

2020-2021 Student-Parent Handbook



Wahoo Elementary School

"Inspiring our students to thrive!"

Elementary Principal: Ben Kreifels
Director of Student Services: Shelley Maass
Director of Learning: Josh Snyder, Ed.D.

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Wahoo Public Schools does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in admission, treatment, or participation in its programs, services and activities, or in employment. For further information about this policy, contact:

Brandon Lavaley, section 504 Coordinator, 402-443-3051.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Staff List	page 3
Philosophy	page 3
Student Section	
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Responsibilities & Rights	page 4
Harassment, Sexual Harassment, Bullying, Threats, Vandalism	page 4-5
Search & Seizure, Video Recording	page 5
Computer Use Guidelines	page 6
School Property: Classrooms, Library, Lockers, Restrooms	page 6
Telephone, Playground & Equipment	page 7
Bringing Treats to School	page 7
Getting to School and Going Home	pages 7-8
Parent Section	
<hr/>	
School Hours	page 8
Meals	page 8
PTO	page 8
Early Dismissal	page 8
Arrival at School	page 8
School Trips	page 9
Parents Right to Know	page 9
Special Education	page 9
Record Access	page 9
Privacy Rights	page 9-10
Student Fees	page 10
Parent Visits to School	page 10
Student Visitors	page 10
Pets	page 10
Fire Drills	page 10
Inclement Weather	page 11
Automated Messaging System	page 11
Student Dress Code	page 11-12
Physical Education Attire & Participation	page 12
Grades and Reports	page 12
Assessments	
Attendance	page 12-13
Make-up Work	page 13-14
Student Conduct	page 14-15
School Health Program	page 15-17
Wahoo Education and Behavioral Support System (WEBSS)	page 18-20
Special Programs & Services	page 20-21
Students' Civil and Legal Rights	page 21-22
Early Emergency Dismissal Form	page 23
School Calendar	page 24

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

This handbook is presented with the hope that it will help students and parents become more familiar with our school. It contains information and details about the day-to-day operation of the school. If you have questions, please call the building principal or your child's teacher.

Note: THE WAHOO BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES THE Elementary PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK AS PRESENTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; DIRECTS THAT SUCH HANDBOOK CONTROL TO THE EXTENT INCONSISTENT WITH BOARD POLICY, AND FINDS THAT THE TYPE OF CONDUCT FOR WHICH EXPULSION IS SPECIFIED IN THE HANDBOOK HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE STUDENT, OTHER STUDENTS, STAFF MEMBERS, OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR TO OTHERWISE SERIOUSLY INTERFERE WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS.

STAFF LIST

Principal	Ben Kreifels
Director of Student Services	Shelley Maass
Director of Learning	Josh Snyder
Counselor	Cindy Klepper
Secretaries	Colleen Sutton & Roxane Malousek
Head Start	Brian Carlson, Kassie Moline
Kindergarten	Andrea Beaver, Liz Gregg, Whitney Meyer & Judy Stukenholtz
First Grade	Dani Ficenech, Kelly Meyer, Natalie Sherman & Ashley Christensen
Second Grade	Kaitlyn Cooper, Crystal Dwerlkotte, Alicia Holtorf & Bev Lindstrom
Third Grade	Jordan Barry, Curtis Carlson, Trina Christen & Josey Nelson
Fourth Grade	Sarah Gigstad, Wes Kramer, Laurie Pearson, & Megan Shada
Fifth Grade	Lori Anderson, Max Cook, Bridget Dobesh & Kim Thrasher
School Nurse	Josh Trutna
Media/Library/Computer	Stacy Griffiths
Technology Coordinator	Vicki Ruzicka
Music & Band	Melissa Smith & Jason Smith
Art	Staci Simonsen
Physical Education	Clete Vrbka
Reading Intervention	Paula Conrad, Lindsey Greenfield & Pam Trutna
ELL/HAL Programs	Heidi Adams
School Psychologist	Jen Johnson
Speech/Language	Jameson Wiebold/Speech Technician- Chris Anderson
Special Education	Ali Klein, Alison Stewart, Jennifer Stevens, Mandy Eddie, Lindsey Greenfield & Lisa Zysset
Paraeducators	Tammy Brabec, Tiffany Kasischke, Taylor Brazda, Lindsey Havlovic Tina Hough, Chris Naber, Allissa Steiner, Andrea Parson, Laurie Tomjack, Chris Privett, Kim Holdsworth, Sara Spicka, Cheri Maly, Lori Mortensen, Tami Beavers, Ashley Sharpe, Samantha Rodgers, Vicki Murren, Lori Reeves, Heather Johnson, & Eliza Zaragoza, Deana Brust, Jami Bowers, Amanda Hime, Kari Lacey
Kitchen	Carol Fiala, Kelsey Densberger, Sia Gergoulopoulos
Maintenance, Custodians	Cohen Kugel, Garnet Harders, Mike Dunn

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

It is the basic philosophy of the Wahoo Public Schools that there should be provisions for a set of common learning skills, habits, attitudes, and character traits essential to our culture; thus, inspiring all students to act in the interest of the general welfare and to assume a mature responsibility for their own acts in our democratic society.

The educational program is to have such breadth and depth as to challenge the more capable as well as to develop all other students to their maximum capabilities. The educational program is organized and maintained as a unified system of instruction, employing a reasonable balance among academic subjects and other activities.

STUDENT SECTION

Welcome to Wahoo Elementary School! Your school is a special place. At school you learn from lots of resources, including from other people. Even though all the people you meet at school may not become your best friends, you can still get along with everyone. Remember friends aren't always your own age. Many people have friends that are older and younger than they are. When you come to school remember that the principal, teachers, and the other grownups are your friends too. These adults are here to help you and to teach you. By being friendly and polite you will find that your teachers will become trusted and dependable friends.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS In order to establish and maintain a positive educational atmosphere within our school, certain rules and regulations must be followed by the students. The following rules and standards apply to school and any school event, whether on or off school grounds.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Be on time and prepared for learning
2. Complete assigned tasks on time
3. Strive for academic success
4. Use work time appropriately
5. Demonstrate respect for people and property
6. Respond appropriately to staff member directives
7. Contribute constructively to community
8. Interact effectively with others
9. Fulfill legal requirements

STUDENT RIGHTS

1. To receive competent instruction in a relevant curriculum.
2. To attend a school which is clean, safe, and reasonably equipped for learning.
3. To have a framework for student government for student sharing in decision-making.
4. To have access to printed copies of school regulations.
5. To privacy of personal belongings provided they are not injurious to other students or disruptive to the learning environment.
6. To appeal through normal channels, including courts or civil authorities, any decision of the school administration.

HARASSMENT The district is committed to an environment free from harassment for students and staff. Any intentionally hurtful, demeaning or disparaging acts, words, symbolic representations, or behavior used by a student or students against another student or students that is disruptive of the educational process. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal, physical, visual, or graphic actions such as name-calling, taunting, mocking, slandering, humiliating, defaming, teasing, pestering; and making derogatory remarks, demeaning jokes, disparaging drawings or notes. Harassment by a student may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT The district is committed to an environment free from sexual harassment and intimidation for students and staff. Sexual harassment refers to sexual behaviors, including comments, which are

not welcome, which is personally offensive, which debilitates morale, and which therefore interferes with the educational program of its victims and their co-students. Sexual harassment by a student may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

BULLYING As referenced in district policy 504.20 the district is committed to an environment free from bullying. Any intentionally hostile or offensive verbal, electronic, written, graphic, demonstrative, or physical act that has the purpose of exerting domination over another student through the act of intimidating, frightening, hazing, oppressing, or adversely controlling the student, and that is disruptive to the educational process. This may include, but is not limited to, verbal graphic, or written activities such as name-calling, taunting, blackmailing, inciting to fight, terrorizing or physical activities such as poking, blocking or impeding, following, hair pulling, mock hitting motions, intentionally bumping, tripping, and damaging clothing. Bullying by a student may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

THREATS All threats, including those alleged to be jokes, will be taken seriously and are subject to investigation and disciplinary action. Investigation procedures for threats will be determined by the principal or designee, will take into account the age of the student and may include the following: documentation of the threat (specifics), questioning of student(s) involved, locker search and other searches, involvement of the School Resource Officer and/or other appropriate law enforcement authorities, notification of the parent or guardians (including those of the student making the threat and those of the student(s) being threatened), and determination of the sanction which may include but is not limited to parent conferences, rearrangement of schedule, detention, restriction of extracurricular activity, suspension, mandatory reassignment or expulsion.

Level 1 Threat: Using a threat, as part of a common expression and the recipient does not feel threatened, frightened or coerced.

Level 2 Threat: Using an expression or gesture or picture (drawing, etc.) with intent or impact or threatening, frightening or coercing another person(s) and recipient(s) feels threatened, frightened, or coerced.

Level 3 Threat: Threatening to kill or injure another person or persons and describing how it will be done in words or pictures.

VANDALISM School facilities (buildings, grounds, fields, etc.) are built and maintained by public funds and as such are deserving of the respect and care of the entire student body. Any student found to have been defacing or vandalizing the building or district property will have consequences. These may include, but are not limited to: 1) Repair the damage by the student, 2) Payment to replace or repair the damage, and/or 3) Suspension or expulsion of the student.

SEARCH & SEIZURE School lockers are the exclusive property of the district. School lockers may be opened or searched by certificated staff members without notice and without student consent. Students, students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and automobiles, may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or District Policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property. As part of the district's effort to keep the Elementary School safe and free from illegal drugs, the Elementary School Principal may authorize the use of law enforcement drug detection dogs to search school lockers and cars parked in the school parking lot. The refusal of a student to consent or submit to a reasonable search and/or to surrender objects or substances found, as a result of such search may be grounds for discipline.

VIDEO RECORDING Wahoo Elementary School uses video recording devices at school and on busses. Students who are recorded on tape exhibiting inappropriate behavior can be disciplined as though a staff member witnessed the act.

COMPUTER USE GUIDELINES

1. Students will respect copyright laws and will not make unauthorized copies of software.
2. Students will not intentionally access information that may be obscene or offensive toward any other individuals, nor will students place any such information on the network or Internet.
3. Students will respect the security of any computer system or network and will not try to gain unauthorized access to system programs, computer systems, or another person's files.
4. Students will not use the computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users.
5. Students will use the computer equipment to meet instructional objectives not as entertainment.
6. Students will not waste or take supplies and will print only when necessary to complete an assignment.
7. Students will not use the network for financial gain or any commercial or illegal activity.
8. Students will not engage in vandalism, including bypassing security systems, harming or destroying any data on the WPS network or the Internet, or intentionally share computer viruses.
9. Students will be responsible for any damage on any hardware or software.
10. Students must understand that WPS is not responsible for any expense incurred or purchases made while accessing any on-line services.
11. Student shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
12. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
13. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
14. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.

Violation of any of the above guidelines may result in the suspension of computer privileges and/or additional disciplinary consequences.

SCHOOL PROPERTY Our school is public property. It belongs to the citizens, and is for the use of everyone in the community. Things in the school are there for your use and for you to take care of. Take pride in caring for our school; it belongs to you. Do not bring unnecessary personal items to school. The school is not responsible for your personal property. This includes electronic devices.

CLASSROOMS Classes are the most important part of your school day. You will find that some classes you will like more than others, but if you always do your best they will all be more interesting and you will learn more. Be sure you are ready with your materials and ready to take part. There will be times when interruptions cause you to wait, please use self-control.

LIBRARY Take care of all books, magazines and materials you borrow. Be sure to return everything you checkout on time. You are responsible for the materials checked out in your name. You will be fined for any overdue or lost books.

LOCKERS Keep your lockers clean. The lockers belong to the school and may be inspected by the principal or designee. All lockers will be cleaned prior to checking out the last day of school. Lockers will be randomly assigned. Students are to use the lockers that are assigned to them.

BACKPACKS Students' possessions including, but not limited to, purses, bags and backpacks may be searched whenever there is a reasonable suspicion that the student possesses any illegal substance or object which is in violation of law or district policy, or which could cause bodily harm or damage to property.

RESTROOMS Take care of the restroom and help keep them clean. Never mark on the walls. Always wash your hands before you leave. Students are to use the restrooms and leave quickly, not visit with one another or any other behaviors in this area.

TELEPHONE Telephones in the school are for business use, and should be used by students only in the case of emergencies. Students are not allowed use their own personal communication devices (cell phones, etc) in the

school building, unless specifically authorized by a school employee. Such devices, if in a student's possession, are to be OFF and put away out of sight at all times.

PLAYGROUND & EQUIPMENT When you use equipment that belongs to the school, make sure that you return it when you are through playing with it. Keep the playground neat and clean by using trash cans for litter. Help take care of the grass and plants. Do not bring toys from home to school.

BRINGING TREATS TO SCHOOL Students are allowed to bring treats to school to celebrate their birthdays, however, these treats must be commercially purchased. This is for your protection. No gum is allowed at school. Invitations to birthday parties may be distributed on school grounds only if every student in the classroom receives one or if the student invites all of the girls or all of the boys in the room.

GETTING TO SCHOOL AND GOING HOME

- **WALKING** If you are walking to school be sure to obey traffic rules. Respect private property. Stay on sidewalks and don't take shortcuts across other peoples' property.
- **BICYCLES** If you ride your bike, please obey traffic laws to stay safe. Use hand signals and give people that walk the right of way. Please walk your bike on school property for the safety of others.
- **SCHOOL BUS** Remember that the bus driver is responsible for getting everyone on the bus to school and back home safely. Your good manners will help them do their job. Listen to the bus driver; he is the boss on the bus. He will tell you the bus rules, and it is your job to obey them.

- **BUS SAFETY RULES & TIPS**

BEFORE LOADING

- Be on time at the designated school bus stops to keep the bus on schedule.
- Stay off the road at all times while waiting for the bus. Bus riders conduct themselves in a safe, respectful manner while waiting.
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before attempting to enter the bus.
- All belongings should be kept in your backpack.

WHILE ON THE BUS

- *No food or beverages will be allowed on the bus unless they are for a school-sponsored activity.*
- Keep hands, head, and all personal items inside the bus at all times.
- Assist in keeping the bus safe and sanitary at all times.
- Remember that loud talking and laughing or unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention.
- Treat bus equipment as you would valuable furniture in your own house. Damage to seats, etc., must be paid for by the offender.
- Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.
- Leave no books, lunches or other articles on the bus. No bottles of any kind may be taken on the bus. No open beverage cans may be carried onto the bus or consumed while on the bus.
- Keep books, packages, coats, and all other objects out of the aisles.
- Remain on the bus in case of a road emergency, unless directed by the driver to do otherwise.
- Remain in your seats while the bus is in motion, and be courteous students, the bus driver, and the driver's assistants.
- Keep absolutely quiet when approaching a railroad-crossing stop.
- Parents will be notified if there is continuous misconduct on the bus. Bus rider may be denied the privilege of riding.
- Remember that you are in the driver's charge and you must obey him/her promptly and cheerfully.

AFTER LEAVING THE BUS

- Cross the road, when necessary after getting off the bus (at least ten feet in front of the bus), but only after looking to be sure that there is no traffic approaching from either direction.
- Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.
- Be alert to the danger signal from driver.
- Do not leave the bus at places other than the regular bus stop unless parent and school officials have given proper authorization in advance.

SAFETY TIPS

- Whenever possible walk or ride your bike with a friend.
- Go directly to and from school. Don't stop somewhere unless you have your parent's permission.
- Don't accept a ride from anyone unless your parents have given you permission.

VIOLATIONS Violations will be reported to the respective principals. Severe violations could result in the loss of bus riding privileges on a temporary or permanent basis.

PARENT SECTION

PLEASE FILL OUT THE INFORMATION UPDATE PAGE THAT ACCOMPANIES THIS HANDBOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NEED THIS INFORMATION TO UPDATE OUR RECORDS AND STAY IN COMMUNICATION WITH YOU.

SCHOOL HOURS

First Bell	8:05
Tardy Bell	8:15
Dismissal	3:15
Lunch	11:05-12:40

MEALS Breakfast is served daily beginning at 7:45. Students coming to school for breakfast need to arrive at school no later than 8:00.

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) 720-6328 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION (PTO) Wahoo Elementary community has a Parent Teacher Organization and would like to invite you to be an active member. All are welcome. Membership is free. The meetings are held in the Elementary Library the second Monday every other month.

EARLY DISMISSAL Early dismissals will be published in the school newsletter and our monthly calendar. Please consult the school annual calendar in this handbook for further details.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL Students should arrive at school no earlier than 7:45 A.M. unless they are asked to come earlier by a teacher for extra instruction or participation in school breakfast. Special permission for children to arrive prior to 7:45 A.M. will be granted to those parents who find it absolutely necessary. Parents wishing to bring children to school earlier than 7:45 A.M. should call Ben Kreifels at 443-4250. Doors to classrooms will not be open until 8:05 A.M.

SCHOOL TRIPS School trips and excursions can be an important part of the educational process. From these experiences first hand information is gained which cannot be learned as well in any other way. The school

will ask for the parent's written approval for all trips out of town. Parent volunteers may be requested and numbers limited due to transportation limitations.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW Section 1119 of Title I Schools in Nebraska states that all parents have the right to request the qualifications of teachers. You may request a copy of your child's teacher qualifications from the building principal or the Superintendent's office.

SPECIAL EDUCATION The Wahoo Public School system provides a free and appropriate education to students with disabilities within its jurisdiction regardless of the nature and severity of the disability. It is the intent of the Wahoo Public Schools to ensure that all students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided appropriate service, beginning at birth and continuing through age 21. Parents are informed when a referral has been made to the school multidisciplinary team and at that time become members of the MDT.

Parents receive information regarding the process and their rights and responsibilities. Parents must give permission before any assessment may be conducted. Parents are a part of the Multi-disciplinary team and participate on that team in all decision-making regarding eligibility and development of an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

RECORDS ACCESS Pursuant to LB370, passed by the 1973 session of the state Legislature, any pupil in the Wahoo Schools, his parents, guardians, teachers, counselors or school administrators shall have access to the school's files or records maintained concerning him, in the presence of a principal and/or guidance counselor. No other person shall have access thereto, nor shall the contents thereof be divulged in any manner to any unauthorized person. All such files or records shall be so maintained as to separate academic and disciplinary matters, and all disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed upon the pupil's graduation or after his continuous absence from the school for a period of three years and after authorization is given by the State Record Board, pursuant to sections §84-1201 to §84-1220, Re-issued Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943.

PRIVACY RIGHTS OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Types of Student Records and Information kept by the School District:

1. Permanent Record- Official school records that constitute the minimum personal data necessary for the operation of the educational system.
2. Subsidiary Record - Professionally evaluated and interpreted information of importance, while the student is enrolled in the school district, in helping the student and in protecting others.

Persons Responsible for Maintaining Student Records:

1. Student records are maintained under the direction and supervision of the building principal.
2. All school personnel having responsibilities for working with students have an obligation to update the student's records and provide a continuous evaluation of the content of the record.

Persons Having Access to Student Records:

1. Parents/guardians of students under 18 years of age.
2. School district personnel responsible for working with students or student records (assigned by building principal)
3. Student records information will not be released to individuals, agencies, or institutions unless the request for the release of such information is accompanied by:
 - a. A written consent from a student, parents/guardian of a student under 18 years of age or an eligible student. The written consent should include a date, signature, mention of specific records desired, and the names of parties whom the records should be released.
 - b. Pursuant to a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena, with a student, parents/guardians of a student under 18 years of age or an eligible student being notified in advance of compliance; provided such notification does not violate the terms of the judicial order or subpoena.

Right of a Hearing to Challenge the Content of a Student's Records (Annual Notice of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act):

- 1) 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. These rights are outlined below.
 - a) 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.
 - b) 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 Wahoo Public Schools 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 by the superintendent or designee when notified of the right to a hearing.
 - c) 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 that permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interest. 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 therapists); or 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.

- 2) Upon request, the Wahoo Public Schools discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
 - a) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Wahoo Public Schools, District 39, Saunders County, Nebraska to comply with the requirements of FERPA.
 - b) The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605
 - c) A copy of the Wahoo Public Schools Formal Hearing Procedure can be obtained by contacting the Central Office at 443-3051

- 3) Charges for Reproduction of Student Records: A charge for the reproduction of any or all of the contents of a student’s records will be paid by the individual(s) requesting such information. The charge for reproduction will reflect only the actual cost. The first two copies of the official transcript will be reproduced at no charge; each additional transcript will cost \$1.00.

4. Directory Information
 - a) When requested, school district personnel may release directory information such as: student’s name, address, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student. Directory information will not be released for commercial use without permission of the Superintendent or designee.
 - b) Students, parents/guardian of students may inform the school district or school district personnel in writing that any or all of the directory information should not be released without their prior consent.

STUDENT FEES Students at Wahoo Public Schools have fees for various activities and items. Waivers for any fees are available from the building principal's office. These waivers are based on the free and reduced lunch application guidelines. HS and Middle School students who participate in activities are required to obtain an activity pass, which is good for attendance at all activities. The cost of the pass is \$35 per year. Elementary students are not eligible, as they do not participate in school activities.

PARENT VISITS TO SCHOOL The school extends to all parents a sincere invitation to visit school at any time. However, to insure the safety of all students, we require that you check in the office upon arrival. Please contact the office before coming to visit so that we can check the teacher's schedule to insure that you may observe the subject of interest.

STUDENT VISITORS Students from other schools who wish to visit our school must have the permission of the building principal prior to the visit.

PETS Pets will not be allowed in the school building or on school grounds, unless specifically approved by the teacher and principal in advance. This will be strictly enforced. We need to consider the possible allergic reactions children may have or the possibility of a bite or scratch from a pet. If your child is allergic to any animals please let the school nurse know.

FIRE DRILLS Fire drills are required by state law to be held every month of the school year. Teachers will inform students of the route to take during a fire drill, and routes to the nearest exit are posted throughout the school building. Students are to proceed in a quiet and orderly manner during their exit.

INCLEMENT WEATHER In the event of a severe storm early dismissal and school cancellations will be announced via our District phone system. Parents should keep their phone numbers updated in the office to ensure notification during periods of severe weather conditions. Please fill out the Early Emergency Form that is the last page of this handbook and send it with your child to his/her teacher. This must be done the first week of school.

AUTOMATED MESSAGING SYSTEM Our school district uses an automated calling system to get information to our parents. The "School Messenger" system sends out information including: early out for weather, school closings, report cards coming home, low lunch balance information, and other notices. You will provide us with the phone numbers that you want called. If your phone numbers change, let us know as soon as possible so that you continue to get notifications.

STUDENT DRESS CODE Student clothing and grooming have a bearing on how others react to him/her. Consequently, an individual's dress, personal appearance, and cleanliness should reflect *sensitivity* to and *respect for others* so that classroom disruptions are kept to a minimum. These regulations are not meant to suppress individuality. The purpose of a dress code is to allow students to demonstrate their individuality at the most meaningful level through their efforts, personality, spirit, and sense of community. **Final authority to deal with improper clothing will rest with the administration.**

The following examples of clothing or types of dress are listed to help with understanding, but the listed are not all inclusive.

- Clothing which causes or has the potential to cause either a substantial disruption or material interference with the educational process.
- Clothing which is too tight, too loose, too revealing, too short, or generally inappropriate for school including, but not limited to, clothing that bares the midriff, halters, tank tops worn alone or loosely, or see-through or low cut blouses.
- Clothing which creates or has the potential to create a health or safety problem or risk, including marking on oneself or others, wearing items such as long wallets or key chains.
- Clothing which contains vulgar or offensive words or language, or is sexually explicit, indecent, or lewd.
- Clothing which reflects lack of sensitivity or respect of others is unacceptable.
- Clothing which promotes, advocates, or advances the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs, including dress which displays the logo or trademark of any brand(s) of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- Headwear and other outerwear worn to school must be kept in student lockers at all times. They may not be worn inside the building during regular school hours.
- Make-up is not allowed and hair dyes are strongly discouraged.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ATTIRE Students are required to wear tennis shoes on PE days. Tennis shoes are for the child's safety as well as protection of our facility. Please see the principal if you are unable to secure tennis shoes.

EXCUSED PARTICIPATION FROM PHYSICAL ACTIVITY In order for a child to be excused from participating in physical education activities, written communication must be sent to the school nurse and physical education instructor. Students excused from class activities will also have the same restrictions as they pertain to recess. Students may be excused from such activities for up to 5 school days without a doctor's note. For excusing participation longer than 5 days, a doctor's note is required. Note: Students are expected to participate and show progress in all areas of the physical education program curriculum; students may be required to make up activities that were carried out on days for which the student was excused for health reasons.

GRADES AND REPORTS The students in grades K-3 are given a report, which indicates achievement and citizenship in each area of the curriculum. No letter grades are given until grades 4 & 5. In addition to the written reports, parent-teacher conferences will be held and parents may check attendance, lunch account balances and grades on PowerSchool.

ASSESSMENTS Assessments provide information about student learning. The district will engage in academic testing and may utilize social and emotional behavior screeners. All students are provided high quality academic assessments aligned with Nebraska State Academic standards and indicators. Students also participate in national and state tests at designated grade levels in compliance with the Nebraska Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education.

ATTENDANCE

PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE POLICY Nebraska School Laws 79-201, 79-209, 79-210, and 79-527.01 require that all pupils be in school during all days and ours that school is in session. The school is to adopt and enforce a policy to administer attendance. The school administration and Board of Education have a firm belief that time spent in class is important and once lost cannot be regained. The responsibility for attendance lies mainly with the students and parents/guardians. The school will do everything possible to enforce the attendance laws of the State of Nebraska. Parents/guardians are asked to cooperate with the school to keep the number of absences to a minimum. Parents/guardians are encouraged to make appointments and other engagements so that they do not interfere with the school day.

ARTICLE 2, SECTION §79-201 - compulsory education in all Nebraska School Districts: Minimum required attendance.

"Every person residing in a school district within the state of Nebraska who has a legal or actual charge or control on any child not less than six years of age, shall cause each child to attend school regularly. The public, private or denominational or parochial schools each day that such schools are open and in session except when excused by school authorities, or unless such child has been graduated from high school. The term shall not be less than nine months in any district."

Regular student attendance is a positive and important habit related to academic success. Good attendance demonstrates responsibility and reflects well on the individual. At this stage of a young person's life, school is their job and is their most important business. The Wahoo Elementary School staff is committed to enabling student success in school and life. The following attendance rules are designed with the success of the student in mind.

We realize that student absences occur that are legitimate and unavoidable. The Wahoo Elementary School administration desires to promote fair and proper attendance rules that recognize student and family needs.

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES

- **REPORTING AN ABSENCE** A call from a parent or guardian is required each day a student is absent from school. This is necessary to ensure that parents are aware the student did not arrive at school. Please call the office within 30 minutes of the start of school. Parents of students who are absent will be

called if the office is not notified. In addition, parents are to provide written documentation should the child miss for a medical appointment.

- **TARDIES** Entering school late is distracting to students and staff. Students are expected to be in their assigned classroom and prepared to learn by the time the tardy bell has sounded. Arrival to class after the start of the period will be recorded as tardy unless the student has received a pass from a staff member. A student arriving to class without the necessary materials will be considered tardy.

Starting with the second tardy in one quarter the student will begin with the first problem-solving session of the Student Support System. Each tardy during the same quarter will result in the next problem-solving session until the fourth tardy, which will then be referred to the WEBSS team.

- **PARENT NOTIFICATION REGARDING SCHOOL ABSENCES** Parents will be notified in writing upon their child missing their seventh day of school. A copy of that written communication will also be sent to the Saunders County ARRIVE Coordinator. Under Nebraska Revised Statute 79-209(2), our school district is required to render all services in its power to compel attendance, including, but not limited to the following:
 - 1) One or meetings between the Saunders County ARRIVE Coordinator, a school social worker, the school principal, or a member of the school administrative staff, the student and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
 - 2) Educational counseling to discuss possible curriculum changes or an alternative education plan to meet the specific educational and behavioral needs of the student;
 - 3) Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation; and
 - 4) Investigation of the problem of excessive absenteeism, which may include a meeting to discuss possible referrals to appropriate community agencies for economic services, family or individual counseling, or other appropriate services.
- **PROCEDURES** These procedures and the following coding system are used in cooperation with the Saunders County Attorney's office. As of June 2020, the coding system below is common to all public schools within the jurisdiction of the Saunders County Attorney.

Saunders County Elementary ATTENDANCE CODES		
ABSENCES		
Code	Meaning	Definition
PA	Parent Acknowledged	Parent notifies school of student's absence within 30 minutes of the start of the school day
IL	Illness	Parent notifies school that student is ill
TR	Truant	No notification within 30 minutes of the start of the school day
MD	Medical	Medical documentation provided (includes school implemented absence)
AD	Administrative	School administrative excuses absence - discretionary
SE	School Excused	School excused
SU	Suspension	Student is serving In School Suspension or Out of School Suspension
SA	School Activity	Student is attending a school activity
PARTIAL ABSENCES		
TA	Tardy/Partial Absence	Late to class or left early (time is documented)
*Bolded are Not School Excused (count towards 20 days)		

*all absences are either SE or NSE

- 1) After seven (7) days of absence per semester, parents will be notified of the absences by a letter from the principal.
- 2) Another attendance letter will be sent to the parent and the Saunders County ARRIVE Coordinator on the fourteenth (14) absence.
- 3) When students miss twenty (20) or more days from class and the absences were not due to court placement or extended illness, parents and students will be notified of the absences by a letter. The letter will also be sent to the County Attorney in accordance with State Law, ARTICLE 2, SECTION §79-201 and WPS School Board Policy 503.4. At this point parents may be criminally charged or fined if the child has another unexcused absence.

MAKE-UP WORK There is not always an equivalent way to duplicate lectures, films, lab work and class interaction, among other things missed when a student is absent. These activities are vitally important and teachers may create, assign, and grade activities for students that will compensate (as much as possible) for the material missed when the student was not in attendance.

Students are allowed to make up and receive full credit for all work missed during excused absences. Tests and assignments announced prior to student absence will be taken on or will, at the teacher's discretion, be due on the day the student returns to school.

- In the case of an unplanned absence such as illness, the student will be given the number of days he/she has been absent plus one day to complete missing work.
- In the case of a planned absence (such as appointments, personal family plans) the student will make arrangements prior to the absence with his/her teachers. Teachers have the latitude and are encouraged to have students make up their work prior to leaving whenever possible.
- Students who fail to make arrangements with their teachers prior to leaving, or who do not make up the work in the allotted time may be required to complete the work in before or after school detention.
- Assignments will be collected by the office to be sent home for absent students at parent request.

STUDENT CONDUCT

Any conduct, which causes or creates a disruption or interference with any school activity, or interferes or threatens the health, safety, or the rights of other students, is prohibited.

The preceding is a general statement that should be used as a guide by all students. Not all acts of misconduct can be itemized in this handbook. The following are general areas of violation of school rules: (See State Law §79-267.)

- 1) The use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, or other similar conduct toward others. Actions prohibited could be physical, verbal or through means of social media.
- 2) The willful causing or attempting to cause damage to private or school property (Vandalism).
- 3) Stealing or attempting to steal private or school property while on school grounds.
- 4) Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to any student or school employee.
- 5) Threatening or intimidating a student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from a student.
- 6) Possessing, handling, or transmitting any object, which is ordinarily or generally considered to be a weapon.
- 7) Engaging in the unlawful selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substances, or look a like products.
- 8) Possessing or using drug paraphernalia, or any substance which if ingested or inhaled, impairs behavior, judgment and motor function.
- 9) Being under the influence of any illegal drug, misused prescription drug, or alcohol.
- 10) Engaging in other unlawful activity if it constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes.
- 11) Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or activity.
- 12) Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school employee.

- 13) Use of abusive or profane language.
- 14) Use of forged or fictitious notes for excuses, absences or tardiness.
- 15) Repeatedly violating school rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes. Students may be suspended or expelled for repeated or cumulative acts, a single act of which would not justify suspension or expulsion.
- 16) Disrespect by word, action, or deed directed toward teachers, school officials or other employees. This includes visiting school teams and representatives or officials of school contests.

Depending on the seriousness and related circumstances of the violation by the student, consequences may include:

- 1) Parent/student conference
- 2) Assigned detention (before or after school).
- 3) Short term suspension from school and school activities (1-5 school days).
- 4) Long-term suspension from school and school activities (6-19 school days).
- 5) Expulsion from school and school activities
- 6) Enrollment in the Alternative School.

ALCOHOL, DRUGS, & TOBACCO s stated in the section under *AREAS OF PROHIBITED STUDENT CONDUCT*, any student possessing, using, or dispensing alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, or controlled substances, or products intended by appearance to replicate tobacco **or drug** products while on school property or at school sponsored activities is subject to disciplinary action.

In addition, any student in possession of or using drug paraphernalia, or any substance, which, if ingested or inhaled, impairs behavior, judgment, or motor function, is subject to disciplinary action and will be turned over to law enforcement with a referral to the Wahoo Public School's SCIP team. Any violations will also result in additional activity sanctions to be listed later in the handbook.

Any student who is in violation of the Wahoo Public Schools Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco standards of conduct will have further sanctions placed against them under the Wahoo Public Schools Activities Code if they participate in or attend extra-curricular activities, including sports, clubs, contests, performances, Homecoming, Prom, dances, and any other school sponsored events.

FIREARMS Federal legislation called the Gun Free Schools Act of 1994, specify that students who bring a gun on school property shall be expelled from school for one calendar year. State legislation forbids firearms in school, at a school activity, or on school grounds. Knowingly possessing, handling, transmitting, using, intimidating with, or threatening to use any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a firearm, explosive, or weapon, including guns, firearms, pipe bombs, fireworks, stun guns, BB guns, and pellet guns.

OTHER WEAPONS Using or threatening to use knives and/or chemical substances (including, but not limited to, mace, pepper guns, and bleach), and any other object/item that could be used to injure another person will result in disciplinary action against the student. The discipline action may include but not be limited to suspension and /or expulsion.

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM

Each year our district provides for health screenings of students. These screenings may include height, weight, visual, hearing, and dental. Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing of potential concerns as a result of the screening process. These yearly health screenings are not intended to replace regular medical and dental check-ups. We would like the parent/guardian to inform the school of any changes or concerns in their child's general health that might affect the educational/activity program. If a student becomes seriously ill/injured during the school day, the parent/guardian will be notified. The parent/guardian will make arrangements to have the student picked up in a timely manner. Emergency services are notified if condition warrants immediate assistance. Students must meet the immunization requirements of the State of Nebraska prior to school entrance.

STUDENT MEDICATION Students may need to have a medication administered at school. Written permission from parents/guardians is required for both over the counter (OTC) and prescription medications prior to administration by school personnel. OTC medications may require a health care provider's written direction. Medications must be brought to school in the prescription/OCT container. Prescription medication must be

current and have the pharmacy label with student's name, health care provider's name, and directions for administration. OCT medications must be current, age appropriate, and treatment specific for administration to the student.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE Students with rashes or other symptoms that are questionable as to whether the condition is communicable to other students are to be sent home at the discretion of school nurse or school officials. The student may return to school after the condition is identified and treated by a health professional and/or the condition is no longer present.

ASTHMA/SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS The Wahoo Public Schools, as required by NDE Rule 59, has implemented a school policy (508.12) that provides a protocol to follow by school personnel to administer EpiPen/albuterol to a student when it is determined that the student is suffering a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction while school is in session. If after reviewing the protocol, a parent/guardian does not wish to have their child receive the medication from an EpiPen or the albuterol by school personnel under the Asthma/Systemic Allergic Reactions Protocol, then the parent/guardian shall file a waiver stating such. Waivers are available from the office of the principal.

PEANUT BASED PRODUCTS It is the intent of Wahoo Elementary to not have peanut-based products in the classrooms or in the cafeteria. No peanut-based product will be served as a main menu item in our cafeteria. There will be a peanut-free table set-aside in the cafeteria; that table will be cleaned and wiped down after each lunch period.

PROCEDURAL 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 in control efforts:

- 1) A child who has head lice nits (eggs), as determined by the school nurse or other designated staff, will be allowed to remain at school.
 - a) Parents of the child with lice nits will be contacted and the school nurse will provide written treatment information and instructions, including how to check for and identify head lice and nits.
- 2) A child having live head lice, as determined by the school nurse or other designated staff, will be sent home from school until free of live lice as determined by the school nurse. The school nurse will provide written treatment information and instructions, including how to check for and identify head lice and nits.
 - a) In the event that a child has TWO cases of live lice in a semester, he or she will be sent home until free of both live lice and nits. This will be determined by the school nurse or building principal.
- 3) All children who have been sent home with head lice and have returned to school will have a follow-up check by the school nurse or other designated staff 7-10 days after they return.

Families are encouraged to report head lice to the school health office. Individual school buildings will perform classroom or school-wide head checks as needed in order to control the condition at school.

Regarding Absenteeism for head lice, Wahoo Public Schools will follow state and county attendance guidelines. Notifications will be sent to parents and, if excessive attendance thresholds are exceeded, to the Saunders County Attorney's office.

Information from the National School Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatricians and the Centers for Disease Control were reviewed in formulation of this district procedure.



PERMISSION FOR ADMINISTERING SPECIAL
HEALTHCARE TREATMENTS/PROCEDURES/MEDICATIONS
(PRESCRIPTION & OTC)

Elementary 402-443-4250 ~ Middle School 402-443-3101 ~ High School 402-443-4332

Wahoo Public School Fax ~ 402-443-4731

I hereby authorize the school nurse/staff to administer the following treatment, procedure and/or medication to:

Wahoo Education and Behavior Support System (WEBSS)

WEBSS will fulfill the District Mission Statement.

- By clarifying parent, student and staff member responsibilities.

WEBSS was developed and refined:

- To help all students succeed academically, behaviorally and civically in an efficient manner.
- To build a system that is consistent building to building, teacher to teacher. To eliminate problem areas so teachers can teach and students can learn.

WEBSS is designed to meet the needs of:

- Students
- Parents
- Community
- Staff members
- Administration
- Federal and State Government

The following sources of information were used to identify the Student Support System© needs:

- Community sets expectations/standards
- Parent committees
- Option in/out data
- Observation in the classroom
- Office referrals
- Informal conversations
- Parent Surveys

Academic	Behavior	Civic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be On Time and Prepared for Learning • Complete Assigned Tasks On-Time • Strive for Academic Success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Work-Time Appropriately • Demonstrate Respect for People and Property • Respond Appropriately to Staff Member Directives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute Constructively to Community • Interact Effectively with Others • Fulfill Legal Requirements

ELEMENTARY STUDENT PERFORMANCE GOALS

Academic Goals

Behavior Goals

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be On Time and Prepared for Learning • Complete Assigned Tasks On-Time • Strive for Academic Success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Work-Time Appropriately • Demonstrate Respect for People and Property • Respond Appropriately to Staff Member Directives
PREVENTION through INSTRUCTION	
Be Prepared for Learning	Use Work Time Appropriately
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrive on time. • Look through materials. • Be ready to learn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen for teacher directions about how to use work time. • Make sure you understand work time directions. • Work at the appropriate time and in the appropriate way.
Complete Assigned Tasks On Time	Demonstrate Respect for People and Property
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write assignments in assignment book. • Practice new skills/knowledge during class • Ask for teacher input on work samples. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show respect for others' time and space. • Only touch others' property with permission. • Return materials in the same condition you found them.
Demonstrate Academic Proficiency	Respond Appropriately to Staff Member Directives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer questions during class. • Do your homework. • Respond to teacher's suggestions/ instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen for teacher directions. • Make sure you understand the directions. • Follow through at the appropriate time and in the appropriate place.
THREE LEVELS OF CORRECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING	THREE LEVELS OF CORRECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
REMEDIAL PROBLEM SOLVING	

Wahoo Public School Student Support System Flow Chart

Possible Consultants: Admin., SAT Coordinator, Counselor, Sped., School Psych, Title {Not inv

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SCIP (School Community Intervention Program) Because of our commitment to the education of students, we at Wahoo Public Schools will participate in School Community Intervention Program to provide a means of assistance for students demonstrating behaviors interfering with their education that may be related to the use of alcohol and other drugs. The SCIP team will connect students and their families with appropriate resources for assistance, and provide appropriate support within and outside the school environment.

COUNSELING SERVICES The school district employs counselor(s) of the purposes of assisting students with, but not limited to, district testing, individual educational planning, scheduling, college and career planning, and discussing personal or social situations that impact a student's academic or personal success.

FAMILY SERVICE LINCOLN Wahoo Public Schools partners with Family Service Lincoln to provide additional therapy resources to the district's student and families. Individual and family therapy services are provided within the school setting to assist individuals and families in dealing with life stressors that impact their behaviors and relationships at school or home.

Prior to a student or family meeting with a Family Service Lincoln behavioral health therapist, the student's parent or guardian will be contacted and consent for services documentation and other intake information will be collected.

UNITED STATES CIVIL RIGHTS ACT TITLE IX, TITLE VI, SECTION 504

NO PERSON, INCLUDING STUDENTS, MAY BE TREATED IN A MANNER WHICH DISCRIMINATES BASED ON SEX, RACE, COLOR, CREED, RELIGION, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN, HANDICAP OR MARITAL STATUS. ANY GRIEVANCE SHALL BE TAKEN UP FOR SETTLEMENT UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

STEP I

The grievance shall be presented to the building principal.

STEP II

If a satisfactory adjustment of such grievance shall not thereby be reached within three school days thereafter, it may be presented in writing to the building principal that will within five days thereafter present a decision in writing to the grievant.

STEP III

If a satisfactory adjustment of such grievance shall not thereby be reached, it may be presented in writing to the Grievance Coordinator, the high school guidance counselor, who will within five days thereafter present a decision in writing to the grievant.

STEP IV

If a satisfactory adjustment of such grievance shall not thereby be reached, it may be presented in writing to the Superintendent of Schools who will within five days present a decision in writing to the grievant.

STEP V

If a satisfactory adjustment of such grievance is not thereby reached, appeal may be made to the Office of Civil Rights, Kansas City, MO.

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES 4012 & 6145

CIVIL RIGHTS

1. School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program or Special Milk Program must include the nondiscrimination statement in their student handbook in the section that addresses access to or information about the school meals program. It must also be included on the school's website.

Emergency Early Dismissal Form

Parents & Guardians,

Please fill out and return the following form to help in ensuring your child gets home in the correct manner in the event of an emergency early dismissal. This will provide necessary information about where your child is to go if busses do not run their normal route or if your child is to follow a different procedure from his/her daily routine. Please realize it is imperative that your family has a plan for emergency dismissals and that you update the plan if it changes during the year.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us get our students safely to their appropriate destination!

Ben Kreifels
Elementary Principal

----- Cut along dotted line -----

Emergency Early Dismissal Form

Name of student: _____

Child's Teacher _____

Name of student: _____

Child's Teacher _____

Name of student: _____

Child's Teacher _____

My child(ren) will follow regular routine, which is: _____

My child(ren) will be picked up by: _____ Name: _____ Phone

My child(ren) will follow this alternate routine: _____

Please return to school immediately!