not allow immunizations must complete a waiver statement or affidavit. Forms are available in school health offices.

Unimmunized students may be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

**Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations for the 2014-2015 School Year**

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the birthday, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age. 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month, 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Additionally, for 7th Grade Only	1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster) – this dose can be received any time after 10 or 11 years of age depending on which brand of vaccine is received.

**Birth Certificate Requirements**

State law requires that a certified copy of a student’s birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time. A certified copy may be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which the child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

**Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.**

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

### Guidelines for Head Lice

The following guidelines are in place to better control a nuisance condition, reduce absenteeism due to head lice, and involve parents as partners with the school's control efforts:

1. Children will be sent home from school for live head lice. In the event a child has two cases of live lice in a semester, the child will be sent home until free of both live lice and nits (eggs).
  2. Health office staff will provide written treatment information and instructions, including how to check and identify head lice\*.
  3. A child who is sent home from school for head lice should miss no more than two school days.
  4. A child who has been sent from school due to head lice must come to the health office for inspection before returning to class.
  5. A child who returns to class with nits (eggs) will be checked again in 7-10 days.
  6. Families are encouraged to report head lice to the school health office.
  7. Classroom-wide or school-wide head checks will be conducted as needed in order to control the condition at school.
- \*Nit removal will be emphasized for effective management of the condition. For more information, call the nurse at school.

### **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Transportation to and from school is provided to students in accordance with law and Board policy. Students may also be provided transportation on field trips and when participating in school activities. Students are expected to follow the behavioral expectations for riding school buses which are listed in **Article 8 under Student Conduct Expectations**.

## **ARTICLE 7 – DRUGS, ALCOHOL, & TOBACCO**

### **DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS**

The District implements regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

### **EDUCATION & PREVENTION**

This District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, this District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

#### Drug and Alcohol Use and Prevention

By this handbook, each student of the District is hereby provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.

#### Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations

All students are provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the District to require instruction at such grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the Board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. One of the primary objectives shall be the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students. It shall further be the policy of the District to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational, and physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the District.

It shall further be the policy of the District, through the instruction earlier herein referred to, as well as by information and consistent enforcement of the Board's policy pertaining to student conduct as it relates to the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol, that drug and alcohol abuse is wrong and is harmful both to the student and the District, as well as its educational programs.

#### Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs

All students shall be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the Guidance Counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

### **STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT PERTAINING TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO**

(In addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by Board policy or administrative regulation to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.) This shall include such unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the District during regular school hours or after school hours at school sponsored activities on school premises, and at school sponsored activities off school premises.

Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession of any controlled substance, possession of which is prohibited by law.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession of alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.
4. Use of any illicit drug.
5. Distribution of any illicit drug.
6. Use of any drug in an unlawful fashion.
7. Distribution of any drug or controlled substance when such distribution is unlawful.
8. The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol.
9. The use or possession of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, or any other such look-alike product.

It shall further be the policy of the district that violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

#### Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited - Standards of Conduct for Students and Employed Staff

The manufacture, possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage or alcoholic liquor on school grounds, or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any controlled substance or drug, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant on school grounds, or during the educational function or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such

activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing or use of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical may not be taken unless authorized as stated in the next section on AUTHORIZED USE.

#### Authorized Use

Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he or she be given any prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug, or vitamin shall provide signed permission by parent or physician.

#### Disciplinary Sanctions

1. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and could be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
2. If the student is observed to be violating this policy, the student will be escorted to the Principal/Superintendent's office immediately, or if not feasible, the Principal/ Superintendent will be notified. The student's parents or legal guardian will be requested to pick up the student. If it appears there is imminent danger to other students, school personnel, or students involved, the Principal/Superintendent, or such other personnel as authorized by the Principal/Superintendent, may have the student removed by authorized medical or law enforcement personnel.
3. Parents and students shall be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions required and shall be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

#### Intervention

The Centennial Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

#### Administration

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations, or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules, or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations, and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists, to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

#### Safe and Drug-Free Schools -- Parental Notice

**NOTICE TO PARENTS:** Pursuant to the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, if upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice, the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

## **ARTICLE 8 – STUDENT RIGHTS, CONDUCT, RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE POLICIES**

The common goal of students, parents, faculty, and administration of Centennial Public School is to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, Centennial Public School will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies. VIOLATIONS OF THE CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL'S RULES AND POLICIES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in and/or attend any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

## **FORMS OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE**

### **Short-Term Suspension:**

Students may be excluded by the principal or his designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Centennial Public School Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

### **The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:**

1. The principal or the principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. In addition, such short-term suspension will be made only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the conditions outlined by the principal at the time of the suspension.

5. A student on short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds or at any school activity without the express permission of the principal.

#### Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

#### Weapons and/or Firearms

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

#### Long-Term Suspension:

Students may be excluded by the principal or the principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days on (long-term suspension) the conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

#### Expulsion:

1. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds, and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of school board members took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the superintendent.
3. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures: The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

#### **STUDENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

Students have an opportunity to learn by sharing some of the responsibility for creating a good learning environment. To help maintain a quality instructional environment for all students attending Centennial Public School, all students are expected to refrain from the following conduct.

#### **Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment**

The following conduct shall constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle

being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
  - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
  - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
  - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
  - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
  - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
  - f. Possession of pornography;
  - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);

- h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
- i. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion; and
- k. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

#### Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
  - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a

recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

### **ADDITIONAL STUDENT CONDUCT RULES**

The following additional student conduct rules are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, as further specified in these rules. These rules govern student conduct on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

#### Student Appearance Policy

Students at Centennial Public School are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate. Such list is not exclusive, and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related;
- b. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants); no holes in pants above the knee. Shorts, skirts, and skorts should be mid-thigh in length at the minimum.
- c. Clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground.
- d. Clothing or jewelry that advertises beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
- e. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage "horse-play";
- f. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves;
- g. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references, or carries double meanings;
- h. Clothing that is "pajama-like" in nature and gives the impression of coming to school directly from bed. Slippers are not allowed.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the principal or superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school's guidelines, the student should contact the principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the principal's office.

Coaches, sponsors, or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups, or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel, change it, turn it inside out, cover it, or spend the remainder of the day assigned to in-school suspension. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes. Continual violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions under the Student Code of Conduct previously mentioned. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in discipline, up to expulsion.

### Electronic Device Policy

#### A. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

Centennial Public School District encourages the appropriate use of electronic devices at school. Although the inappropriate use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and electronic devices are frequently lost or stolen, Centennial Public School District recognizes the benefits that the incorporation of technology can bring to the curriculum. The District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of these items and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices. **NOTE: By bringing an electronic device to school, students and parents/guardians consent to a search of the device if approved by the administration.**

#### B. DEFINITIONS

“Electronic devices” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, e-readers, tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, lap top computers, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person to another.

#### C. ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE

1. Students are not permitted to possess and use electronic devices during the school day (8:16 a.m.-3:26 p.m.) except as otherwise provided by this policy. Cell phone and text transmitting device (ex: iPod touch) usage is strictly prohibited during any class period; including voice usage, digital imaging, or text messaging.
2. Students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices before school hours, provided that the student not commit any abusive use of the device (see paragraph [D][1]). Administrators have the discretion to prohibit student possession and use of electronic devices on school grounds during these times in the event the administration determines such further restrictions are appropriate; an announcement will be given in the event of such a change in permitted use. **CELL PHONES ARE TO BE TURNED OFF AND STORED IN STUDENT LOCKERS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.**
3. Electronic devices may be used during class time when specifically approved by the teacher or a school administrator in conjunction with appropriate and authorized class or school activities or events (i.e., student use of an e-reader during independent reading time; student use of a lap top computer for a class presentation).
4. Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan.

#### D. VIOLATIONS

1. Students shall not possess or use electronic devices at any time or place for: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities; (e) activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; or (f) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious

school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

2. **The use of electronic devices in locker rooms and restrooms is strictly prohibited.**
3. Electronic devices used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.

**First Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a detention, and a conference between the student and school principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student serves their detention and personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

**Second Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a double detention, and a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student serves their double detention and the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

**Third Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal, and suspension of the student from school. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student has served their suspension and the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

**Subsequent Violations:** Students who are repeat offenders of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of any appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion from school.

Students and/or parents/guardians, as applicable, are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The school shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic devices after this time period.

**Search:** Electronic devices confiscated under this policy shall be subject to reasonable searches, including search of phone number directory, voice mail, and text messages, upon determination by school officials that the facts and circumstances establish reasonable grounds for believing that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

### Transportation

Students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in the Centennial Public School Bus Information Pamphlet. Please read and review these rules with your children. Safety is our first consideration, when transporting children to school. If the bus driver is distracted, danger exists. This is why rigid standards of discipline have been established and must be maintained for our children's safety.

Parents are reminded that school buses are operated for the purpose of providing transportation for children to and from school. Once the bus arrives at the school, the students must enter the school and are subject to the discipline and rules. If for some reason you have not received a School Bus Information pamphlet, notify the Elementary Principal's office.

Parents are asked to call the bus barn (402-534-4711) if their child or children will not be riding the bus on a given morning.

**A note or phone call from a parent/guardian will be required before a driver will allow a student to get off the bus at a location other than his/her regular unloading area.**

### Altering Bus Routes

If some students are not riding the bus on certain days, drivers may vary their routes. Bad road conditions may also cause a bus driver to alter the route.

### Library Books

Students are allowed to check-out two books from the school library at any given time. Students will be charged for damaged or lost library books. Additional books will not be checked out until the previous overdue books are returned. At the end of the school year, report cards will be held until restitution is made.

### Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy

#### A. Internet Safety Policy

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). With respect to the District’s computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (e) implement measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. “Inappropriate material” for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District’s online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s designees.
4. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.

5. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.

## B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general, for educational purposes, meaning activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.
4. Unacceptable Uses.

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. Personal Gain: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. Personal Matters: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. **Campaigning:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
  - d. **Technology-Related Limitations:** Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation,
    - i. Users shall not use another person’s name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members). Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person’s computer, information, files, programs or disks.
    - ii. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
    - iii. Users shall not engage in “hacking” to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
    - iv. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
    - v. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer’s memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
    - vi. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
    - vii. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.
  - e. **Other Policies and Laws:** Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
    - i. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
    - ii. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
    - iii. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
    - iv. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
    - v. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
    - vi. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
    - vii. in a manner contrary to software licenses.
5. **Disclaimer.** The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
6. **Filter.** A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

7. **Monitoring.** Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.
8. **Sanctions.** Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254  
FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011  
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act)

Date of Adoption: June 11, 2012

## **HARRASSEMENT AND BULLYING POLICY**

One of the missions of Centennial Public School is to provide safe and secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors (non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others) are encouraged in the educational program and required of all students and staff. Inappropriate behaviors (bullying, intimidation, and harassment) are to be identified and corrected. Students and staff are to avoid such behaviors. Strategies and practices are implemented to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage and protect others from inappropriate behaviors.

"Bullying" is behavior where one person or group engages in harmful action towards another person or group acting on a real or perceived imbalance of power or view of superiority. The behavior typically includes verbal (e.g. teasing or name-calling) and physical aggression (e.g., hitting, pushing), threatening, excluding or ignoring, spreading rumors, or taking, defacing or destroying the others' property. "Harassment" includes the same actions, though not necessarily from a standpoint of perceived power. Harassment is prohibited. Bullying and harassment are violations of student conduct rules, and appropriate disciplinary measures, up to expulsion, will be enforced. When bullying or harassment is done on the basis of gender, disability, race, or other protected status, it is considered a very serious offense for which expulsion may be a likely consequence depending on the severity of the conduct.

Students who are the victim of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurring are to promptly report the problem to their teacher, counselor, or principal so the problem can be addressed. Students who make reports of bullying activity will not be retaliated against for making the report.

It is the policy of Centennial Public School that "bullying" type behavior is not to be permitted. These guidelines are established to respond specifically to bullying behavior. Students and parents are advised that other response measures

are also in place and set forth in of this handbook for behavior which is discriminatory or harassing on unlawful grounds (e.g., sexual harassment, harassment of students with disabilities, race harassment, etc.).

**Step I:** The first time school personnel become aware of a possible harassment or bullying situation, the accused student will be informed that such a complaint has been filed. At that time a warning will be given regarding this kind of behavior. The consequences for this kind of behavior in the future will be clearly outlined for the student. If, in the school's opinion, the first occurrence of harassment behavior is severe, the school may move immediately to any of the four steps in the harassment policy. In other words, the policy may or may not be used sequentially. Moreover, at any stage the student may be disciplined under the student code by actions which may include expulsion, in the event the conduct is also a violation of other provisions of the student code.

**Step II:** The second time school personnel become aware of a harassment incident, the accused student's parents will be notified. A conference will be requested at that time. If it is determined that the student has harassed another student, consequences will be assigned. A student may stay on the second step as long as school authorities feel the consequences are effectively correcting the harassment behaviors. If it is determined that there is no basis for the harassment accusation, no consequences will be assigned. If the school determines that a student is intentionally making a false accusation against another student, an appropriate response will be made.

**Step III:** If the school authorities determine that the student continues to harass another student or the student fails to agree to not harass in the future, the school may assign the student to the Harassment Program level set forth below which the school authorities determine to be appropriate.

**Step IV:** If a student fails to respond positively to the corrective measures of the Harassment Program, the student will be suspended from school for a minimum of five school days, up to expulsion. School authorities will determine the action necessary to insure a safe learning environment for all students.

#### Harassment and Bullying Program--Levels:

Purpose: All students have the right to attend Centennial Public School free from verbal and physical harassment and bullying. The purpose of the Harassment and Bullying Program is to protect students and staff from those who fail or refuse to comply with school guidelines regarding the treatment of others.

**Level I:** The guidelines for a Level I placement are listed below.

- a) The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b) The student will report to the office no later than 8:10 a.m. each morning.
- c) The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d) The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day and will remain until 3:55 p.m. This will allow all other students to leave the school grounds in safety.

**Level II:** The guidelines for a Level II placement are listed below.

- a) The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b) The student will report to the office no later than 8:10 a.m. in the morning.
- c) The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d) The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day and remain until 3:55 p.m.
- e) The student will remain in class at the end of each period. The student will be under direct teacher supervision during passing time. The teacher will dismiss the student at the end of the passing period. The student will then have three minutes to get to his/her next class.

**Level III:** This is a long-term assignment. The guidelines are listed below.

All items listed in Level II will be used, except the length of the assignment will be no less than six weeks, and may remain in effect until the end of the school year and continue into the next, if determined to be appropriate.

#### **INAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION (PDA or IPDA)**

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection will not be tolerated on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes: hugging, kissing or any other types of affection that would be considered inappropriate or an undue distraction to others. Students will face the following consequences if this type of behavior occurs.

**1st Offense:** Student will be confronted and directed to cease.

**2nd Offense:** Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.

**3rd Offense:** Students will be suspended from school for a minimum of 1 day, and the parents and student will need to meet with administrator(s) and counselor.

\*If this type of behavior continues, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

### **SPECIFIC RULE ITEMS**

The following conduct may result in disciplinary action which, in the event of repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion.

- a. Gum, candy, seeds, etc. are not allowed in the school building or classrooms, without prior approval.
- b. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes study halls.
- c. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
- d. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
- e. Students are to be in their classroom and ready for class on the tardy bell.
- f. Students are not to bring items to school that are not required for educational purposes as they may be taken from lockers and will not be allowed in the classroom. These items are classified as “nuisance items” and include but are not limited to: a) personal stereos, b) cell phones, c) beepers, and d) laser pointers.
- g. Snow and water balloon handling is prohibited.

### **REPORTING STUDENT LAW VIOLATIONS**

- A. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the police and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible.
- B. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.
- C. In an effort to demonstrate that student behavior is always subject to possible legal sanctions, regardless of where the behavior occurs, it shall be the policy of the Centennial Public School to notify the proper legal authorities when a student engages in any of the following behaviors on school grounds or at a school sponsored event:
  - a. Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol.
  - b. Assault.
  - c. Vandalism resulting in significant property damage.
  - d. Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature.
  - e. Automobile accident.
  - f. Any other behavior which significantly threatens the health or safety of students, staff, or other persons or which is required by law to be reported.

## **ARTICLE 9 – EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – STUDENT RIGHTS, CONDUCT, RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **STUDENT CONDUCT AT ACTIVITIES**

Elementary students are required to be escorted by a parent/guardian to all school activities, programs or performances. We encourage your support in the fostering of proper conduct of students at programs and activities. Any conduct that interferes with others in attendance, such as running around, being loud, destructive, distracting, etc., could constitute a need for correction.

### **STUDENT FEES POLICY**

The board realizes some activities may require additional expenditures which are properly to be borne by students as a separate charge. Such charges may be waived as specified below depending upon the student’s eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program. [In other special cases where the parent/guardian requests that the student be exempted from

charges, the superintendent shall determine granting of waivers.] No fees, specialized or non-specialized attire, or equipment shall be required of students outside this policy. This policy does not apply to tuition payments by nonresident students.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Extra-curricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school district;
2. Postsecondary education costs means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from postsecondary educational institution.

The district may charge student fees or require students to provide specialized equipment or attire in the following areas:

1. Participation in extracurricular activities, including extracurricular music courses;
3. Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities;
4. Postsecondary education costs, limited to tuition and fees associated with obtaining credits from the postsecondary institution;
5. Transportation fees for option students not qualifying for free lunches and nonresident students as allowed by state statute;
6. Copies of student files or records as allowed by state statute;
7. Reimbursement to the district for property lost or damaged by the student;
8. Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services in accordance with state statute;
9. Summer school or night school; and
10. Breakfast and lunch programs.

The district may also require students to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches shall be provided with a musical instrument of the school's choice.

Waiver for any of the following shall be provided for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches:

- Section 1** Fees and specialized equipment and specialized attire required for participation in extracurricular activities;
- Section 2** Admission fees for onsite district-sponsored extra-curricular activities and district transportation charges for spectators attending offsite extracurricular activities; and
- Section 3** Materials required for course projects where the project becomes the property of the student upon completion.

The superintendent shall establish a Student Fee Fund and ensure the funds collected as fees for the following purposes are properly recorded and deposited to it:

- Section 4** Participation in extracurricular activities;
- Section 5** Postsecondary education costs; and
- Section 6** Summer school or night school.

The superintendent shall promulgate regulations outlining the purposes for which fees in these three areas are collected and shall ensure such fees are spent for those purposes.

The superintendent shall promulgate regulations to be published annually in the student handbook authorizing and governing:

1. Any non-specialized clothing required for specified courses and activities;
2. Any personal or consumable items a student will be required to furnish for specified courses and activities;
3. Any materials required for course projects if the project becomes the property of the student upon completion; and
4. Any specialized equipment or specialized attire which a student will be required to provide for any extracurricular activity, including extracurricular music courses.
5. The superintendent shall also promulgate regulations authorizing and governing the following areas:
6. All fees to be collected within the nine numbered areas of the third paragraph of this policy;
7. Any other types of specialized equipment or attire to be provided by all students in the nine numbered areas of

- the third paragraph of this policy;
8. Procedures and forms for students or parent/guardians to apply for waivers under this policy;
  9. Deadlines for waivers for all types of fees;
  10. Procedures for allowing facilities use for NSAA District events to avoid conflict with this policy;
  11. Procedures [to avoid the direct handling of fees; for the handling of fees] for students receiving postsecondary education credits;
  12. Procedures for handling of fees related to summer school or night school;
  13. Attendance requirements and procedures in connection with evening, weekend or summer use of facilities related to all extracurricular activities to avoid conflict with this policy;
  14. Procedures for admitting students on waiver to extracurricular activities; and
  15. Procedures for transportation of student spectators to extracurricular activities and collection of any related fees.

Public concerns or complaints regarding required fees, attire or equipment shall be addressed under Policy 1003.3 Complaints.

This policy will be reviewed and re-adopted annually by August 1 at a regular or special meeting of the Board. This shall include a review of the amount of money collected under this policy and the use of waivers as provided by this policy. The policy shall be published in the student handbook provided at no cost to each student.

Legal Reference:       Neb. Constitution, Art VII, Sect. 1  
                               Neb. Statute    79-215 (tuition)  
   79-241 (option student busing)  
   79-605 (nonresident busing)  
   79-611 (transportation fee)  
   79-734 (books, equipment and supplies)  
   79-2,104 (student files)  
   79-2,125 to 2,134 (student fees law)  
   79-1104 (before-and-after-school services)  
   79-1106 to 1108 (learners with high ability)

## **ARTICLE 10 – STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

Students, parents, employees, volunteers, school patrons, applicants for student admission or employment, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Centennial Public School, and all others who interact with Centennial Public School are hereby notified that the Centennial Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, religion, or disability in the admission, access to its facilities or programs, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities.

### **DESIGNATION OF COORDINATOR(S)**

Any person having inquiries concerning this district’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Colin Bargaen, Centennial High School, Utica, NE 68456, 402-534-2321.

<b>Law, Policy or Program</b>	<b>Issue or Concern</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Colin Bargaen
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Colin Bargaen

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Colin Bargaen
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Tim DeWaard
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Colin Bargaen

## **ANTI-DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT POLICY**

### Elimination of Discrimination

The Centennial Public School hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

### Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Students.

Purpose: Centennial Public School is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Centennial Public School will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may exist when:

1. Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.
4. Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

### Complaint and Grievance Procedures:

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor

or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Centennial Public School. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent of Centennial Public School, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent of Centennial Public School will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

### **MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the Centennial Public School system to utilize the resources of curriculum, instruction, in-service, counseling and guidance to reflect the racial, ethnic, language, and cultural heritage of both historical and modern-day United States of America by observing the following objectives:

1. To select materials and methods that will eliminate bias and stereotype in our schools.
2. To conduct in-service programs for our staff that will help them to understand a multi-cultural approach and to reflect it in their teaching and administrative duties.
3. To encourage **all** students to grow in self-esteem and to understand and develop their academic and human potential.
4. To guard against the grouping of students that reflects racial, ethnic, language, or cultural bias.

### **NOTICE TO PARENTS OF RIGHTS AFFORDED BY SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to qualifying students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent).
11. File a local grievance.

### **NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. Contractors, consultants and volunteers are permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

The District forwards education records (may include academic, health and discipline records) that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student has already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue,  
S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

#### NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the district has designated as directory information are as follows: student’s name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous school attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The district's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the district does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District designates such student work as directory information and as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:

The District designates the Seward County Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

**NOTICE CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Centennial Public School to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that Centennial Public School not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. Centennial Public School will comply with any such request.

**NOTICE CONCERNING STAFF QUALIFICATIONS**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Centennial Public School will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Centennial Public School will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

**STUDENT PRIVACY PROTECTION & PARENT RIGHTS POLICIES**

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties:

Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive:

The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials:

Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term “instructional materials” for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator’s intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

#### Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings:

The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: “Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.”

#### Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students:

The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. “Personal information” for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent’s first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term “personal information,” for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

#### Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information:

While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not

be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy:

The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events:

The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
5. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
6. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
7. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
8. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
9. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICIES**

Centennial Public School, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation in the school district, herewith declares that it shall be the policy of the district to provide parent/guardian access to all textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, and any other instructional materials used by the school.

It shall further be the policy of the district in the event any parent/guardian has a complaint or objection to any such materials to make such provision for personal conferences with the parent/guardian and appropriate school personnel to discuss such concerns. A sincere effort will be made to resolve the issue at this level. Should this effort fail, the superintendent or his/her designee shall cause to be prepared a complaint form which is to be used by a parent/guardian to express objections to any such instructional material. Such complaint form shall seek information including, but not limited to, (1) the instructional material complained of, (2) the reason for the complaint, and a (3) proposed resolution of the complaint by the parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians are invited to visit/monitor the classrooms, assemblies, and other instructional activities. One day advance notice is requested, but not required, for classroom visits. Participation in counseling sessions will be determined on an individual basis with input from the parent, student, counselor, and psychologist, if applicable.

It shall further be the policy of the district to receive communication when a parent/guardian believes it is appropriate for his/her child to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, or other school experiences that the parent/guardian may find objectionable. Every effort will be made to resolve the issue on an informal basis. Should this effort fail, the superintendent or his/her designee shall make a provision on a complaint form herein above referred to for receiving information from a parent/guardian concerning what (4) specific testing, (5) classroom instruction, or (6) other school experiences the parent/guardian finds objectionable, (7) the basis for the parent's/guardian's objection and a (8) proposed solution for dealing with the objection. With the exception of special sensitive issues and/or time constraints, excusing a student will occur only after a parent/guardian, teacher, and principal conference in addition to receipt of the signed complaint form. Should a student be excused from the requested activity, there shall be no penalty but an agreed upon alternative activity must be performed to the satisfaction of the teacher and principal.

It shall further be the policy of the district to provide full student records access to a custodial parent/guardian during regular business hours of school in the appropriate administrator's office.

It shall further be the policy of the district to notify a parent/guardian of a student who is scheduled to take a standardized norm referenced or criterion referenced test or standardized test such as but not limited to the California Achievement Test, to notify the parent/guardian when reasonable to do so, where a sample of such test might be observed and the date upon which such test will be administered. As to all testing by the district, experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments, and testing instruments shall be prohibited unless a parent/guardian requests in writing that such test be administered to his/her student.

It shall be the policy of the district to conduct student surveys judiciously, with consideration to the fact that certain parents/guardians may find certain items of the survey objectionable [i.e. those which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy of any student or parent/guardian of such student]. Parents will be given an advance notice of one (1) week prior to conducting surveys which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy of any students or their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may observe these surveys during this week long window and opt to have their child(ren) excused from participation without any penalty being assessed. It shall, however, be the policy of the district to not generally exclude students from any school authorized survey since to do so might impair the valid accuracy of such a survey. Parents/guardians may withdraw their child(ren) from participating in any survey at any time. Legal Reference: 79-4,242 to 79-4,245

### **Title I Parental Involvement Policy**

This Title I Parental Involvement Policy is established in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Centennial Public School has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I laws. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Expectations for Parental Involvement: It is the expectation of Centennial Public School that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring--(A) that

parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

1. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.
2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.
5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.
6. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

**Policy Involvement: Each school served under the Title I program shall**

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, child care, or home visits.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the District operates a schoolwide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the District.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement: As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall: (1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (i) parent-

teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (ii) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (iii) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

**Building Capacity for Involvement:** To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District: (1) shall provide assistance to participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

**Accessibility:** In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy, the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

**Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy:** This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

## **HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY**

Homeless children for purposes of this Policy generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable federal and state law.

### No Stigmatization or Segregation of Homeless Students:

It is the District's policy and practice to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated by the District on the basis of their status as homeless.

### Homeless Coordinator:

The Superintendent shall serve as the District's designated Homeless Coordinator. The Homeless Coordinator shall serve as the school liaison for homeless children and youth and shall ensure that: (1) homeless children are identified by school

personnel; (2) homeless children enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school; (3) homeless children and their families receive educational service for why they are eligible and referrals to health, dental, and mental health services and other appropriate services; (4) the parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; (5) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated where such children receive services under the federal homeless children laws, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; (6) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law; and (7) the parents or guardians of homeless children, and any unaccompanied youth, are fully informed of transportation services available under law. The Homeless Coordinator shall coordinate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provisions of education and related services to homeless children. The Homeless Coordinator may designate duties hereunder as the Homeless Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

#### Enrollment of and Services to Homeless Children:

A homeless child shall be enrolled in compliance with law and be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school in which the homeless child has been placed. Placement of a homeless child is determined based on the child's "school of origin" and the "best interests" of the child. The "school of origin" means the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. Placement decisions shall be made according to the District's determination of the child's best interests, and shall be at either: (1) the child's school of origin for the duration of the child's homelessness (or, if the child becomes permanently housed during the school year, for the remainder of that school year) or (2) the school of the attendance area where the child is actually living. To the extent feasible, the placement shall be in the school of origin, except when such is contrary to the wishes of the homeless child's parent or legal guardian. If the placement is not in the school of origin or a school requested by the homeless child's parent or legal guardian, the District shall provide a written explanation of the placement decision and a statement of appeal rights to the parent or guardian. If the homeless child is an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Coordinator shall assist in the placement decision, consider the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provide the unaccompanied youth with notice of the right to appeal. In the event of an enrollment dispute, the placement shall be at the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute in accordance with the dispute resolution process. The homeless child shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which the District has determined to place the child, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the homeless child to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the homeless child needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the District shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child to the Homeless Coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records. The District may nonetheless require the parent or guardian of the homeless child to submit contact information.

Transportation will be provided to homeless students, to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless, upon request of the parent or guardian of the homeless child, or by the Homeless Coordinator in the case of an unaccompanied youth, as follows: (1) if the homeless child's school of origin is in the Centennial Public School, and the homeless child continues to live in the Centennial Public School, transportation to and from the school or origin shall be provided by the Centennial Public School; and (2) if the homeless child lives in a school other than the Centennial Public School, but continues to attend the Centennial Public School based on it being the school of origin, the new school and the Centennial Public School shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin and, if they are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

#### **BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAMS**

The Centennial Public School has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs. The District provides the United States Department of Agriculture's required nondiscrimination statement:

- In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

- To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority, Centennial Public School:

7. Agrees to serve meals free to children from families whose income meets eligibility guidelines.
8. Agrees to serve meals at a reduced price to children from families whose income falls between free meal scale and the poverty guidelines.
9. Agrees to provide these benefits to any child whose family's income falls within the criteria in Attachment A after deductions are made for the following special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household: Unusually high medical expenses; shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income; special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child; disaster or casualty losses.
10. In addition, agrees to provide these benefits to children from families who are experiencing strikes, layoffs and unemployment which cause the family income to fall within the criteria set forth in federal guidelines.
11. Agrees there will be no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against, any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals shall not be required to: Work for their meals; use a separate lunch room; go through a separate serving line; enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance; eat meals at a different time; or eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price.
12. Agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
13. Agrees to establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parental appeals to the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of information contained in an application or to be continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals. During the appeal and hearing the child will continue to receive free or reduced priced meals. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years. Prior to initiating the hearing procedures, the parent or local school official may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and school official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of data submitted in the application and decisions rendered. Such a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing. The hearing procedure shall provide the following:
  - i. A publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing.
  - ii. An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person.
  - iii. An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal.
  - iv. Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing.
  - v. An opportunity to present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference.
  - vi. An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses.
  - vii. The hearing be conducted and the decision made by a hearing official who did not participate in the decision under appeal or in any previous conference.
  - viii. The parties concerned and any designated representative thereof be notified in writing of the decision of the hearing official.
14. Agrees to designate the Superintendent to review applications and make determinations of eligibility. This official will use the criteria outlined in this policy to determine which individual children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

15. Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced price meals at the beginning of each school year. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. All children from a family will receive the same benefits.

The following attachments will be available in the office of the Superintendent:

- Eligibility criteria for free and reduced meals
- Parent letter and application
- Public release
- Collection procedure

### **Breakfast and Lunch Prices for 2014-2015**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Milk</b>
PreK - 6th Grade Students	\$1.85	\$2.60	\$0.50
Adults	\$2.10	\$3.55	\$0.50

**RECEIPT OF THE 2014-2015 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK  
OF CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2014-2015 Student-Parent Handbook of Centennial Public School. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood that the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used to responding to harassment or discrimination.

**DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS STATEMENT:** RECEIPT SHALL ALSO SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING CENTENNIAL HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO THE SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS LAW AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND THE POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO, **INCLUDING VAPOR PRODUCTS**, ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS.

Student #1 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #2 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #3 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #4 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #5 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT’S INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT**

In order to make sure that all members of Centennial Public School community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Centennial Public School asks that you as a student user sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Centennial Public School, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Centennial Public School and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Centennial Public School, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Centennial Public School responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student #1 Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student #1 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #2 Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student #2 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #3 Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student #3 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #4 Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student #4 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #5 Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student #5 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

**Please return this page, signed, to the Centennial Elementary Office no later than Fri, Aug 29, 2014**  
Megan Hammer, Elementary Principal

2014 - 2015



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CENTENNIAL  
JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL  
*Student/Parent Handbook*

# STUDENT - PARENT HANDBOOK CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL 2014-2015

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August 1, 2014

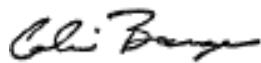
Centennial students and parents:

Welcome back to the 2014-2015 school year. I trust that you have had an enjoyable summer vacation and are looking forward to rejoining your friends for another school year. It is the desire of the Centennial family of teachers, staff members, and administrators to make this a rewarding and profitable year for our students.

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Centennial Junior/Senior High School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all-encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract." The administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to ensure a productive, orderly, and safe learning environment. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colin Borgen".

Colin Borgen  
Secondary Principal  
Centennial Public School

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Larry Paxson	President
Wayne Heine	Vice-President
Mike Hahn	Secretary
Doug Tonniges	Treasurer
Jody Cast	Member
Mark Avery	Member

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Tim DeWaard	Superintendent
Colin Bargaen	Secondary Principal
Megan Hammer	Elementary Principal
Dean Davis	Athletic Director
John McClarnen	Special Services Director

### TEACHING STAFF

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Anderson, Arne	Agriculture
Bargaen, Jennifer	Mathematics
Barjenbruch, Craig	Business, Mathematics
Barth, Barb	Special Education
Breitkruetz, Jessica	Art / Media
Davis, Dean	Mathematics /AD
Díaz, María José	Spanish
Eitzmann, Barry	Mathematics
Ernst, Crystal	English, Reading
Ernst, Mark	Social Studies
Fish, Bob	Counselor
Heser, Kelly	PE / Art
Hottovy, Amy	English
Johansen, Rob	Industrial Technology / Video Editing
Klanecky, Evan	PE / Physical Conditioning
Klanecky, Nikki	Special Education
McClure, Leah	Business/Technology
Miller, Kim	Science
Ortmeier, Mark	Science / PE / Reading
Payne, Phil	Social Studies
Peltz, Brittni	Instructional Coach / Assessment Director
Purdham, Elizabeth	Instrumental Music
Rickert, Ashlee	English / Journalism
Rickert, Ben	Vocal Music
Sams, Brian	Science
Scholl, Cameron	Special Education
Sladky, Ashlee	Family Consumer Science
Tesar, Dan	Technology Coordinator

### SUPPORT STAFF

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Marge Rhodes	Bookkeeper
Virgil Heine	Custodian Supervisor
Lydia Popovich	Custodian
Bill Moge	Custodian/Transportation
Pat Kirkpatrick	Custodian
Marilyn Bargsten-Blake	Custodian
TBA	Custodian
TBA	Food Service Supervisor
Diane Erks	Food Service
Kathy Heine	Food Service
Vada Schleusener	Food Service
Wendy Dodson	Food Service
Ron Erks	Food Service
TBA	Food Service
Dana Yamber	Media, Paraeducator
Susan Arnold	Nurse
Beth Johnson	Paraeducator
Gladys Luebbe	Paraeducator
TBA	Paraeducator
Karin Cradick	Paraeducator
Kim Sheehan	Paraeducator
Veronica Waegli	Paraeducator
Sheri Hafer	Paraeducator
Tonia Vavra	Paraeducator
Tammie Poole	Paraeducator
RaNay Kratochvil	Paraeducator
Mary Eikenhorst	Paraeducator
Leah Bjerrum	Secretary
PJ Jackson	Secretary
Susan Dickey	Secretary
Velma Watson	Secretary
Pam Vandelloo	Study Hall Supervisor
Mike Wright	Transportation Supervisor
TBA	Transportation
Cindy Redfield	Transportation
Brenda Geirhan	Transportation
Kathy Heine	Transportation/Food Service
Mary Eikenhorst	Transportation
RaNay Kratochvil	Transportation
Ron Erks	Transportation/Food Service
Roy Richters, Jr.	Transportation

# CENTENNIAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST 2014 - JULY 2015

Aug 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sep 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Oct 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Nov 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dec 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Jan 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August

- 18 TEACHER INSERVICE
- 19 TEACHER INSERVICE
- 20 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

## September

- 1 LABOR DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 19 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 24 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30

## October

- 1 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30
- 10 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 17 END OF 1ST QTR - 42 DAYS
- 20 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 21 START 2ND QUARTER
- 24 NO SCHOOL

## November

- 21 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 26 EARLY DISMISSAL - 1:30
- 27 THANKSGIVING DAY - NO SCHOOL
- 28 NO SCHOOL

## December

- 19 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 23 END 2ND QTR - 43 DAYS; 1ST SEMESTER 85 DAYS; EARLY DISMISSAL 1:30
- 25 CHRISTMAS

## January

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 5 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 6 START 3RD QUARTER
- 16 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE

## February

- 11 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30
- 12 P-T CONF. 4:00 - 8:30 P.M.; DISMISS AT 1:30
- 13 NO SCHOOL
- 27 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE

## March

- 11 END 3RD QTR - 46 DAYS
- 12 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
- 13 NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
- 16 NO SCHOOL - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 17 START 4TH QTR

## April

- 3 GOOD FRIDAY - NO SCHOOL
- 5 EASTER
- 6 NO SCHOOL

## May

- 17 2 HOUR LATE START - TEACHER INSERVICE
- 16 GRADUATION
- 22 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - 47 DAYS; 2ND SEMESTER 93 DAYS; DISMISS AT NOON

Feb 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Mar 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Apr 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Jun 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Jul 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

# **ARTICLE 1 – MISSION & GOALS**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The people of this district are committed to educational excellence in a positive, creative and caring environment, preparing each student to be a responsible, productive citizen in our ever-changing global community.

## **GOVERNING VALUES**

We believe...

- every student can learn.
- in the dignity of each student.
- in the individual growth of each student.
- every student can be an adaptable life-long learner.
- every student can be a responsible, productive citizen.
- the development of self-esteem leads to greater learning.
- in providing curriculum and strategies to meet the needs of all students.
- in the shared responsibility and commitment of the family and school-community to educational excellence.

## **MUTUAL RESPECT**

The Centennial Public School expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of the student will not be tolerated.

## **COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

The proper procedures for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns about school staff, school programs, or activities are set forth below. Other procedures exist to address discrimination or harassment, the bullying of students, and to challenge disciplinary actions. Such other procedures should be used to address those types of concerns.

1. Complaint procedure:
  - Step 1. Have a scheduled conference with the staff person involved in the complaint matter.
  - Step 2. Appeal to the principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.
  - Step 3. Appeal to the Superintendent if the matter is still unresolved at Step 2.
  - Step 4. Appeal to the Board of Education if the matter is still unresolved at Step 3.
2. Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure:

All information to be considered at each appeal step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Appeal decisions shall be expedited as quickly as possible.

## **ARTICLE 2 – SCHOOL DAY**

### **DAILY SCHEDULE**

Enter School Building.....	8:05
Class Warning Tone .....	8:11
Period 1.....	8:16 - - - 9:04
Period 2.....	9:07 - - - 9:55
Period 3.....	9:58 - - - 10:46
Period 4.....	10:49 - - - 11:37
Junior High Lunch.....	11:37 - - - 12:07
Period 5 (Junior High).....	12:10 - - - 12:57
Period 5 (High School).....	11:40 - - - 12:27
Senior High Lunch .....	12:29 - - - 12:57
Period 6 .....	1:00 - - - 1:48
Period 7.....	1:51 - - - 2:39
Period 8.....	2:42 - - - 3:30

### **1:30 DISMISSAL SCHEDULE**

Enter School Building.....	8:05
Class Warning Tone .....	8:11
Period 1.....	8:16 - - - 8:47
Period 2.....	8:50 - - - 9:21
Period 3.....	9:24 - - - 9:55
Period 6.....	9:58 - - - 10:29
Period 7 .....	10:32 - - - 11:03
Period 4.....	11:06 - - - 11:37
Junior High Lunch.....	11:37 - - - 12:07
Period 5 (Junior High).....	12:10 - - - 12:45
Period 5 (High School).....	11:40 - - - 12:15
Senior High Lunch .....	12:15 - - - 12:45
Period 8.....	12:48 - - - 1:30

### **2 HOUR LATE START SCHEDULE**

Enter School Building.....	10:05
Class Warning Tone .....	10:11
Period 1.....	10:16 - - - 10:55
Period 2.....	10:58 - - - 11:37
Junior High Lunch.....	11:37 - - - 12:07
Period 5 (Junior High).....	12:10 - - - 12:45
Period 5 (High School).....	11:40 - - - 12:15
Senior High Lunch .....	12:15 - - - 12:45
Period 3.....	12:48 - - - 1:18
Period 4.....	1:21 - - - 1:51
Period 6 .....	1:54 - - - 2:24
Period 7.....	2:27 - - - 2:57
Period 8.....	3:00 - - - 3:30

## **SEVERE WEATHER AND SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Advance notice of school closings will be announced by the following radio and TV stations:

KZKX in Lincoln – 96.9 FM

KLKN TV in Lincoln

KAWL in York – 104.9 FM, 1370 AM

KFAB in Omaha – 1110 AM

KOLN TV in Lincoln

KZEN in Central City – 100.3

After School Starts: Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases, as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.**

What Not To Do: Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

Emergency Conditions: Centennial Public School has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

Tornado Drills: Students are to move quietly and promptly to the location noted by the teacher. Follow all directions that are given.

Fire Drills: Sec. 81-52 of Nebraska School Law requires fire drills to be held once a month. When the alarm sounds, all people (employees included) will file out in a quiet and orderly fashion through the prescribed exit to a predetermined location.

**ABSOLUTELY NO RUNNING.** The proper exit location from all rooms will be shared by each teacher. When the “return to building” announcement is given, students are requested to return quietly to their respective rooms.

## **ENTERING & LEAVING THE BUILDING**

### Beginning of School

Students should not be on school grounds earlier than necessary. **Prior to 8:00 a.m., the school is not responsible for supervision of the students.** The first bell will ring at 8:05 a.m. Students are to stay in the lobby and are not to go to any other part of the building without permission until the first bell.

### During the School Day

Students are to remain on campus unless excused in accordance with school policies.

### End of School

Our regular school day ends at 3:30 p.m. It is important that students who are involved in after school activities report to the designated area on time. All other students must clear the building as soon

as possible. **The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students are to have left school grounds.**

## **ARTICLE 3 – USE OF BUILDING & GROUNDS**

### **VISITORS**

Upon entering the main entrance, all visitors must report to the superintendent's office to sign in, in order to receive a visitor's pass. Parents are welcome at all times. Please check in at the secondary office upon entering the junior/high school wing. Visitations during the first week of school and the last week of school will require extraordinary reasons or permission from administrators.

### **SMOKE-FREE BUILDING**

Centennial declares all of our school buildings to be smoke-free. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of smoke and tobacco-free buildings for our children.

When you attend school events, including athletic events, please remember that our buildings are smoke and tobacco-free, and abide by our District's policy.

### **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

1. Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school.
2. Students who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

Fines are determined on books according to the following criteria:

1. **Broken covers** – replacement cost of the textbook
2. **Obscenities (words or pictures) written** – replacement cost of the textbook
3. **Torn pages** – tape if possible; if not possible, \$2.00 per page to cost of the textbook
4. **Torn or damaged cover** - \$5.00
5. **Ink marks (if not erasable)** - \$2.00 per page to cost of the textbook
6. **Water damage** - \$5.00 for minor damage; replacement cost of the textbook for major damage
7. **Defacing cover, edges, etc.** - \$10.00
8. **Lost** – replacement cost of the textbook
9. **Broken binding** - \$10.00
10. **Missing pages** – replacement cost of the textbook

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

### **LOCKERS**

Each student will be assigned a locker. Each locker will be provided with a built-in lock for security. Students must use their own lockers and are not to share lockers with other students except as assigned by school officials. We recommend that the locker is locked and remains locked at all times. Students are expected to keep all books, etc., in their assigned locker. **Students are not allowed to take their book bags into classrooms; thus, having a well-organized locker will be essential to getting to class on time with all required materials.** Students are also responsible for the cleanliness inside their locker and the door of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers.

### **SEARCHES OF LOCKERS & OTHER TYPES OF SEARCHES**

Student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules shall apply to searches of students and of a student's personal property and to the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a school rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be taken and kept by school officials. Any firearm or other weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as practicable.
3. Items which have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process (that is, "nuisance items") may be removed from student possession.

### **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

### **USE OF TELEPHONE**

Incoming Calls: The office will attempt to cooperate with parents or guardians in order to deliver messages to students during school hours. Messages will be written and delivered to students. Only in cases of extreme urgency will students be called out of class. Calls for students during school hours are disturbing to normal school routine and should be held to a minimum and for emergency purposes only.

Out-Going Calls: The school telephone is primarily for school business and shall not be used for personal calls. Students finding it necessary to make calls are to come to the office to gain permission to either use the school's phone or gain permission to use their cell phone while in the office. In an emergency, an office phone may be used with permission from office personnel.

### **BICYCLES**

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided. All bicycles should be equipped with locks. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

### **STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary safe-keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft, or damage.

### **LOST & FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel.

### **ACCIDENTS**

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal/Athletic Director.

### **LABORATORY SAFETY GLASSES**

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

### **INSURANCE**

Under Nebraska law, the District may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The District requires that all student participants in athletic programs have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. The district does not make recommendations, nor handle the premiums or claims for any insurance company, agent, or carrier. Information about student insurance providers will be available in the school office or on school bulletin boards.

### **BULLETINS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within a week after the event.

### **COPYRIGHT & FAIR USE POLICY**

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is “fair.” Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

## **ARTICLE 4 – ATTENDANCE**

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The Board's policies require such attendance, the administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance.

### **ATTENDANCE & ABSENCES**

#### **Absences From School - Definitions**

An absence from school will be reported as: (a) an excused absence or (b) an unexcused absence.

1. **Excused Absences.** Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even by parental approval, may not be excused. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval. An absence for any of the following reasons will be excused, provided the required procedures have been followed:
  - (A) Attendance at a funeral for a member of the immediate family (parents, siblings, and grandparents),
  - (B) Illness which causes a student to be absent from school,
  - (C) Doctor or dental appointment which require student to be absent from school, **(with note from doctor or dentist to verify excuse)**
  - (D) Court appearances that are required by a court order and the **student is not responsible for needing to be in court.**
  - (E) School sponsored activities which require students to be absent from school,
  - (F) Family trips in which student accompanies parent(s)/legal guardian(s),
  - (G) Other absences which have received prior approval from the Principal.

The Principal has the discretion to deny approval for the latter two reasons, depending on circumstances such as the student's number of other absences, the student's academic status, the tests or other projects which may be missed, and in the case of a family trip, whether the trip could be taken during non-school time and the educational nature of the trip.

2. **Unexcused Absences:** An absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is unexcused, the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence and may be required to make-up work and the time missed.

A student who engages in unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law, Neb.Rev.Stat. § 79-201. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of such action may include suspension from classes, and the student may be required to make up the time missed. Students who leave the school premises without permission during the school day will be considered truant.

3. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached the age of 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Students. Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools. A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview. The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in [Name] Public Schools or resides in [Name] Public Schools and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and

- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools). A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

### **ABSENCE PROCEDURES**

A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written parental excuse, is issued by the Principal's office. Work must be made up within the time allowed on the admit slip. Students missing classes for school activities must present a completed activities dismissal slip to the sponsor before being allowed to leave for the activity.

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to make up work. If requested, assignment sheets will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents and/or students request assignment sheets, the school should be contacted by no later than 9:30 a.m.

For unexcused absences, the student will receive a failing mark for or in each class period missed.

### **MAKE-UP WORK**

Written make-up work may be assigned for each day missed, regardless of the type of absence. If make-up work is not completed, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed will be determined by mutual agreement between the student and teacher. The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. Assignment sheets will be sent only for extended absences such as chicken pox, hospitalization, or other prolonged illnesses. No assignment sheets will be sent out until after at least three (3) days of absence. If the parents or students have concerns prior to the three (3) days, they are encouraged to contact the teacher.

### **ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN OR ATTEND ACTIVITIES**

Students must attend school all day the day of any scheduled school activity in order to participate in or attend the activity. This includes sports contests, practices, and dances. Failure to attend on that day will result in a student being withheld from participation in or attendance at the activity. The principal retains the right to grant participation should exceptional circumstances prevail.

### **TRUANCY**

#### **Reporting and Responding to Truant Behavior**

Any administrator, teacher, or member of the Board of Education who knows of any failure on the part of any child age 6 to 18 to attend school regularly without lawful reason shall within three days report such violation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The Superintendent shall also investigate any case when, of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the Superintendent believes that any child is unlawfully absent from school. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to remediate the child's truant behavior. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed under the "Excessive Absenteeism" policy.

#### **Excessive Absenteeism**

Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. One or more meetings shall be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker, the school principal or a member of the school administrative staff as designated by the school administration, the parent/guardian, and the student **to develop a collaborative plan to improve regular attendance**. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place in the student's attendance records documentation of such refusal.
2. Educational counseling to determine whether curriculum changes, including but not limited to, enrolling the child in an alternative education program that meets the specific educational and behavioral needs of the child.

3. Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation, to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the excessive absenteeism problem, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
4. Investigation of the excessive absenteeism problem by the Seward County Truancy Prevention Office to identify conditions which may be contributing to the excessive absenteeism problem. If services for the child and his or her family are determined to be needed, the person performing the investigation shall meet with the parent/guardian and the child to discuss any referral to appropriate community agencies for economic services, family or individual counseling, or other services required to remedy the conditions that are contributing to the excessive absenteeism problem.

#### **Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney**

- A. **Twenty Excused Absences:** If a student accumulates more than twenty (20) absences per year and all of the absences are due to documented illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable or are otherwise excused by school authorities, the attendance officer may report such information to the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides.
- B. **Twenty Unexcused Absences:** If a student accumulates more than twenty (20) absences per year, and any of the absences are not excused, the attendance officer shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides. The report shall be made on a form which includes the following two statements, one of which must be designated by the school representative signing the report: (a) The school representative requests additional time to work with the student prior to intervention by the county attorney; and (b) the school representative believes that the school has used all reasonable efforts to resolve the student's excessive absenteeism without success and recommends county attorney intervention. If further action is necessary to address the child's attendance, the initial meeting between the parent or guardian of the child, the school, and the county attorney or his or her designee shall be at a location determined by the school.
- C. **Other:** A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

#### **Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the Commissioner**

- A. The Superintendent or designee shall report on a monthly basis to the Commissioner of Education as directed by the Commissioner regarding the number of and reason for any long-term suspension, expulsion, or excessive absenteeism of a student; referral of a student to the office of the county attorney for excessive absenteeism; or contacting of law enforcement officials (other than law enforcement officials employed by or contracted with by the District as school resource officers) by the District relative to a student enrolled in the District.

#### **Advisory Procedures.**

- A. Advisory letters will be sent to parents or guardians when their child has accrued four (4) and seven (7) absences per class during the semester.
- B. After seven (7) absences, the parent/guardian/student will be notified of potential loss of credits by the principal.

### **Student's Rights to Due Process**

The following procedure will be followed to ensure due process.

#### **A. THE FACULTY COMMITTEE ON ABSENTEEISM**

1. Parents/Guardians/Students who wish to appeal the potential loss of credit must make this request within seven (7) days of notification. Requests for appeal must be made in writing on forms supplied by the principal.
2. The Faculty Committee on Absenteeism shall review all absences/tardies and exceptions to the limitation on absences. Chronic and/or extended illness and/or other unusual circumstances will be considered.
3. A determination will be made individually on each case.
4. The Faculty Committee on Absenteeism shall not exercise the right to take credits from a student.
5. The Faculty Committee on Absenteeism shall make its recommendation in writing to the principal.

#### **B. THE PRINCIPAL, PARENT/GUARDIAN, AND STUDENT**

1. The principal will render a decision within three (3) days after receiving the committee's recommendation and notify the student/parent/guardian.
2. The request for a hearing may be filed by the student or the student's parents/guardians and presented within seven (7) days following the notification of pending loss of credit.

#### **C. THE SUPERINTENDENT**

1. Upon rendering a decision, the principal will forward the decision to the superintendent. If the student is to be denied credit, the superintendent will either support the denial or grant an extension of absences. If the superintendent supports the principal's decision, he/she will notify the student/parent/guardian. The affected party may then request a hearing before the Board of Education. This request must be made within seven (7) days after receiving notification.

#### **D. THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

1. The Board of Education shall serve as the appeal body and may grant or deny an extension of absences after hearing the case.
2. The administration and Board of Education reserve the right to ask for a medical opinion in cases of prolonged or chronic illness.

### **Attendance Hearings**

All attendance hearings will be scheduled for the last week of the semester.

### **TARDINESS**

**Tardy to School:** Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not seated in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area when the bell for their first class rings.

**Tardy to Class:** Students will be considered tardy to class if they are not in their classroom when the tardy bell rings, unless they have a pass from the teacher who detained them. Specific tardy guidelines once students are in the classroom doorway are at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Students have a sufficient time period between all class changes to make it to their next assigned class on time.

**Excessive Tardiness:** Students are allowed 3 tardies per academic quarter without consequence. Upon the 4<sup>th</sup> tardy and each additional tardy, the student will be issued a detention. See **Detention Policy in Article 8** for additional information regarding detentions.

## **LEAVING SCHOOL**

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to check in at the office. Students who leave without permission will be considered truant.

### **Check-Out Procedures**

The procedure for checking out at the end of the school year is as follows:

1. Obtain a check-out form from first period instructor.
2. Return all school books, library books, school-owned material, and pay all bills and fines.
3. Teachers, coaches, sponsors, counselor, and librarian must sign each check-out form for clearance.
4. Check-out forms will be checked and collected before year-end dismissal.

### **Withdrawal Procedures**

The procedure for withdrawal is as follows:

1. Authorization for withdrawal must be made in writing or in person by the parent or guardian.
2. Obtain appropriate forms from the principal's office.
3. Return all books and school owned equipment, and pay all fines and bills.
4. Take completed forms to the principal's office for final clearance.

## **ARTICLE 5 – SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT**

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

Centennial will use the letter grading system as follows:

A	93 - 100	Excellent
B	86 - 92	Above Average
C	78 - 85	Average
D	70 - 77	Below Average
F	Below 70	Failing
I		Incomplete, failure unless removed

Each teacher should define for students the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Centennial Board of Education believes the many benefits of a high school education cannot be fully realized in less than four years. Further, it views the entire senior year as an important period during which the student should be able to enjoy many experiences providing academic growth and enrichment, exploration of new areas, and social growth and maturity.

All students (grades 9-12) are required to register for and complete a minimum of 60 hours of credit each year. Exception: (Students enrolled in vocal music may register for 56 hours of credit.) All seniors are required to successfully complete a minimum of 45 hours of credit in their fourth year of high school.

<b><u>Required Credit Hours</u></b>		<b><u>Credits</u></b>
<b>ENGLISH - 40 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 9	English 9 I/II	10
Grade 10	English 10 I/II	10
Grade 11-12	English 11 I/II	10
Grade 12	<u>Choices</u> : English 12 I/II, AP English I/II, Applied English 12	10
<b>MATHEMATICS - 30 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 9	Algebra A, Algebra I, Algebra II	10
Grade 10	Algebra B, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Applied Math	10
Grade 11-12	<u>Choices</u> : Algebra II, Geometry, Applied Math, Consumer Math, Trig/Pre-Calculus, College Prep Math, AP Calculus	10
<b>SCIENCE - 30 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 9	Physical Science	10
Grade 10	General Biology	10
Grade 11	Chemistry I/II, Standards Science	10
Grade 12	<u>Choices</u> : Physics, Anatomy, Microbiology, Chemistry, AP Biology	10
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES - 30 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 9	World History	10
Grade 10	American History	10
Grade 11- 12	Government	10
<b>BUSINESS - 10 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 11 - 12	Economics	10
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 10 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 9	P.E/Health	10
<b>COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY - 10 CREDIT HOURS</b>		
Grade 9	Computer Tech	10
<b>SPEECH - 5 CREDIT HOURS (Beginning with Class of 2017)</b>		
Grade 10, 11, or 12	Speech	5

ALL OF THE ABOVE CLASSES MERIT FIVE (5) CREDIT HOURS PER SEMESTER

TOTAL REQUIRED CREDIT HOURS -	160
TOTAL ELECTIVE CREDIT HOURS -	<u>80</u>
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS FOR GRADUATION -	240

**NOTE: Beginning with the Class of 2017, students will have 165 hours of required credit and 75 hours of elective credit with the new Speech requirement.**

**COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT - 60 HOURS (15 hours/school year)**

Community Service Hours **MUST BE PRE-APPROVED** by the principal or guidance counselor.

**In an effort to help students keep pace over their 4 years of high school, students will not be able to participate in the Homecoming dance, Prom, or Class Competition Day Out of School if they have not met the following:**

- Freshman (must have 5 hours completed & turned in by Prom/Day Out of School)
- Sophomores (must have 15 hours completed & turned in by Homecoming and 20 hours completed & turned in by Prom/Day Out of School)
- Juniors (must have 30 hours completed & turned in by Homecoming and 35 hours completed & turned in by Prom/Day Out of School)
- Seniors (must have 45 hours completed & turned in by Homecoming and 50 hours completed & turned in by Prom/Day Out of School)

**DRIVER EDUCATION**

Students successfully completing driver education at Centennial will receive three (3) credit hours. Driver education grades do not count toward student grade point averages.

**CLASS COMPETITION**

Centennial High School classes will be involved in some friendly competition throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Grades 9-12 will be judged on the following:

1. Highest quarterly grade point average
2. Quarterly attendance
3. Quarterly tardies
4. Semester citizenship
5. Parent/guardian attendance at parent/teacher conference
6. Bronco Week Activities
7. Other activities deemed necessary by principal.

Scoring

- 1<sup>st</sup> place . . . 20 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place . . . 15 points
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place . . . 10 points
- 4<sup>th</sup> place . . . 5 points

As a reward for winning the class competition, the winning class will be excused from school for one day. **In the situation that there is a tie between two classes, Positive Impact Nominations will be used to break the tie.**

### **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Students needing schedule changes should notify the Principal and/or counselor. Schedule changes must be initiated by the teachers involved, the Principal or counselor, and the student's parent. Final approval of all schedule changes will be made by the Principal only.

### **COMMENCEMENT**

No student shall receive a diploma for graduation unless he/she has previously met the requirements for graduation prior to the graduation ceremony. Students who have not met the requirements for graduation at the time of commencement may not participate in the ceremony unless the principal rules otherwise. Commencement is considered an extra-curricular activity and students that are in violation of the Centennial Extra-Curricular Activity Code of Conduct may not be allowed to participate.

As seniors near graduation, all are reminded that participation in the Commencement Exercise is dependent upon successfully meeting all academic and non-academic requirements in a timely manner. Centennial does not award certificates of attendance to non-graduates. School officials will not accept excuses, i.e. "I sent my senior announcements to my family and friends," for granting participation in this exercise. It is the student's responsibility to check on grade status and related issues prior to sending out announcements.

### **PROMOTION/RETENTION**

Students in grades 7 & 8 need to average a 70% in their four core classes (English, Math, Science, & Social Studies) in order to advance to the next grade level. Students who do not meet the 70% guideline will be considered on a case by case basis, and a meeting with the parties involved will be scheduled to discuss promotion/retention and the possibility of attending summer school. If possible, this will include the student, parents/guardians, teachers, guidance counselor, and principal. Areas given consideration will be grades, test scores, and maturity. Parent cooperation is desired but if a unanimous decision cannot be reached, the final decision will be made by the secondary principal.

Students in grades 10-11-12 will maintain grade classification by the total number of hours earned; 60 hours for Sophomores, 120 hours for Juniors, and 180 hours for Seniors. A student must earn the necessary hours for graduation set by the Centennial Public School Board of Education. Requirements are 150 hours of required subjects and 90 hours of elective subjects for a total of 240 hours.

### **MANDATORY LUNCH STUDY HALL**

The office will run a "Downlist" every Monday (or first day of the week that school is in session) at 8AM. Students who are failing two or more classes will be listed as "Down." Students on the downlist for the week will be required to attend a lunch study hall on Tuesday and Thursday during their lunch time. Junior high study hall will begin at 11:40AM, and high school study hall will begin at 12:30PM. Students who are late will be considered tardy. Students who attempt to skip will be dealt with as if they were attempting to skip a regularly scheduled class. Students may bring a sack lunch from home or may purchase a sack lunch from the school to eat while they are working on their studies. Lunch study hall will be supervised by teachers who will be able to assist students if needed. Students who are down should take advantage of this study time and do their best to raise their grades to a passing level.

## **PROGRESS REPORTS**

Various supplemental reports may be sent to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work which needs improving. These reports will be sent as the teacher determines.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter (or nine-week sessions). Letter grades are used to designate a student's progress. Incompletes shall be designated by an "I".

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held this year during the 1st quarter and 3rd quarter. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by calling the school office and making arrangements with one or more teachers as needed.

## **HONOR ROLL**

The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. Honor rolls will be determined for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. Students will be recognized accordingly:

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND HONOR ROLL AWARDS**

Students maintaining a 3.5 or a 3.0 average over a defined period of three (3) consecutive semesters during grades 10-12 of their high school career shall be awarded medals for scholarship at Honors Night. After students have accumulated their first three (3) consecutive semesters and have won their first award, the first two (2) semesters of these three (3) will be dropped from the records, and the students must again accumulate another three (3) consecutive semester 3.5 or 3.0 average before winning a second award. This procedure will continue throughout their high school career and, if the stated average is maintained all four (4) years of high school, the student would be able to win a total of three (3) awards. Those students whose averages fall within the stated categories must be carrying 25 hours per semester. Assistantships are not considered a class.

A gold medal shall be awarded to those students who maintain a 3.5 or above average, and the medal shall read Honor Student/Scholarship.

A silver medal shall be awarded to those students who maintain a 3.0 to 3.5 average, and the medal shall read Honorable Mention/Scholarship.

Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth grade students who maintain a three (3) consecutive quarter average of 3.5 or 3.0 will be awarded certificates at Honors' Night. For those students with a 3.5 average or above, the certificates shall read Honor Student. For those students with a 3.0 to 3.5 average, the certificates shall read Honorable Mention.

The point system used to figure the averages will be as follows:

$$A = 4 \text{ points} \quad B = 3 \text{ points} \quad C = 2 \text{ points}$$

Any student receiving a D or F will not be considered for Scholarship or Honor Roll awards.

An example of how this might work: A student carrying 25 hours and earning three (3) A's, one (1) B, and one (1) C would have a total of 17 points. This 17 divided by the five (5) classes he or she is carrying would give him or her a 3.4 average.

Honor roll and Honorable Mention for quarter and semester honor rolls will be awarded on the same grade point averages as the scholarship awards.

## **ACADEMIC FITNESS AWARDS**

The Academic Fitness Awards program is designed to recognize those students at the exit grades of 8 and 12 in our school who have maintained a B (3.3) or above grade average and have scored at or above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standardized test during their junior high and high school careers.

## **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The National Honor Society chapter of Centennial Public School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization.

### **Selection Guidelines**

The faculty council will use the following guidelines in their consideration of candidates for membership in the National Honor Society:

1. Leadership – The student who exercises leadership:
  - Is resourceful in applying principles and making suggestions
  - Demonstrates initiative in promoting school activities
  - Exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals
  - Contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school
  - Is able to delegate responsibilities
  - Exemplifies positive attitudes
  - Inspires positive behavior in others
  - Demonstrates academic initiative
  - Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business effectively and efficiently, and without prodding, demonstrates reliability and dependability
  - Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities
  - Is thoroughly dependable in any responsibility accepted
2. Service – The student who serves:
  - Is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude
  - Participates in some outside activity: Scouts, church groups, volunteer services for the aged, poor, disadvantaged; family duties
  - Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance
  - Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities
  - Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school
  - Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and interscholastic competition
  - Does committee work efficiently and without complaint

- Shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students
3. Character—The student of character:
- Takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously
  - Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, stability)
  - Upholds principles of morality and ethics
  - Cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.
  - Has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies
  - Manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others
  - Actively helps rid the school of bad influences or environment

**Removal from National Honor Society**

A student may be removed from the NHS by action of the principal upon a determination by the principal that the student:

1. Prior Conduct. Engaged in conduct prior to induction which was not known at the time of induction and which, if known, would have caused denial of induction;
2. Post-Induction Conduct. Engaged in conduct after induction which is grounds for a student to be long-term suspended or expelled from school under the student code of conduct contained in this handbook, which is grounds for suspension or removal from any extracurricular activity of the school, or which would cause denial of induction if such conduct had taken place prior to the time of induction.

The student may appeal the principal’s decision to the superintendent by giving written notice of appeal to the superintendent within ten calendar days of receipt of the principal’s removal decision. The appeal procedures shall be established at the discretion of the superintendent such as to allow a fair opportunity for the student’s views and information to be considered. The decision of the superintendent on the appeal shall be final.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

**A. Policy Statement**

Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student’s level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

**B. Definitions**

The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

1. "Cheating" means to intentionally misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tests (includes tests, quizzes, and other examinations or academic performances):
  - (1) Advance Information: Obtaining, reviewing, or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.
  - (2) Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices, or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for "open book" tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.
  - (3) Use of Other Student Answers: Copying or looking at another student's answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student's paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student's answers on the test paper.
  - (4) Use of Other Student to Take Test. Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
  - (5) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.
- (b) Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):
  - (1) Use of Another's Paper: Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
  - (2) Re-use of One's Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
  - (3) Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.
  - (4) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.
  - (5) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.

(c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.

2. "Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own material a portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works.

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

(1) Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.

(2) Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.

3. "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at test answers, to copy papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

### **C. Sanctions**

The following sanctions will occur for academic integrity offenses:

1. Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work. Credit for the class may be withheld pending successful completion of the replacement test or project.
2. Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the principal of the offense and the instructor or principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.
3. Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in a serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

## **ARTICLE 6 – SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION IDENTIFICATION & PLACEMENT PROCEDURES**

#### **What Does Special Education Mean?**

Special education means educational experiences, curriculum and services, including transportation, through the use of staff, facilities, equipment and classrooms which have been adapted to provide special instruction for students with disabilities. In addition, special education provides the support services necessary for evaluation,

placement, and instruction for students with disabilities. These services are free to parents, unless they elect to place their child in a program other than one approved by the school district.

### **How are Students With Disabilities Identified?**

The first step is for parents to provide written permission to have their child evaluated. The request for permission will include a description of the action to be taken and a description of each evaluation procedure. Written statements showing the results of the evaluation and the reasons for placement in a special education program must be kept on file. Within 30 days after a student has been verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. Advance notice will be given. At the conference, an Individual Education Program (IEP) will be developed.

### **Students Who May Benefit**

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorder, hearing impairment, mental handicap, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual handicap may be placed in regular education with support services or may benefit from a special education classroom or service.

### **Independent Evaluation**

If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at public expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

### **Reevaluation**

Students identified for special education will be reevaluated at least every three years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district shall obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

### **Individual Education Program (IEP)**

Each student with a disability must have a written IEP prepared by the staff in cooperation with parents specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. If necessary, the district will arrange for interpreters or other assistants to help parents in preparing and understanding the IEP. Once in place, the program is reviewed on a regular basis with the parent.

An IEP is developed in a conference setting. Parents will be notified of the persons who will be in attendance. The IEP conference shall include at least the following:

1. A representative of the school district;
2. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results;
3. One or both parents;
4. The child (when appropriate);
5. At least one regular education teacher if the child is or may be participating in the regular education environment;
6. At least one special education teacher;
7. A representative of the nonpublic school if the child is attending a nonpublic school;

8. A representative of a service agency if the child is receiving services from an approved service agency; and
9. Other individuals, at the discretion of the parent or school district.

It is permissible for parents to bring other persons to the IEP meeting, but it is a good idea to inform the school before the scheduled meeting. The school district will provide parents with a copy of the IEP.

### **Special Education Placement**

The student's placement in a special education program is dependent on the student's educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). The school district must assure that students with disabilities are educated to the maximum extent possible with students who do not have disabilities. Students are entitled to have supplementary aids and services to help them in a regular educational setting. Students with disabilities may be placed in special classes, separate schools, or other situations outside the regular educational environment when the nature of the child's needs require specialized educational techniques which are not available in current settings. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by a team of persons who knows the student and who understands the tests and procedures that assess the student's learning abilities. Team members know the available programs and services which might help the student. Parents are asked for written consent to determine whether they approve of the educational placement recommended for their child. If the parent does not speak English or is hearing impaired, an interpreter may be requested. Written notice shall be given to parents a reasonable time before the school district: 1. Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification, or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2. Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

### **Alternative Programs**

Parents have a right to know about available private and public programs, other than those offered by the schools. The school district staff will provide information about those programs on request. If parents place the student in one of those programs, however, the school district is not required to pay for the student's education.

### **Transportation of Students Receiving Special Education**

The district special education staff will make arrangements for transportation for eligible students to the extent such is required by the student's IEP. Students assigned to special education programs requiring attendance at schools outside their regular attendance area will be transported. Special conditions may warrant that special education students receive transportation to their assigned schools. If parents are dissatisfied with a transportation decision, they may contact the superintendent for a review.

### **Access to Student Records**

Parents have the right to inspect and review any education records relating to their child which are collected, maintained, or used by the school district in providing educational services.

### **Nonpublic School Students**

Students in state-approved nonpublic schools may participate in special education programs in the same manner as public school students.

### **Parental Review of Programs**

Parents who want to review their child's placement for any reason should request an IEP team meeting. If parents are not satisfied with the results of the conference, they may appeal to the Nebraska Department of Education for a formal hearing to be conducted by a state hearing officer. Parents dissatisfied by the findings and decisions made in a state level hearing have the right to bring civil action.

## **Plans and Budget**

With the exception of personally identifiable student records, district special education plans and budgets are available for public inspection.

This is a summary of the Centennial Public School district plan for special education students. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the complete district policy or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (appeal procedures) may contact the superintendent at the Centennial Public School Superintendent's Office.

## **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

The Centennial Public School employs a guidance counselor for the purpose of assisting with the District's testing program, to assist with scheduling, and for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts. If students wish to see a counselor, they are encouraged to stop by the counselor's office and make arrangements for an appointment.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

### **School Nurse**

Centennial Public School employs a full-time school nurse. All students who become ill during the school day must visit the nurse's office. If she determines the illness warrants going home, she will initiate such proceedings.

### **Student Illnesses**

School health personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by the school nurse that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves.

Parents are encouraged to include emergency daytime phone numbers on each child's enrollment card so parents can be reached if their child becomes ill or injured while at school. Parents should also inform the school health office staff of health related information they feel is important for their student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

### **Guidelines for Administering Medication**

Whenever possible, children should be provided medications by parents outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that a child takes or has medication available at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school health office. If a child has asthma or diabetes and is capable of self-managing his or her health condition, parents should contact the health office to develop a self-management plan.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent/guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medications will not be accepted. All medications also require a physician's authorization to be given at school. The school nurse may limit medications to those set forth in the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR). Parents should limit the amount of medication provided to the school to a two-week supply.

### **School Health Screening**

Children in Preschool and Kindergarten through fourth grade, as well as children in seventh and tenth grades, are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height, and weight. Scoliosis screening is not required by the state and will not be done unless a request is made by the parent/guardian. Students entering the Student

Assistance Process at any grade level, and those about whom health concerns are identified to the school nurse, may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

**Physical and Visual Examination**

Evidence of a physical examination and a visual evaluation is required within six months prior to entrance into kindergarten and, in the case of transfer from out of state, to any other grade. A physical examination is also required prior to entrance into the seventh grade. The physical examination is to be completed by a physician, a physician’s assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse; the visual evaluation is to be completed by any of the forgoing or an optometrist. A parent or guardian who objects to the physical examination and/or visual evaluation may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. Waiver forms are available in the school health office. Additional physical examination requirements exist for students participating in athletic participation.

**Immunizations**

Students must show proof of immunization. A student who does not comply with the immunization requirements will not be permitted to continue in school. Students with medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs which do not allow immunizations must complete a waiver statement or affidavit. Forms are available in school health offices.

Unimmunized students may be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

**Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations For the 2014-2015 School Year**

<b>Student Age Group</b>	<b>Required Vaccines</b>
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age

<p>Students from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students</p>	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday,  3 doses of Polio vaccine,  3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age.  2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month,  2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
<p>Additionally, <b>for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Only</b></p>	<p>1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster) – this dose can be received any time after 10 or 11 years of age depending on which brand of vaccine is received.</p>

**Birth Certificate Requirements**

State law requires that a certified copy of a student’s birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time. A certified copy may be obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which the child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

**Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.**

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

**Guidelines for Head Lice**

The following guidelines are in place to better control a nuisance condition, reduce absenteeism due to head lice, and involve parents as partners with the school’s control efforts:

1. Children will be sent home from school for live head lice. In the event a child has two cases of live lice in a semester, the child will be sent home until free of both live lice and nits (eggs).
2. Health office staff will provide written treatment information and instructions, including how to check and identify head lice\*.
3. A child who is sent home from school for head lice should miss no more than two school days.
4. A child who has been sent from school due to head lice must come to the health office for inspection before returning to class.
5. A child who returns to class with nits (eggs) will be checked again in 7-10 days.
6. Families are encouraged to report head lice to the school health office.
7. Classroom-wide or school-wide head checks as will be conducted as needed in order to control the condition at school.

\*Nit removal will be emphasized for effective management of the condition. For more information, call the nurse at school.

### **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Transportation to and from school is provided to students in accordance with law and Board policy. Students may also be provided transported on field trips and when participating in school activities. Students are expected to follow the behavioral expectations for riding school buses which are listed in **Article 8** under **Student Conduct Expectations**.

## **ARTICLE 7 – DRUGS, ALCOHOL, & TOBACCO**

### **DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS**

The District implements regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

### **EDUCATION & PREVENTION**

This District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, this District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

### **Drug and Alcohol Use and Prevention**

By this handbook, each student of the District is hereby provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.

### **Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations**

All students are provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the District to require instruction at such grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the Board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. One of the primary objectives shall be the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students. It shall further be the policy of the District to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational, and physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the District.

It shall further be the policy of the District, through the instruction earlier herein referred to, as well as by information and consistent enforcement of the Board's policy pertaining to student conduct as it relates to the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol, that drug and alcohol abuse is wrong and is harmful both to the student and the District, as well as its educational programs.

### **Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs**

All students shall be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the Guidance Counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

### **STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT PERTAINING TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO**

(In addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by Board policy or administrative regulation to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.) This shall include such unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the District during regular school hours or after school hours at school sponsored activities on school premises, and at school sponsored activities off school premises.

Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession of any controlled substance, possession of which is prohibited by law.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession of alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.
4. Use of any illicit drug.
5. Distribution of any illicit drug.
6. Use of any drug in an unlawful fashion.
7. Distribution of any drug or controlled substance when such distribution is unlawful.
8. The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol.
9. The use or possession of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, or any other such look-alike product.

It shall further be the policy of the district that violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

### **Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited - Standards of Conduct for Students and Employed Staff**

The manufacture, possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage or alcoholic liquor on school grounds, or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any controlled substance or drug, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant on school grounds, or during the educational function or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction

fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or during and educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing or use of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical may not be taken unless authorized as stated in the next section on AUTHORIZED USE.

### **Authorized Use**

Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he or she be given any prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug, or vitamin shall provide signed permission by parent or physician.

### **Disciplinary Sanctions**

1. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and could be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
2. If the student is observed to be violating this policy, the student will be escorted to the Principal/Superintendent's office immediately, or if not feasible, the Principal/ Superintendent will be notified. The student's parents or legal guardian will be requested to pick up the student. If it appears there is imminent danger to other students, school personnel, or students involved, the Principal/Superintendent, or such other personnel as authorized by the Principal/Superintendent, may have the student removed by authorized medical or law enforcement personnel.
3. Parents and students shall be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions required and shall be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

### **Intervention**

The Centennial Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

### **Administration**

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations, or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules, or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations, and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists, to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

### **Safe and Drug-Free Schools -- Parental Notice**

**NOTICE TO PARENTS:** Pursuant to the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, if upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify

the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice, the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

## **ARTICLE 8 – STUDENT RIGHTS, CONDUCT, RULES, & REGULATIONS**

### **STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE POLICIES**

The common goal of students, parents, faculty, and administration of Centennial Public School is to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, Centennial Public School will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies. VIOLATIONS OF THE CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL'S RULES AND POLICIES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in and/or attend any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

### **FORMS OF SCHOOL DISCIPLINE**

#### **Short-Term Suspension:**

Students may be excluded by the principal or his designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Centennial Public School Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

**The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:**

1. The principal or the principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. In addition, such short-term suspension will be made only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the conditions outlined by the principal at the time of the suspension.
5. A student on short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds or at any school activity without the express permission of the principal.

#### **Emergency Exclusion**

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

#### **Weapons and/or Firearms**

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

#### **Long-Term Suspension:**

Students may be excluded by the principal or the principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days on (long-term suspension) the conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

#### **Expulsion:**

1. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion shall mean exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds, and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the

school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the Board of Education or a committee of school board members took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the Board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures:** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

### STUDENT CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

Students have an opportunity to learn by sharing some of the responsibility for creating a good learning environment. To help maintain a quality instructional environment for all students attending Centennial Public School, all students are expected to refrain from the following conduct.

#### **Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment**

The following conduct shall constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the*

*term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant);*

7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
  - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
  - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
  - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
  - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
  - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
  - f. Possession of pornography;
  - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
  - h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

- i. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion; and
- k. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

### **Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion**

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
  - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or

her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

#### **ADDITIONAL STUDENT CONDUCT RULES**

The following additional student conduct rules are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, as further specified in these rules. These rules govern student conduct on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

#### **Student Appearance Policy**

Students at Centennial Public School are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate. Such list is not exclusive, and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related;
- b. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants); no holes in pants above the knee. Shorts, skirts, and skorts should be mid-thigh in length at the minimum.
- c. Clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground.
- d. Clothing or jewelry that advertises beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
- e. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage "horse-play";
- f. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves;
- g. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references, or carries double meanings;

- h. Clothing that is “pajama-like” in nature and gives the impression of coming to school directly from bed. Slippers are not allowed.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the principal or superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school’s guidelines, the student should contact the principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the principal’s office.

Coaches, sponsors, or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups, or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel, change it, turn it inside out, cover it, or spend the remainder of the day assigned to in-school suspension. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes. Continual violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions under the Student Code of Conduct previously mentioned. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in discipline, up to expulsion.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

#### **1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY**

Centennial Public School District encourages the appropriate use of electronic devices at school. Although the inappropriate use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and electronic devices are frequently lost or stolen, Centennial Public School District recognizes the benefits that the incorporation of technology can bring to the curriculum. The District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of these items and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices. **NOTE: By bringing an electronic device to school, students and parents/guardians consent to a search of the device if approved by the administration**

#### **2. DEFINITIONS**

“Electronic devices” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, e-readers, tablets, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, lap top computers, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person to another.

#### **3. ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE**

3.1 Students enrolled in Centennial Public School District are permitted to possess and use electronic devices during the school day (8:16 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) except as otherwise provided by this policy. Cell phone and text transmitting device (ex: iPod touch) usage is strictly prohibited during any class period; including voice usage, digital imaging, or text messaging. Students may have their device(s) with them but must follow all rules established by the classroom teacher, may lock them in their school locker (not gym locker), or leave them in their vehicle.

3.1.1 Electronic devices may be used during class time when specifically approved by the teacher or a school administrator in conjunction with appropriate and authorized class or school activities or events (i.e., student use of a camera during a journalism class; student use of a lap top computer for a class presentation).

3.1.2 Electronic devices may be used during the student's lunch time (junior high students from 11:37 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. OR high school students from 12:27 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.) and during passing periods. At the conclusion of the lunch period, students will turn their device off or to silent and put them in their pocket or return their electronic device to their lockers.

3.1.3 Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan.

#### 4. VIOLATIONS

4.1 Students shall not possess or use electronic devices at any time or place for: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities; (e) activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; or (f) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

#### 4.2 **The use of electronic devices in locker rooms and restrooms is strictly prohibited.**

4.3 Electronic devices used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.

4.4 **First Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a detention, and a conference between the student and school principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student serves their detention and personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

4.5 **Second Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a double detention, and a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student serves their double detention and the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

4.6 **Third Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal, and suspension of the student from school. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student has served their suspension and the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

4.7 **Subsequent Violations:** Students who are repeat offenders of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of any appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion from school.

4.8 Students and/or parents/guardians, as applicable, are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The school shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic devices after this time period.

5. **SEARCH:** Electronic devices confiscated under this policy shall be subject to reasonable searches, including search of phone number directory, voice mail, and text messages, upon determination by school officials

that the facts and circumstances establish reasonable grounds for believing that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.

### **Automobile Use & Driving**

Student drivers must know and obey the following rules:

1. Written permission from the principal or his designee is required to drive from school grounds during school hours.
2. Speeding or careless driving on the school grounds and on the streets bordering the school is prohibited.
3. Sitting in cars during the school day is not allowed (this includes the noon lunch period). If students wish to go to their car for any reason during the day, they must obtain permission from the principal or his designee.
4. Students must leave their cars after arrival at the school.
5. Students must obtain written permission to enter the student parking lot during the school day.
6. Parallel parking will not be permitted in the student parking lot.
7. The driveway must be kept clear in the parking lot. Cars will not be permitted to park south of the dividing logs.
8. Students are assigned parking in the designated area north of the building and east of the football field. The closest row to the football field will be assigned to seniors, the next closest row to juniors, the next closest row to sophomores, and the next closest row to freshmen.
9. Students driving vehicles to school will park in the north parking lot. All parking stalls east of the school are reserved for school employees and visitors.
10. When school is dismissed, students are urged to drive with caution. Please remember that elementary students are walking home at this time.
11. Students violating safe driving practices may be suspended and may be prohibited from driving their vehicles to school.
12. For safety reasons, students will be allowed to drive only bicycles and properly licensed motor vehicles to and from school.
13. For safety reasons, students will be required to ride inside cars and pick-up cabs while these vehicles are driven on school grounds.
14. Student vehicles parked inappropriately will be dealt with in the following manner:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> offense—a warning ticket will be issued
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> offense—a warning will be issued and parking will be assigned at the discretion of the administration for the remainder of the quarter/semester
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> and additional offenses--students will not be allowed to park on the school grounds for the remainder of the school year

Any exception to the above rules must have written permission from parents and the principal. Authority for the Board of Education to exercise control in student cars driven to school originates with the prerogative in the law termed “in loco parentis.”

**Please remember that children will be walking home after school, and their safety is a primary concern.**

### **Cheating/Plagiarism**

Should a student be guilty of cheating, the teacher shall collect the paper, mark a zero for the work, and notify the parent and office immediately as to the action taken. The second offense will bring an automatic in-school suspension. Additional offenses will result in more severe disciplinary action. See **Academic Integrity** in **Article 5** for additional information regarding Cheating/Plagiarism.

## **Food & Pop**

Gum, breath mints, and cough drops will be permitted as long as wrappers are disposed of properly and gum is kept off all school and personal property. All food must be consumed in the lunchroom or commons area during the lunch period.

The following is the list of areas in which it is appropriate to consume food or drink:

- Lunch
- Home-Ec Room
- Gym
- Vo-Ag Room
- Art Room
- Teacher's Workplace
- Commons Area/Concessions Area

Students will be allowed to carry water to their classes.

### **Requirements of water being carried:**

- Must be in a clear plastic water bottle
- Must include a cap (screw on or pull type)
- No personalized plastic or Styrofoam cups

If it is a safety hazard (example: Chemistry lab) to have water during class, the classroom teacher has the right to ask for all water bottles to remain out of the classroom on this day.

If carrying water bottles to class interferes with the normal routine of the school day, consequences will be enforced.

## **Initiation Into Classes & Activities**

The practice of holding an initiation (hazing) into classes or organizations of Centennial Public School is prohibited. Students should receive assistance and encouragement to become worthwhile members of group activities and to contribute to activities that have educational value. Students who participate in after-school or before-school initiation, as well as during the day, will be subject to suspension from school. The philosophy of Centennial Public School provides for individual dignity and personal pride for all students. Hazing and initiation ceremonies are considered incompatible with the fundamental privilege of a member of the Centennial Public School student body. Exception: The National Honor Society, FFA, and some other organizations have rather formal ceremonies that are in the best interest of the students.

## **Transportation Policy**

It is the belief of the Centennial Board of Education that students must be well-behaved when riding school buses. The Board of Education believes this is a necessary part of safe transportation. The following list contains examples of behavior that will not be tolerated on school buses:

1. Moving about on the bus when the bus is in motion;
2. Use of profanity, engaging in obscene behavior such as, but not limited to, displaying obscene materials, hand gestures, or using obscene speech or other obscene communication;
3. Excessive noise (determined by the bus driver);
4. Teasing or harassing other students or the driver;
5. Throwing of objects;
6. Failure to sit in an assigned seat if a driver deems this necessary;

7. Any disruptive actions;
8. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
9. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to private or school property, stealing or attempting to steal private or school property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving private or school property of small value (students causing damage to a school bus will be required to pay for repair or replacement costs);
10. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to a school employee or to any student. Physical injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
11. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
12. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;
13. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor or tobacco products or vapor products or any other such look-alike products;
14. Snakes will not be allowed on buses. Advance approval (preferably one day) must be obtained from the bus driver to board other animals. Animals must be in plastic or cardboard containers. NO GLASS CONTAINERS WILL BE ALLOWED. Containers shall be taped shut to prevent accidental opening.
15. Consumption of any food/drinks will not be permitted on the bus routes;
16. Bus drivers/van drivers have the authority to report to the appropriate principal any school rule violations at bus stops or within view of the bus stops. The principals will have the authority to discipline students for school rule violations;
17. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes;
18. A repeated violation of any rules validly established pursuant to section 79-4, 176 of this act if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.

Bus drivers have the primary responsibility of maintaining order and discipline of all student passengers. Students receive a copy of the Transportation Policy at the outset of each school year. Drivers are to read this policy to the students so everyone is aware of expectations and discipline measures.

Prior to reporting any student behavior problems, the bus driver may administer his/her own discipline alternatives. These alternatives may include a student/parent conference, requiring the student to wash the bus, sweep out the bus, wash the inside windows, clean out between the seats, etc.

When the bus driver feels his/her efforts to effectively modify student behavior have been unsuccessful, he/she will complete an Unsatisfactory Bus Conduct Report and forward it to the appropriate principal. The principal, upon receiving and confirming the report, will take the following steps:

#### **FIRST OFFENSE**

If a student is suspected of breaking one of the above mentioned examples, said student will meet with the driver, principal, or superintendent. The student will receive a warning. A certified letter will be sent to the parents/guardians informing them of their child's behavior and outlining the consequences of any repeated violations.

## **SECOND OFFENSE**

The principal may deny any student the right to ride the bus for up to five (5) days. A certified letter will be sent to the parents/guardians notifying them of the decision.

Parents/guardians will be requested to meet with the bus driver, student, principal, and transportation supervisor prior to riding the bus again.

## **FUTURE OFFENSES**

The student will be denied the right to ride the school bus for the remainder of the semester. A certified letter will be sent to the parents/guardians notifying them of the decision.

Note: For more serious violations, students may be disciplined under 79-4170 - 79-4205 (Board Policy 502.2) in lieu of the above.

**A note or phone call from a parent/guardian will be required before a driver will allow a student to get off the bus at a location other than his/her regular unloading area.**

## **Altering Bus Routes**

If some students are not riding the bus on certain days, drivers may vary their routes. Bad road conditions may also cause a bus driver to alter the route.

## **Activity Bus**

An activity bus will transport students to Beaver Crossing, Gresham, and Waco after activity practice daily. Activity drivers will not unload students enroute. Students who are not out for an activity may ride the activity bus with special permission from the principal's office. Students serving a detention will not be permitted to ride the activity bus. (Exception: Students may ride the bus if they attend and participate in practice after serving their detention.)

## **Media Center Use**

Students are welcome to come to the media center to carry out research or to select reading materials. The following procedures will be followed:

1. Upon arrival in the media center, students shall present their pass to the adult in charge. Passes will be kept at the desk until departure.
2. A student must have a pre-signed pass from the teacher for whom he/she is doing assignments to be released from study halls, etc., in order to use the media center for research.
3. A student may get a pass from any teacher in order to come in to the media center to select reading materials to read in their study hall/classroom. Once a selection is made, the student is expected to return to his/her study hall or class.
4. Students wishing to read current magazines found in the blue binders may sign these materials out at the check-out desk to read in their study hall/classroom for one period. Such materials are due back before the end of the period.
5. Any student not engaged in research or the selection of reading materials will be asked to leave the

media center.

6. Any student disrupting others by loud talking or other means will be asked to leave the media center immediately.
7. No book bags will be allowed in the media center.
8. Detentions may be assigned when overdue materials are not renewed or returned.
9. Upon check-out, students shall have the supervising adult sign their pass.

## **Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy**

### **A. Internet Safety Policy**

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). With respect to the District’s computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (e) implement measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. “Inappropriate material” for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District’s online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this

policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.

4. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.
5. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.

## B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general, for educational purposes, meaning activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.
4. Unacceptable Uses.

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. Personal Gain: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.

- b. Personal Matters: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. Campaigning: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

- d. Technology-Related Limitations: Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation,

1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members). Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
2. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
3. Users shall not engage in "hacking" to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
4. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
5. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
6. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
7. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.

- e. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:

1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.

5. Disclaimer. The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.

6. Filter. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

7. Monitoring. Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District’s computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s designees.

8. Sanctions. Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children’s Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254  
FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011  
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act)

Date of Adoption: June 11, 2012

### Computer Lab Use

A student must have a pre-signed pass from the teacher for which he/she is doing assignments to be released from study halls, etc. in order to have the privilege of working in the Computer Lab.

### Computer Lab Rules & Regulations

1. The student signs in with his/her name, class, computer number, and time of arrival. He/she will pin the pink pass to the bulletin board. When leaving the lab, he/she will sign out with the time of departure and have either Mr. Tesar, Mr. Barjenbruch, Ms. McClure, or other principal designee sign the pass.
2. “Pass” students using the lab will use an available computer nearest the north end of the room.
3. “Pass” students are not to interfere with or interact with students in the room who are there as part of an organized class.
4. Any student not working on a computer will be asked to leave the lab.
5. If there are no computers available in the lab, students should check with Mr. Tesar, Mr. Barjenbruch, or Ms. McClure for computer accessibility in their classrooms.
6. Students must do only school-related work in the computer lab. Games will not be permitted; playing games will cause immediate dismissal from the lab.
7. Students who are unable to log onto the computer system through one of their classes may contact Mr. Tesar, Mr. Barjenbruch, or Ms. McClure to gain access to the computers.

### Teachers Scheduling Computer Lab Use For An Entire Class

When a teacher wants to take his/her entire class to the computer lab, a sign-up schedule will be provided to indicate the dates, the class periods, and the number of computers needed. Because many teachers will want to use the lab at various times, it is understandable that we will all need to be flexible.

Teachers must accompany their classes to the lab when the entire class is working.

### Parent Permission Letter

Parent/guardian written permission must be given the school for the privilege of accessing the Internet. An

**Acceptable Use Agreement** form will be given to each student user. The first two pages of the AUA list the rules and sanctions of Computer Technology Use and are to be kept on file by the parent/guardian. The third page must be signed and returned to the office or technology coordinator before access to computers will be granted.

### **Risks of Facebook, Twitter, and other Social Networking**

The purpose of this message is to give our students information about the risks of using Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, MySpace, and similar social networking sites.

These sites are public sources of information. The information may be seen by school administrators, parents, and law enforcement. It is also accessible to people who users don't even know now, but may later want to impress—such as university admissions and scholarship officials and prospective employers. In fact, many large companies now search the internet as a means of conducting background checks on job applicants. What users say now on Facebook may affect them years later.

What students say now on Facebook may also affect them right now. Pictures or writings that show that a student has violated the student conduct rules may result in school discipline. A picture of a student drinking a beer may very well lead to a suspension from activities if the school learns about it. Criminal charges may be filed against students based on information posted on Facebook.

MySpace has published a Guide for schools with some suggestions that we would like to share. Here are some common sense guidelines that all users should follow when using MySpace and the Internet in general:

- Don't forget that your profile and MySpace forums are public spaces. Don't post anything you wouldn't want the world to know (e.g., your phone number, address, IM screens name, or specific whereabouts).
- Avoid posting anything that would make it easy for a stranger to find you, such as where you hang out every day after school.
- People aren't always who they say they are. Be careful about adding strangers to your friends list. It's fun to connect with new MySpace friends from all over the world, but avoid meeting people in person whom you do not fully know. If you must meet someone, do it in a public place and bring a friend or trusted adult.
- Harassment, hate speech, and inappropriate content should be reported. If you feel someone's behavior is inappropriate, react. Talk with a trusted adult, or report it to MySpace or the authorities.
- Don't post anything that would embarrass you later. Think twice before posting a photo or info you wouldn't want your parents or boss to see!
- Don't mislead people into thinking that you're older or younger. If you lie about your age, MySpace will delete your profile.

We urge all students to following these common sense guidelines.

### **Laser Pens/Pointers**

Students are prohibited from the use and/or possession of any laser device in school or at any school sponsored activity. Use or possession of these devices at school sponsored activities will result in confiscation of the laser device and immediate removal from the activity. Laser pointers may be allowed for in-class demonstrations or presentations with teacher approval.

### **Harassment & Bullying Policy**

One of the missions of Centennial Public School is to provide safe and secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors (non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others) are encouraged in the educational program and required of all students and staff. Inappropriate behaviors

(bullying, intimidation, and harassment) are to be identified and corrected. Students and staff are to avoid such behaviors. Strategies and practices are implemented to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage and protect others from inappropriate behaviors.

“Bullying” is behavior where one person or group engages in harmful action towards another person or group acting on a real or perceived imbalance of power or view of superiority. The behavior typically includes verbal (e.g. teasing or name-calling) and physical aggression (e.g., hitting, pushing), threatening, excluding or ignoring, spreading rumors, or taking, defacing or destroying the others’ property. “Harassment” includes the same actions, though not necessarily from a standpoint of perceived power. Harassment is prohibited. Bullying and harassment are violations of student conduct rules, and appropriate disciplinary measures, up to expulsion, will be enforced. When bullying or harassment is done on the basis of gender, disability, race, or other protected status, it is considered a very serious offense for which expulsion may be a likely consequence depending on the severity of the conduct.

Students who are the victim of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurring are to promptly report the problem to their teacher, counselor, or principal so the problem can be addressed. Students who make reports of bullying activity will not be retaliated against for making the report.

It is the policy of Centennial Public School that “bullying” type behavior is not to be permitted. These guidelines are established to respond specifically to bullying behavior. Students and parents are advised that other response measures are also in place and set forth in of this handbook for behavior which is discriminatory or harassing on unlawful grounds (e.g., sexual harassment, harassment of students with disabilities, race harassment, etc.).

**Step I:** The first time school personnel become aware of a possible harassment or bullying situation, the accused student will be informed that such a complaint has been filed. At that time a warning will be given regarding this kind of behavior. The consequences for this kind of behavior in the future will be clearly outlined for the student. If, in the school’s opinion, the first occurrence of harassment behavior is severe, the school may move immediately to any of the four steps in the harassment policy. In other words, the policy may or may not be used sequentially. Moreover, at any stage the student may be disciplined under the student code by actions which may include expulsion, in the event the conduct is also a violation of other provisions of the student code.

**Step II:** The second time school personnel become aware of a harassment incident, the accused student’s parents will be notified. A conference will be requested at that time. If it is determined that the student has harassed another student, consequences will be assigned. A student may stay on the second step as long as school authorities feel the consequences are effectively correcting the harassment behaviors. If it is determined that there is no basis for the harassment accusation, no consequences will be assigned. If the school determines that a student is intentionally making a false accusation against another student, an appropriate response will be made.

**Step III:** If the school authorities determine that the student continues to harass another student or the student fails to agree to not harass in the future, the school may assign the student to the Harassment Program level set forth below which the school authorities determine to be appropriate.

**Step IV:** If a student fails to respond positively to the corrective measures of the Harassment Program, the student will be suspended from school for a minimum of five school days, up to expulsion. School authorities will determine the action necessary to insure a safe learning environment for all students.

### **Harassment and Bullying Program--Levels:**

Purpose: All students have the right to attend Centennial Public School free from verbal and physical harassment and bullying. The purpose of the Harassment and Bullying Program is to protect students and staff from those who fail or refuse to comply with school guidelines regarding the treatment of others.

**Level I:** The guidelines for a Level I placement are listed below.

- a) The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b) The student will report to the office no later than 8:10 a.m. each morning.
- c) The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d) The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day and will remain until 3:55 p.m. This will allow all other students to leave the school grounds in safety.

**Level II:** The guidelines for a Level II placement are listed below.

- a) The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b) The student will report to the office no later than 8:10 a.m. in the morning.
- c) The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d) The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day and remain until 3:55 p.m.
- e) The student will remain in class at the end of each period. The student will be under direct teacher supervision during passing time. The teacher will dismiss the student at the end of the passing period. The student will then have three minutes to get to his/her next class.

**Level III:** This is a long-term assignment. The guidelines are listed below.

- a) All items listed in Level II will be used, except the length of the assignment will be no less than six weeks, and may remain in effect until the end of the school year and continue into the next, if determined to be appropriate.

### **Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (PDA or IPDA)**

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection will not be tolerated on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes: hugging, kissing or any other types of affection that would be considered inappropriate or an undue distraction to others. Students will face the following consequences if this type of behavior occurs.

**1st Offense:** Student will be confronted and directed to cease.

**2nd Offense:** Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.

**3rd Offense:** Students will be suspended from school for a minimum of 1 day, and the parents and student will need to meet with administrator(s) and counselor.

- i. If this type of behavior continues, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

### **Specific Rule Items**

The following conduct may result in disciplinary action which, in the event of repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion.

- a. Students are not given locker passes, restroom passes, or telephone passes to leave a classroom or study hall unless special circumstances arise.
- b. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass with them.
- c. Candy, seeds, etc. are not allowed in the school building or classrooms, without prior approval.
- d. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes study halls.
- e. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
- f. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
- g. Students are to be in their classroom and ready for class on the tardy bell.

- h. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Art, P.E., and computers courses will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained by that teacher which must be followed.
- i. Students are not to bring items to school that are not required for educational purposes as they may be taken from lockers and will not be allowed in the classroom. These items are classified as “nuisance items” and include but are not limited to: a) personal stereos, b) cell phones, c) beepers, and d) laser pointers.
- j. Snow and water balloon handling is prohibited.

### **REPORTING STUDENT LAW VIOLATIONS**

- A. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the police and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible.
- B. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.
- C. In an effort to demonstrate that student behavior is always subject to possible legal sanctions, regardless of where the behavior occurs, it shall be the policy of the Centennial Public School to notify the proper legal authorities when a student engages in any of the following behaviors on school grounds or at a school sponsored event:
  - a. Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol.
  - b. Assault.
  - c. Vandalism resulting in significant property damage.
  - d. Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature.
  - e. Automobile accident.
  - f. Any other behavior which significantly threatens the health or safety of students, staff, or other persons or which is required by law to be reported.

### **DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

The Board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school’s learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long-term.

The district will provide appropriate training to staff and incorporate within its educational program age-appropriate dating violence education that shall include, but not be limited to defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

### **DETENTION POLICY**

Detention periods are assigned before and/or after school for school rule violations or actions constituting unacceptable student behavior. Detention periods will be scheduled Monday - Thursday from 7:40 to 8:05 and 3:35 to 4:00. Students are required to report to the assigned room on the date the detention is received. Exception: To

allow for students requiring bus transportation to arrange for alternative transportation, these students may serve their assigned detention on the next regularly scheduled school day in which detentions may be served. Example: A detention received on Thursday by a student requiring bus transportation would be allowed to serve the detention on the following Monday. Students should express this need to the teacher assigning the detention so the alternative date may be noted on the detention slip.

Students should understand that any certificated or support staff member in the building has the authority to correct misconduct at any time. Therefore, it is conceivable that any staff member may assign a detention to a student who is in violation of school rules.

### **Detention Period Rules**

1. Detention hall will be held before school and/or after school in a designated classroom. Detention time runs from 7:40 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. before school and 3:35 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. after school.
2. If a student shows up after 7:40 a.m./3:35 p.m. without the principal's approval, he/she will be requested to report the next two (2) school days for detention hall.
3. Detention hall will be used to work on academic work. If a student does not bring work, the student will be assigned the task of copying a section of the Student Handbook.
4. Students will be silent and studying the entire 25 minutes.
5. Students will not be allowed to leave the detention hall without the permission of the monitor. (Emergencies only)
6. Failure to attend an assigned detention hall without prior approval of the principal will automatically result in a double detention to be served the following day. **Note: Double detentions are served Monday - Thursday from 3:35 - 4:25. p.m.**
7. Students who fail to serve their double detention will be assigned a day of In-School Suspension and will still be required to serve the double detention on the same day as the In-School Suspension, or on a date as determined by the principal.
8. Students assigned 2 detentions on the same day will be assigned a day of In-School Suspension or will receive one (1) day assignment to the Saturday Adjustment Center (SAC).
9. Students assigned an excess of three (3) detentions in a quarter will receive one (1) day assignment to the Saturday Adjustment Center (SAC).
10. Additional detentions in excess of four (4) per quarter will result in the student being assigned to the Saturday Adjustment Center (SAC) and/or one (1) to five (5) days of in school suspension.
11. Students waiting for students serving a detention are to wait outside the building or, if severe weather exists, just inside the entryway. Waiting students who create a problem will be assigned a detention period.
12. Bus riders shall not be exempt from detention periods. They shall, however, be allowed one day to make arrangements for a ride home before they make-up their detention periods.
13. Students receiving detentions will not be allowed to ride the activity bus unless they have reported to practice after serving the assigned detention. Students receiving a detention who regularly participate in a sponsored strength training/conditioning program after school must get a bus pass from the weight room instructor. Note: Only students who have been pre-approved and are regular participants in the strength program will be given activity bus passes.

Detentions are very rarely overruled or postponed. If students have a problem involving an assigned detention, Mr. Bergen will consider the matter only if it is discussed with the student and the teacher/staff member assigning the detention individually (not as a group of students) prior to the date the detention is to be served. However, some emergencies may merit an overruling or postponement.

### **SATURDAY ADJUSTMENT CENTER CRITERIA (SAC)**

The principal may assign a student to the Saturday Adjustment Center for the following, but not limited to, reasons:

- failure to respond to detention responsibilities
- receiving more than three detentions in a quarter
- failure to adhere to attendance policies
- excessive office referrals
- any behavior requiring intermediary discipline

Students may also be assigned to the SAC as an alternative to in-school suspension, or if in-school suspension has proven ineffective in changing student behavior. Students will be required to attend the Saturday Adjustment Center on the assigned day and time. Students failing to attend or conduct themselves appropriately while in attendance will be assigned two days of in-school suspension the following week in which school is in session. They will also be rescheduled to attend the next day of scheduled Saturday School.

#### **Saturday Adjustment Center Rules**

1. Students must be prompt. Students are to report to the commons area. The doors to the school will be locked at **8:00 a.m.** The session will be held from **8:00 a.m. until noon.** Any student arriving after 8:00 a.m. will be refused admission and considered a “no show.”
2. Call in for illness must be made between 7:45 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. to the high school office at 534-2321. The student will be reassigned to the next SAC session. Acceptance of illness excuses will be left solely with the administration and **must** be documented by a medical doctor for consideration.
3. In cases of inclement weather, students will be notified no later than 7:30 a.m.
4. All Student Handbook rules apply.
5. Students must be on task the entire time with absolutely NO talking. Students must bring all homework prior to the start of the session. No locker passes will be allowed.
6. No excuses will be accepted for failure to attend (FTA) Saturday School. Only documented, unforeseen, extenuating circumstances approved by the administration will be considered. Examples might include: death in the family or a medical doctor documented illness.
7. Failure to comply with the rules or showing disrespect for the supervisor will result in dismissal from SAC and two days of in-school suspension the following week. The student will be reassigned to the next day SAC is in session.

## **ARTICLE 9 – EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - STUDENT RIGHTS, CONDUCT, RULES, & REGULATIONS**

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY**

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school’s program of education that provide experiences that will help students physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students’ educational

experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community, and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

### **Safety**

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

### **Warning for Participants and Parents**

The purpose of this warning is to bring attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis, or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment, and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FOR COMPETITIVE ATHLETICS**

### **Physical Examination**

Students who take part in competitive athletics are required to undergo an annual physical examination by a physician. Students will not be allowed to practice or participate in any contest until records of this examination and the physician's approval are on file in the athletic director's office. Students' families are responsible for paying the cost of these examinations.

### **Physical Condition and Injuries – Sports**

A student will not be permitted to participate in a sport activity if the student, his/her parents, coach or athletic trainer feel that the student is not in sufficiently good physical condition. The school principal and/or athletic director will be notified of the student's physical condition if there is a question regarding participation.

If a student sustains a serious physical injury, other than a concussion, that requires a physician's attention, and the student's parents do not want him/her to compete, practice or participate in sports or sports activities, the student must submit his/her physician's written permission before he/she will be permitted to return to practice or to participate in sports or sports activities.

### **Concussions**

Any student who has suffered a confirmed concussion will be prohibited from participating in athletic contests or practices until 10 days after post-concussion symptoms are no longer evident.

A member of the coaching staff or athletic trainer will document all incidents of possible concussion. The student's physician or the athletic trainer will determine when the post-concussion symptoms in each case have ceased and will document that determination in writing. The 10-day sit out period will begin at that time and the student will not be permitted to resume competition or practice until after the completion of the 10-day period.

If the student, parents, coach or athletic trainer feel that a student who has suffered a concussion is not in good physical condition, the student will not be permitted to participate in the sport. The school principal and athletic director will be notified of the student's physical condition if there is a question regarding participation.

Centennial Public School will provide coaches of sports with training in recognizing and responding to the symptoms of concussions. This training is intended to assist coaches in determining when students are concussed and providing them with immediate care that will be followed with evaluation by training staff or a physician. Centennial Public School is not responsible for any costs associated with the medical evaluation or subsequent treatment.

Students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered. The school's "return to learn protocol" shall be the guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Education entitled "Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom," and accompanying materials and future supplements. Nothing in this policy or the referenced protocol shall entitle a student who has sustained a concussion to an individualized plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, although staff will refer students who have sustained a concussion for evaluation under Section 504 as appropriate.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT**

This activity code of conduct is supplemental to the Centennial Public School student code of conduct which is in this handbook, and any action taken hereunder may be in addition to any action under the student code of conduct said policy.

#### **Grounds for Extra-Curricular Discipline**

The grounds for suspension from practices, participation in interscholastic competition, or other participation in extra-curricular activities and competitions are set forth below. In becoming familiar with the conduct rules for extra-curricular activities, participants need to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of their actions. Special conduct rules exist for the reasons that:

##### Participants in Activities Assume Responsibility for Leadership and are Representatives of Our School:

Participants in extra-curricular activities assume a leadership role. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school on the students conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. The students' performance and devotion to high ideals make their school and community proud.

Activities are a Privilege: Extra-curricular activities have an important place in the educational program of Centennial Public School. It is a privilege for the students who choose to participate. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions is a part of that philosophy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. (If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct). The conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the

spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person.
4. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property.
5. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, to any student, or to any other person.
6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student.
7. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon.
8. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, vapor products, narcotics, drugs, controlled substances, or inhalants, or being under the influence of any of the above; or possession of drug paraphernalia. (Note: The term “under the influence” for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law. For school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant. In addition, “possession” of alcohol or drugs will be considered to have occurred for purposes of school rules if the student is in such close proximity to alcohol or drug (for example, a student being in a car where alcohol is in the back seat and no adults are present in the car) or to others who are consuming alcohol or drugs (for example, being at a student party at which other students are drinking) that school officials may reasonably determine that the student was in “possession” of the items as well).
9. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401, of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance or inhalant.
10. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities.
11. Tardiness to school, assigned classes, or assigned activities.
12. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.
13. Public indecency.
14. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or the school.
15. Engaging in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
16. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student's health and safety or to the health and safety of others or is distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Centennial Public School buses.
18. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a place where such items are prohibited.
19. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing, or attempting to cause, personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the

- reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary.
20. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of each season; reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
  21. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an athletic/activity event.
  22. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meetings.
  23. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
  24. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

### **Drug and alcohol violations**

Students who are found to be in violation of sub-paragraphs 8 or 9 of the above conduct rules shall be subject to the following disciplinary action **if the student or parent “self-reports” the incident to the high school principal or activities director within one week of the violation. If the student or parent does not self-report the violation with the one week window, the disciplinary action for each violation listed below doubles in length and the suspension will begin on the date of the student’s next extra-curricular activity.**

#### 1. First Violation –

- a. Suspension from extra-curricular program for designated activities for four (4) weeks from the date of findings or violation  
-OR-
- b. Students and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency. Said program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to school’s principal or principal’s designee. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extra-curricular activities for four (4) weeks from date of finding of violation. The student must not compete or participate in the designated activities for two (2) calendar weeks. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.

#### 2. Second Violation –

- a. Suspension from extra-curricular program for designated activities for eight (8) weeks from the date of findings or violation  
-OR-
- b. Students and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency. Said program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to

school's principal or principal's designee. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extra-curricular activities for eight (8) weeks from date of finding of violation. The student must not compete or participate in the designated activities for four (4) calendar weeks. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.

3. Subsequent Violations –
  - a. Upon finding of a subsequent violation, the student will be suspended from all designated activities for one calendar year from the date of determination that a subsequent violation has occurred.

### **Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline**

Students may be suspended by the principal or the principal's designee from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in extra-curricular activities for violation of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Centennial Public School Board of Education or the administrative staff of the school.

#### The following procedures will be followed with regard to suspension:

1. The school official(s) considering the suspension will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with school purpose.
2. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the student is to be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and be given the opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. If the student is not readily available to meet with the school official for this purpose before the suspension is to begin, then the suspension may be imposed at that time so long as the opportunity for the student to hear the charges and evidence and for the student to tell his or her side of the story occurs as soon as reasonably practicable. An effort to schedule a meeting for this purpose should be made by the student and the student's parent or guardian as well. Given the fact that extracurricular activity suspension actions at times need to be taken outside the regular school day, a telephone conference may be used to give the student the opportunity to provide the student's position.
4. Within two school days or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the principal or principal's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents, or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reason for the action taken and the right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
5. An opportunity will be afforded the student, parents, or guardian of the student, at their request, to confer on an informal basis with regard with the school official who has imposed the suspension and to give that school official any further information in the student's defense.

6. If the student or student's parents or guardian are not satisfied with the determination of the school official, an informal hearing may be requested before the superintendent. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian will either be provided with the initial notice letter or be made available in the principal's office. This request must be received by the building principal within five days of receiving the initial written notice of suspension.
7. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within ten calendar days of the request. The superintendent will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing within five days of receiving the request. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending an appeal.
8. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days. The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the hearing itself) shall be kept by the school.
9. Nothing contained in this regulation shall prevent the participant, parents, guardian, or representative from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school personnel at any stage.

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have "excessive absences" as determined under the school's attendance policy are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances. Students who have four or more unexcused absences in the semester of participation will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests, and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests, the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. On the day of a contest, performance, or other activity, be in attendance for the full day. A student who is not in attendance the full day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

#### **ADADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY**

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the principal mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. Therefore, the following Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and Centennial Public School Eligibility Requirements must be met by all 7-12 grade students in order to be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities:

### **NSAA – Eligibility Requirements**

In order to represent Centennial Junior/Senior High School in any activity sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association, a student must be eligible under the following rules:

1. Must carry at least 20 semester hours.
2. Must have passing grades in four subjects for the present semester.
3. Must have been enrolled on or before the 11<sup>th</sup> day of school.
4. Must have passed 20 semester hours the previous semester.
5. Must meet requirements of the school as to conduct, personal habits, and training.

#### **In-eligible if:**

1. You were 19 years of age before August 1.
2. You have attended school more than 8 semesters (grades 9-12).
3. You were not enrolled in school by the 11<sup>th</sup> day of school.
4. You were not in school the immediate preceding semester.
5. You did not receive 20 semester hours of credit the immediate preceding semester.
6. You have graduated from high school.
7. You compete in any athletic contest other than as a representative of your school during the season of the sport involved.
8. You play on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
9. You have changed schools without your parents changing domicile.
10. Your parents have changed their domicile to another school district and you have remained in your present school. (Exception: if your parents have moved after school has started, you will be eligible to complete the current school year.) Check the NSAA Yearbook for the definition of legal domicile.
11. You participate in a contest under an assumed name.

### **Centennial Public School – Eligibility Requirements Grades 7-12**

Grades in all subjects, including non-core classes, will be reported at the end of each school week beginning the third week of each quarter (nine week grading period). Any student failing two or more classes will be ineligible to represent Centennial Public School in interscholastic competition. The period of ineligibility will be from the following Monday to Sunday of the school week when a student has attained ineligible status. The first time each quarter that a student fails to meet the criteria for eligibility, the student will be extended a one-week “grace period” of eligibility to raise his/her grades to meet this policy. Participants will only be given one “grace period” per quarter. Failing two or more classes at the end of the school week during the quarter after the “grace period” has been used will result in ineligibility. Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activity, including athletic contests, until the above requirement has been met. Students are expected to practice with their team during the ineligibility period unless otherwise told by their coach/sponsor.

## STUDENT SEATING & SPORTSMANSHIP AT ATHLETIC CONTESTS

For the safety of contestants and officials, no seating will be allowed on the first row of seating in the gymnasium. The Student Section is based upon first come first serve basis. The designated Student Section allows for students to stand and cheer. Anyone not cheering for Centennial and occupying space may be asked to move to allow students wanting to cheer in that spot. The principal will reserve the right for final decisions.

Good sportsmanship is expected to be exhibited by all coaches, sponsors, students, parents, and other spectators. The school can be punished by NSAA for a lack of good sportsmanship at NSAA sanctioned events. More importantly, activities are more enjoyable for the students when good sportsmanship is displayed.

### **Responsibilities of Spectators Attending Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities**

1. Show interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the performance of both teams.
2. Show proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and remaining silent when the National Anthem is played.
3. Understand that gaining admittance to observe the contest is a privilege, not a license to verbally attack others or be obnoxious. Maintain self-control.
4. Do not "boo," stomp feet, or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.
5. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
6. Know that noisemakers of any kind are not proper for athletic events.
7. Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
8. Stay off the playing area at all times.
9. Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
10. Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders, dance team, and student-athletes.
11. Pay attention to the half-time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
12. Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
13. Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.
14. Refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs on the site of the contest.

## SENIOR ROYALTIES

A senior may serve on only one of the following royalties:

**Bronco Week**–King/Queen      **Prom**–King/Queen      **Athletic**–King/Queen

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICERS

Any student in grades 9-12 must be passing four (4) subjects or 20 hours in order to hold a class or organizational office. This average must be maintained each semester. No student may hold more than one of the following major offices in any one year:

1. Student Council president
2. Senior Class president
3. Junior Class president
4. Yearbook editor

## DANCES/PARTY RULES

A school sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation including Academic Eligibility.

### Standards for the administration of school dances and parties:

1. All activities are to be held within the school premises (if facilities are available). These activities will be on either Friday or Saturday night and must terminate no later than midnight, unless otherwise approved by administration.
2. Dances with street shoes are NOT permitted in the new high school gym.
3. The use, possession, or distribution of tobacco, vapor products, alcohol, or illegal drugs will not be permitted at any school function. Any person who has been drinking shall be denied admission to the party or will be detained until parents or guardians are notified and arrangements made to transport the student home.
4. No student will be allowed entrance to the dance after 9:30 p.m. or an announced, designated time set by the principal.
5. Any student leaving the activity will not be allowed to re-enter.
6. Each activity shall be under the sponsorship of a school organization or sponsor.
7. Students are permitted "outside" dates for specific school activities but must file the names of the date in the principal's office. Centennial students will be held responsible for their date's understanding and obeying the rules and regulations pertaining to the activity. No dates over the age of 20 will be allowed to participate
8. All persons attending the prom must wear either formal or semi-formal attire. Attire for other activities must conform (as a minimum) to the dress for regular school days or to the appropriateness for the event.
9. All activities must have a sponsor present. Events must be approved and scheduled through the principal's office.
10. Any school group, with sponsor authorization, may invite all faculty, board members, and spouses, free of charge.
11. All contracts for dance bands or disc jockeys must have the signature of the principal.

## SCHOOL SPONSORED TRIPS

On all activity trips the student must travel to and from the activity in transportation provided by the school. The only exceptions are listed below:

1. Injury to participant which would require alternative transportation.
2. Prior arrangement between the coach/sponsor and participant's parent/guardian. Only parent/guardian may transport a student from an activity, without prior arrangement. The parent/guardian must notify the coach/sponsor in writing of the intent to transport their child(ren) home from the activity.
3. Students will not be permitted to ride home from a school activity with any minor. (Under age 21)

**All school sponsored trips are considered an extension of classroom; therefore, all school rules and regulations apply. Participation in classroom related trips will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher and the principal. Students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally will be considered on a case by case basis.**

## STUDENT FEES POLICY

The board realizes some activities may require additional expenditures which are properly to be borne by students as a separate charge. Such charges may be waived as specified below depending upon the student's

eligibility for the free and reduced-price lunch program. [In other special cases where the parent/guardian requests that the student be exempted from charges, the superintendent shall determine granting of waivers.] No fees, specialized or nonspecialized attire, or equipment shall be required of students outside this policy. This policy does not apply to tuition payments by nonresident students.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. Extra-curricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school district;
2. Postsecondary education costs means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from postsecondary educational institution.

The district may charge student fees or require students to provide specialized equipment or attire in the following areas:

1. Participation in extracurricular activities, including extracurricular music courses;
2. Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities;
3. Postsecondary education costs, limited to tuition and fees associated with obtaining credits from the postsecondary institution;
4. Transportation fees for option students not qualifying for free lunches and nonresident students as allowed by state statute;
5. Copies of student files or records as allowed by state statute;
6. Reimbursement to the district for property lost or damaged by the student;
7. Before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services in accordance with state statute;
8. Summer school or night school; and
9. Breakfast and lunch programs.

The district may also require students to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches shall be provided with a musical instrument of the school's choice.

Waiver for any of the following shall be provided for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches:

- Section 1** Fees and specialized equipment and specialized attire required for participation in extracurricular activities;
- Section 2** Admission fees for onsite district-sponsored extra-curricular activities and district transportation charges for spectators attending offsite extracurricular activities; and
- Section 3** Materials required for course projects where the project becomes the property of the student upon completion.

The superintendent shall establish a Student Fee Fund and ensure the funds collected as fees for the following purposes are properly recorded and deposited to it:

- Section 4** Participation in extracurricular activities;
- Section 5** Postsecondary education costs; and
- Section 6** Summer school or night school.

The superintendent shall promulgate regulations outlining the purposes for which fees in these three areas are collected and shall ensure such fees are spent for those purposes.

The superintendent shall promulgate regulations to be published annually in the student handbook authorizing and governing:

1. Any non-specialized clothing required for specified courses and activities;

2. Any personal or consumable items a student will be required to furnish for specified courses and activities;
3. Any materials required for course projects if the project becomes the property of the student upon completion; and
4. Any specialized equipment or specialized attire which a student will be required to provide for any extracurricular activity, including extracurricular music courses.
5. The superintendent shall also promulgate regulations authorizing and governing the following areas:
  6. All fees to be collected within the nine numbered areas of the third paragraph of this policy;
  7. Any other types of specialized equipment or attire to be provided by all students in the nine numbered areas of the third paragraph of this policy;
  8. Procedures and forms for students or parent/guardians to apply for waivers under this policy;
  9. Deadlines for waivers for all types of fees;
  10. Procedures for allowing facilities use for NSAA District events to avoid conflict with this policy;
  11. Procedures [to avoid the direct handling of fees; for the handling of fees] for students receiving postsecondary education credits;
  12. Procedures for handling of fees related to summer school or night school;
  13. Attendance requirements and procedures in connection with evening, weekend or summer use of facilities related to all extracurricular activities to avoid conflict with this policy;
  14. Procedures for admitting students on waiver to extracurricular activities; and
  15. Procedures for transportation of student spectators to extracurricular activities and collection of any related fees.

Public concerns or complaints regarding required fees, attire or equipment shall be addressed under Policy 1003.3 Complaints.

This policy will be reviewed and re-adopted annually by August 1 at a regular or special meeting of the Board. This shall include a review of the amount of money collected under this policy and the use of waivers as provided by this policy. The policy shall be published in the student handbook provided at no cost to each student.

Legal Reference:	Neb. Constitution, Art VII, Sect. 1
	Neb. Statute 79-215 (tuition)
	79-241 (option student busing)
	79-605 (nonresident busing)
	79-611 (transportation fee)
	79-734 (books, equipment and supplies)
	79-2,104 (student files)
	79-2,125 to 2,134 (student fees law)
	79-1104 (before-and-after-school services)
	79-1106 to 1108 (learners with high ability)

## **ARTICLE 10 – STATE & FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

Students, parents, employees, volunteers, school patrons, applicants for student admission or employment, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Centennial Public School, and all others who interact with Centennial Public School are hereby notified that the Centennial Public School does not

discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, religion, or disability in the admission, access to its facilities or programs, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities.

**DESIGNATION OF COORDINATOR(S)**

Any person having inquiries concerning this district’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Colin Barga, Centennial High School, Utica, NE 68456, 402-534-2321.

<b>Law, Policy or Program</b>	<b>Issue or Concern</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Colin Barga
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Colin Barga
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Colin Barga
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Tim DeWaard
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Colin Barga

**ANTI-DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT POLICY**

Elimination of Discrimination

The Centennial Public School hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Students.

Purpose: Centennial Public School is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Centennial Public School will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may exist when:

1. Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.
4. Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

#### Complaint and Grievance Procedures:

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Centennial Public School. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent of Centennial Public School, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent of Centennial Public School will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

#### **MULTI-CULTURAL EDUCATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the Centennial Public School system to utilize the resources of curriculum, instruction, in-service, counseling and guidance to reflect the racial, ethnic, language, and cultural heritage of both historical and modern-day United States of America by observing the following objectives:

1. To select materials and methods that will eliminate bias and stereotype in our schools.
2. To conduct in-service programs for our staff that will help them to understand a multi-cultural approach and to reflect it in their teaching and administrative duties.
3. To encourage all students to grow in self-esteem and to understand and develop their academic and human potential.
4. To guard against the grouping of students that reflects racial, ethnic, language, or cultural bias.

**NOTICE TO PARENTS OF RIGHTS AFFORDED BY SECTION 504  
OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973**

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to qualifying students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent).
11. File a local grievance.

**NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the

parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

Contractors, consultants and volunteers are permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

The District forwards education records (may include academic, health and discipline records) that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student has already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

#### NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the district has designated as directory information are as follows: student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous school attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

#### ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The district's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the district does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District designates such student work as directory information and as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:

The District designates the Seward County Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

**NOTICE CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires Centennial Public School to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that Centennial Public School not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. Centennial Public School will comply with any such request.

**NOTICE CONCERNING STAFF QUALIFICATIONS**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Centennial Public School will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Centennial Public School will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

**STUDENT PRIVACY PROTECTION & PARENT RIGHTS POLICIES**

It is the policy of Centennial Public School to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties:

Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

#### Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive:

The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed “Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive”), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: “Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.”

#### Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials:

Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term “instructional materials” for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator’s intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

#### Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings:

The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: “Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.”

#### Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students:

The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. “Personal information” for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent’s first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term “personal information,” for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

#### Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information:

While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy:

The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events:

The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

### **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICIES**

Centennial Public School, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation in the school district, herewith declares that it shall be the policy of the district to provide parent/guardian access to all textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, and any other instructional materials used by the school.

It shall further be the policy of the district in the event any parent/guardian has a complaint or objection to any such materials to make such provision for personal conferences with the parent/guardian and appropriate school personnel to discuss such concerns. A sincere effort will be made to resolve the issue at this level. Should this effort fail, the superintendent or his/her designee shall cause to be prepared a complaint form which is to be used by a parent/guardian to express objections to any such instructional material. Such complaint form shall seek information including, but not limited to, (1) the instructional material complained of, (2) the reason for the complaint, and a (3) proposed resolution of the complaint by the parent/guardian.

Parents/guardians are invited to visit/monitor the classrooms, assemblies, and other instructional activities. One day advance notice is requested, but not required, for classroom visits. Participation in counseling sessions will be determined on an individual basis with input from the parent, student, counselor, and psychologist, if applicable.

It shall further be the policy of the district to receive communication when a parent/guardian believes it is appropriate for his/her child to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, or other school experiences that the parent/guardian may find objectionable. Every effort will be made to resolve the issue on an informal basis. Should this effort fail, the superintendent or his/her designee shall make a provision on a complaint form herein above referred to for receiving information from a parent/guardian concerning what (4) specific testing, (5) classroom instruction, or (6) other school experiences the parent/guardian finds objectionable, (7) the basis for the parent's/guardian's objection and a (8) proposed solution for dealing with the objection. With the exception of special sensitive issues and/or time constraints, excusing a student will occur only after a parent/guardian, teacher, and principal conference in addition to receipt of the signed complaint form. Should a student be excused from the requested activity, there shall be no penalty but an agreed upon alternative activity must be performed to the satisfaction of the teacher and principal.

It shall further be the policy of the district to provide full student records access to a custodial parent/guardian during regular business hours of school in the appropriate administrator's office.

It shall further be the policy of the district to notify a parent/guardian of a student who is scheduled to take a standardized norm referenced or criterion referenced test or standardized test such as but not limited to the California Achievement Test, to notify the parent/guardian when reasonable to do so, where a sample of such test might be observed and the date upon which such test will be administered. As to all testing by the district, experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments, and testing instruments shall be prohibited unless a parent/guardian requests in writing that such test be administered to his/her student.

It shall be the policy of the district to conduct student surveys judiciously, with consideration to the

fact that certain parents/guardians may find certain items of the survey objectionable [i.e. those which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy of any student or parent/guardian of such student]. Parents will be given an advance notice of one (1) week prior to conducting surveys which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy of any students or their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may observe these surveys during this week long window and opt to have their child(ren) excused from participation without any penalty being assessed. It shall, however, be the policy of the district to not generally exclude students from any school authorized survey since to do so might impair the valid accuracy of such a survey.

Parents/guardians may withdraw their child(ren) from participating in any survey at any time. Legal Reference: 79-4,242 to 79-4,245

### **HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY**

Homeless children for purposes of this Policy generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable federal and state law.

#### No Stigmatization or Segregation of Homeless Students:

It is the District's policy and practice to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated by the District on the basis of their status as homeless.

#### Homeless Coordinator:

The Superintendent shall serve as the District's designated Homeless Coordinator. The Homeless Coordinator shall serve as the school liaison for homeless children and youth and shall ensure that: (1) homeless children are identified by school personnel; (2) homeless children enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school; (3) homeless children and their families receive educational service for why they are eligible and referrals to health, dental, and mental health services and other appropriate services; (4) the parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; (5) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated where such children receive services under the federal homeless children laws, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; (6) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law; and (7) the parents or guardians of homeless children, and any unaccompanied youth, are fully informed of transportation services available under law. The Homeless Coordinator shall coordinate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provisions of education and related services to homeless children. The Homeless Coordinator may designate duties hereunder as the Homeless Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

#### Enrollment of and Services to Homeless Children:

A homeless child shall be enrolled in compliance with law and be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school in which the homeless child has been placed. Placement of a homeless child is determined based on the child's "school of origin" and the "best interests" of the child. The "school of origin" means the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. Placement decisions shall be made according to the District's determination of the child's best interests, and shall be at either: (1) the child's school of origin for the duration of the child's homelessness (or, if the child becomes permanently housed during the school year, for the remainder of that school year) or (2) the school of the attendance area where the child is actually living. To the extent feasible, the placement shall be in the school of origin, except when such is contrary to the wishes of the homeless child's parent or legal guardian. If the placement is not in the school of origin or a school requested by the homeless child's parent or legal guardian, the District shall provide a written explanation of the placement decision and a statement of appeal rights to the parent or guardian. If the homeless child is an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Coordinator shall assist in the placement decision, consider the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provide the unaccompanied youth with notice of the right to appeal. In the event of an enrollment dispute, the placement shall be at the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute in accordance with the dispute resolution process. The homeless child shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which the District has determined to place the child, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof

of residency, or other documentation. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the homeless child to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the homeless child needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the District shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child to the Homeless Coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records. The District may nonetheless require the parent or guardian of the homeless child to submit contact information.

Transportation will be provided to homeless students, to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless, upon request of the parent or guardian of the homeless child, or by the Homeless Coordinator in the case of an unaccompanied youth, as follows: (1) if the homeless child's school of origin is in the Centennial Public School, and the homeless child continues to live in the Centennial Public School, transportation to and from the school or origin shall be provided by the Centennial Public School; and (2) if the homeless child lives in a school other than the Centennial Public School, but continues to attend the Centennial Public School based on it being the school of origin, the new school and the Centennial Public School shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin and, if they are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

### **BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAMS**

The Centennial Public School has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs. The District provides the United States Department of Agriculture's required nondiscrimination statement:

- In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.
- To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority, Centennial Public School:

1. Agrees to serve meals free to children from families whose income meets eligibility guidelines.
2. Agrees to serve meals at a reduced price to children from families whose income falls between free meal scale and the poverty guidelines.
3. Agrees to provide these benefits to any child whose family's income falls within the criteria in Attachment A after deductions are made for the following special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household: Unusually high medical expenses; shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income; special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child; disaster or casualty losses.
4. In addition, agrees to provide these benefits to children from families who are experiencing strikes, layoffs and unemployment which cause the family income to fall within the criteria set forth in federal guidelines.
5. Agrees there will be no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against, any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals shall not be required to: Work for their meals; use a separate lunch room; go through a separate serving line; enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance; eat meals at a different time; or eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price.

6. Agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
7. Agrees to establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parental appeals to the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of information contained in an application or to be continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals. During the appeal and hearing the child will continue to receive free or reduced priced meals. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years. Prior to initiating the hearing procedures, the parent or local school official may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and school official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of data submitted in the application and decisions rendered. Such a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing. The hearing procedure shall provide the following:
  - i. A publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing.
  - ii. An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person.
  - iii. An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal.
  - iv. Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing.
  - v. An opportunity to present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference.
  - vi. An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses.
  - vii. The hearing be conducted and the decision made by a hearing official who did not participate in the decision under appeal or in any previous conference.
  - viii. The parties concerned and any designated representative thereof be notified in writing of the decision of the hearing official.
8. Agrees to designate the Superintendent to review applications and make determinations of eligibility. This official will use the criteria outlined in this policy to determine which individual children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
9. Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced price meals at the beginning of each school year. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. All children from a family will receive the same benefits.

The following attachments will be available in the office of the Superintendent:

- Eligibility criteria for free and reduced meals
- Parent letter and application
- Public release
- Collection procedure

### LUNCH TICKETS

Students' lunch money will be credited to a "family account" versus an "individual account." Each day a student eats lunch, \$2.70 will be subtracted from the family account. Should three children from the same family eat the same day, \$8.10 would be subtracted from the family account. Students will be notified when there are six meals \$16.20 remaining in the account. Students will still be expected to purchase a minimum of 10 lunches per student \$27.00.

Students purchasing lunches will receive a bar coded lunch ticket. As students go through the lunch line, a computer wand will scan the ticket and deduct the price of the meal from the student's family account.

**RECEIPT OF THE 2014-2015 PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK  
OF CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2014-2015 Parent-Student Handbook of Centennial Public School. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules. The undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood that the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used to responding to harassment or discrimination.

**DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS STATEMENT:** RECEIPT SHALL ALSO SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING CENTENNIAL HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO THE SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS LAW AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND THE POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO, **INCLUDING VAPOR PRODUCTS**, ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature

**STUDENT'S INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT**

In order to make sure that all members of Centennial Public School community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Centennial Public School asks that you as a student user sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Centennial Public School, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Centennial Public School and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Centennial Public School, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Centennial Public School responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

**Return to: Colin Bargaen, Secondary Principal**

**STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE**

**STUDENT INFORMATION** SS#

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name First Name Middle Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade Level Race/Ethnicity Date of Birth Gender

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address City

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address/ P.O Box City Zip+4

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone Guardian Email(s)

**FAMILY INFORMATION**

**Parent/Primary Guardian(s)**

Last Name _____	Last Name _____
First Name/ MI _____	First Name/ MI _____
Day Phone _____	Day Phone _____
Place of Work _____	Place of Work _____
Cell Phone _____	Cell Phone _____

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

**Alternate Emergency Contact Information**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name First Name Relationship to Child

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone Day Phone Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Doctor Clinic Phone

800 Lincoln Square  
121 So. 13th Street  
P.O. Box 82028  
Lincoln, NE 68501-2028



firm@hslegalfirm.com  
www.hslegalfirm.com  
402.434.3000  
Fax 402.434.3030

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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Superintendent Tim Dewaard  
FROM: Kelley Baker, Karen Haase, Steve Williams, and Bobby Truhe  
DATE: July 10, 2014  
RE: ***Introduction to Policy Service***

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It was a pleasure to speak with you and we are delighted to explain our philosophy of writing policies and the practical details of the way that our service works.

**Writing Style.** We believe that careful writing, attention to detail, familiarity with school practices, and a thorough knowledge of the law are essential to creating good policies. Our policies are shorter and contain more headings and numbers than policies from most other policy services. We describe our writing style as “lean and clean.” We have seen too many instances when an employee, an NSEA representative, or a plaintiffs’ attorney has turned flowery, loosely written, or overly complicated policies to a school district’s disadvantage. We strive to write policies that are short, clear, and useful.

**Organization.** We have divided our policies into six sections:

- 1000 Series: Mission and Belief Statements
- 2000 Series: The Role and Conduct of the Board of Education
- 3000 Series: Business Operations
- 4000 Series: Employees
- 5000 Series: Students
- 6000 Series: Instruction and Extracurricular Activities

There is nothing special about this organizational system. If you have traditionally used letters rather than numbers or if you have used a numbered organizational system that is important to retain, you can simply place our policies into the structure you prefer.

**Additional Services.** We want to make sure that you have all the policies that you want, and that you have them in the form you want. As part of the service, we will:

1. write any policies that you request;
2. rewrite any of your policies that you request; and
3. work with you to make sure that the policies incorporate the elements that you want.
4. we are working on providing webinars regarding policy updates to introduce the policy changes with an opportunity for discussion and questions and answers.

**Policy Updates.** We will provide you with policy updates during the school year and at the end of each school year that are necessitated by changes in state and federal law, the regulations of the state or federal departments of education, and court decisions. We will provide the policy updates as part of the service for a two-year period.

**Delivery of Policies.** We prefer to provide you with the policies one section at a time. However, we will provide you the policies in accordance with the schedule that you designate. For example, we could send them in sections or in their entirety. We strongly encourage the board to review the policies carefully so that they will become thoroughly familiar with them. Unless you ask us to provide hard copies of the policies, we will provide them to you by e-mail. This will enable you and your staff to format the policies to conform to your district's preference and to post them on your district's website if you wish.

**Board Adoption of Policies.** Many boards require two readings of a policy before they may adopt it. There is no legal requirement of two readings, and we recommend against it because there are many instances when boards needed to act quickly to adopt or amend a policy.

**Legal References and Adoption Date.** We do not include legal references for each policy. Keeping legal references current on policies requires a great deal of time and effort, and we have frequently seen policies that contain legal references that are outdated, incomplete, or simply wrong. In our opinion, there is very limited benefit to legal

references other than to provide patrons or unhappy employees with a handy reference to find a statute they may claim has been violated.

We recommend that the board record the dates that it reviews, adopts, and/or revises each policy. Nebraska Department of Education representatives examine board policies for these dates when they conduct accreditation reviews. The dates can also be useful in communicating the board's commitment to following its policies when patrons try to convince administrators to deviate from policy "just this once."

**Administrative Regulations.** Some school districts have elaborate systems of policies, administrative regulations, guidelines, or protocols. As a general rule, we prefer that the board establish written policies and that administrative protocols be less formal. The danger of a system of multiple written policies, procedures and protocols is that the policies change over time, but the written protocols don't, or administrators simply overlook one set of written documents. The only written protocols we recommend, other than board policy, are your school safety plan, your student handbook, and staff handbooks. You should review these handbooks carefully at the end of every school year to be sure they comply with board policy. We will be happy to review your handbooks for you if you would like us to do so.

**Cost and Billing for Policy Service.** The cost of the policy service is \$9,500. It includes a full set of policies and policy updates for a two-year period. We can bill you in 12 monthly installments of \$791.67 or in a lump sum according to your preference.

**Sample Policies.** I recently sent you a couple of policies. If you want me to send additional policies as examples, please let me know.

We would be delighted to work with you and the board on policies. If you have questions about the service, the policies, or any other matter, please contact me.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

July 14, 2014

1. Start planning now to attend the National School Boards Association Conference in Nashville on March 21<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration and housing opens in October, so I would like to have an idea soon after that.
2. The NASB Area Membership Meeting will be held on September 3<sup>rd</sup> in York. Registration begins at 4:45 p.m. and the opening session starts at 5:00 p.m. There are two skill building sessions at 5:35 and 6:35 p.m. The dinner and program will start at 7:25 p.m. Please let me know if you will be unable to attend.
3. Colin, Megan, John and I will be attending Administrator Days in Kearney on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and August 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. I am finishing up my three year term of being on the NCSA Executive Board as well as my term of being on the AASA Governing Board. I can't tell you how great of an experience this has been for me professionally. I have learned so much during this time. Thank you for your support and allowing me to take on this endeavor.