

Wahoo Public Schools



Faculty Handbook

2019-2020

Wahoo, NE 68066

**WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TEACHER HANDBOOK**

***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. TDD 816-426-7065**

[Wahoo Public School](#)

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Each building principal will outline and communicate to their individual staff the procedures and expectations for calling in sick, leave of absence forms, etc...

Each teacher will maintain substitute information readily available in their classroom. The information should contain the following:

- Lesson plans
- Daily schedule
- Class list and seating chart
- Any special duties
- Special needs of any student (medical, special education or speech problems, etc.)
- Safety response protocol documents, including fire drill, tornado and lock-out/lockdown procedures

ACCIDENTS

Any accident that happens at school should be reported to the office. This will be necessary if there is insurance or liability claims. If there is a major injury, a written report should be turned into the office within 24 hours.

STAFF DRESS CODE

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 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.

Wahoo Public School Expectations – Jeans are acceptable attire on Fridays and on other special, announced days. On these days, staff may wear nice looking jeans. This allowance excludes heavily worn, heavily faded, or ripped jeans. Staff members who choose to wear jeans on Fridays need to distinguish themselves from the students by wearing something other than a t-shirt or sweatshirt, such as a collared or buttoned shirt, sweater, or jacket.

In a nutshell, it is very difficult to enforce expectations of attire for students when we have staff members who do not meet the same standard.

Clarification:

- Please be cautious about shirts and tops that reveal cleavage or cleavage cracks. Not only is it a violation of our student's basic dress code, it looks tacky and unprofessional in a school setting.
- Please avoid shirts or tops with open backs or backs short enough to reveal lower back.
- Please avoid tank tops or anything that looks like or similar to a tank top.
- T-shirts are not acceptable attire except on days approved by the building administrator.
- Shorts above the knee are never acceptable attire for a professional educator, except on in-service or workdays.
- Basic rubber Flip-flops are not only very casual; they are a safety concern. It would be preferred that they not be worn.

ACTIVITIES-ADMISSION AND WORK

All staff members and spouses will be admitted free of charge to *Wahoo athletic contests which are held in Wahoo and are not NSAA activities or tournaments*. Faculty passes will be distributed to staff during the first weeks of school. We would hope that our teachers are supportive of the students' extracurricular activities as well as those of a more academic nature. It means a great deal to the students when teachers make their presence known at school events. Staff members may be asked to supervise at other activities.

Nebraska Capitol Conference passes are available to staff members and their family upon request to WPS administration.

Faculty members will be paid a stipend for working extracurricular events. A list of extracurricular activities will be sent out at the beginning of the school year. Contact the activities secretary (Michelle Krecklow) to sign up to work an event and with any questions about working extracurricular events.

School-aged children of staff members are still required to purchase an activity pass for participation and admission to home athletic activities.

Additional Duties as assigned

Within the contracted day building administrators may assign teachers additional duties.

ACTIVITIES-MEETINGS-CAMPAIGNS

All activities will be scheduled through the building office. Student clubs and organizations may schedule meetings from 7:30 until school starts in the mornings, after the dismissal time, during WOW period or with administrative approval. School activities will not be scheduled on Wednesday evenings or Sundays without administrative permission.

When organizations or classes sponsor an activity (party, dances, car washes, etc.) the sponsor must be present or the activity will be canceled.

BULLETIN - ANNOUNCEMENTS - CALENDAR

High School: All bulletin items must be submitted to Michelle by 8:30 a.m. daily. The bulletin will be read aloud and/or available through PowerSchool to be read by the Warrior Period teachers during homeroom.

Middle School: All bulletin items should be submitted to Jodi by 8:15 a.m. daily. The bulletin will then be put into PowerSchool and if designated as such, read with the daily bulletin.

Faculty is strongly encouraged to submit articles of interest to the school's web page. In addition, pictures of events or special interest programs are encouraged to be uploaded to showcase the accomplishments of Wahoo's youth.

Only special announcements from the office will be read over the intercom system with approval of the building administrator. Announcements will be made at such a time as to not interrupt classroom instruction.

All calendar items for any elementary, middle or high school facilities usage should be submitted to Marc Kaminski and Kris Peterson. All calendar items for the Performing Arts Center should be submitted to John Harris or Marc Kaminski. Facilities usage will be identified on the school's activity calendar located on the WPS web page.

CHILD ABUSE

Teachers are required by law to report any suspected case of child abuse or neglect to the office. Abuse or neglect includes placing the child in a situation that endangers his/her life or physical or mental health, cruel confinement or punishment, deprivation of food, clothing, shelter, care, sexual abuse, or being left unattended. The hot-line number to report cases of abuse of children and disabled adults is:
1-800-572-1999.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SCHOOL TO THE HOME

Establishing a positive communication network between the home and school is very important. Teachers can enhance the home-school communications network through the use of telephone calls, emails, written notes, home visits and by utilizing Power School comments section. All written communications to the home from the school should be made on district stationery or school email with dates included. Teachers are strongly encouraged to make Powerschool log entries of all home communications.

BULLYING PREVENTION

The Wahoo Public Schools recognizes the negative impact that bullying has on student health, welfare, safety, and learning environment and therefore prohibits such behavior. Bullying is defined as any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle (owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee), or at school sponsored activities or athletic events.

Bullying may constitute grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment, subject to state and federal statutes and the district's student discipline and due process procedures. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to implement appropriate programs or procedures for the purpose of educating students regarding bullying prevention. Principals shall, develop Administrative Policy and annual bullying prevention. This policy shall be reviewed annually.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

During the 1988 legislative session, LB 316 was passed. This bill prohibits corporal punishment in public schools. Corporal punishment is defined as striking, spanking or rough handling students even if the punishment is not done in anger.

UNACCEPTABLE STAFF BEHAVIORS

Unacceptable behaviors that could be considered boundary invasions include, but are not limited to:

- Becoming too personally involved with students – friend, confidant, surrogate parent
- Seeing students in private or non-school settings
- Writing or exchanging personal notes, letters or electronic communications.
- Serving as a confidant with regard to a student's decision about his/her personal issues
- Giving gifts or money to the students
- Inviting students to one's home
- Having students stay overnight in one's home
- Driving individual students to or from school
- Giving one student undue attention
- Being alone with a student with the exception of an emergency situation
- Sharing your personal problems with students
- Sharing personal information about a student with a third party
- Initiating physical contact

DISCIPLINE & CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

A safe and orderly environment that is conducive to learning is the ultimate goal of any reasonable discipline and classroom management plan. Identifying every possible occurrence that may require intervention and resolution would be impossible. However, a program that involves an interactive dialogue between the student and staff member and is consistent will facilitate the effective resolution of most disciplinary situations. The following guidelines, along with the WEBSS process, are intended to provide the foundations for a fair, consistent and workable discipline plan for Wahoo Public Schools:

1. Teachers will use the Social Skills Model when students do not respond to normal requests. The model includes these steps:
 - a. Initial praise/Empathy
 - b. Describe inappropriate behavior
 - c. Describe appropriate behavior
 - d. Rationale
 - e. Request acknowledgment
 - f. Practice
 - g. Feedback
 - h. Consequences
 - i. General Praise

*****Not all of these steps need to be done all of the time. It is important to use your judgment and use as many of the steps as needed to change behavior. It is much more effective to teach appropriate behavior to students and outline your expectations of them before problems arise.***

2. Teachers should handle most of their own discipline problems. Since most problems develop gradually, we would expect staff to take the opportunity to work with students and parents to improve or correct a potential problem. The WEBSS process should be employed to assist students not reaching the academic, behavioral and civic goals. Communication early with students and the parents will generally help the situation.

3. Be firm, fair and consistent. Establish fair rules of expected behavior and then enforce the rules firmly and, above all, consistently.

4. **Don't back a student into a corner!** As a trained professional, you should develop skills in enforcing your rules without causing students to “lose face” among their peer group. It is unacceptable to publicly ridicule or use **sarcasm** when correcting students.

5. Do not tell a student to leave your classroom and not come back, or that he/she will be suspended for this action. Only the administration may remove a student from your class or suspend him/her from school.

6. Control your temper; a soft, firm voice and calm attitude are normally more effective than shouting and displaying anger or loss of self-control. Remember, in each classroom situation there are three variables, which interact: the teacher, the individual student and the students as a class. As a professional teacher you must always have control over the key variable, yourself.
7. Rather than consistently calling attention to negative or disruptive behavior, teachers should exhibit a positive, appreciative attitude about good behavior.
8. An entire class is not to be punished for the actions of a few students.
9. Staff members are not to use profane/vulgar or suggestive language. Additionally, regardless of possible provocation, staff members are not to: (a) call any student something other than their name; (b) physically handle a student except to protect self, other persons, prevent the destruction of property, or prevent any illegal overt act on the part of the pupil.
10. Do not do anything that shifts the focus from the student behavior to the teacher behavior. Yelling at the student, arguing with the student, and using sarcasm towards a student are examples of behaviors that will shift the focus.

SUPERVISION

Classroom: Students are not to be left without adult supervision. In case of an emergency requiring a teacher to be absent from the classroom, arrangements for temporary supervision must be made before the teacher leaves the room. **At NO time should students leave the campus to run errands.**

Supervision Duty: Teachers are to be on duty outside their classroom at first bell. Teachers will also supervise students in the halls between class periods. Please encourage quiet and orderly passing in the halls.

*****If misbehavior or improper conduct is observed, all staff members have the responsibility and authority to intervene.***

DRILLS AND PROCEDURES

Within the first week of school, be sure you review the safety response protocol procedures in case of an emergency. After the explanation, post the procedures on your bulletin board.

FACULTY MEETINGS

Building level faculty meetings will be held at the principal's discretion. Teachers are expected to attend.

FUND RAISING

Fundraising projects must be approved, in advance, through the building principal. All WPS fundraising event applications are to be turned into the administrative offices in advance of the fundraising event. This is done in an attempt to avoid duplication of fundraising activities or to avoid having too many fundraising activities going on at one time.

GRADING AND MARKING SYSTEM

Middle school students will be issued grade reports four times during the school year, at the end of each nine weeks. High school students will be issued grade reports two times during the school year, at the end of each semester.

At a minimum, teachers are expected to update student grades weekly in PowerSchool.

The steps identified in the WEBSS process will be utilized for students struggling academically.

PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS

The grading system is the teacher's evaluation of the pupil's progress in school and parents are usually very concerned about their child's grade. Therefore, it is necessary that a teacher be able to justify each grade. The system used should be consistent and the following items should be considered.

1. Procedures should be logical and include any work that is done during the class for evaluation purposes.
2. The teacher's grading system should be explained to the pupils and to the parents.
3. A student should be aware of his grade at all times. A periodic review of grades by the teacher is worthwhile.

PARKING

Teachers are expected to park in the faculty parking lot at their respective building.

KEYS

Keys to the building and to the classroom may be obtained and checked out from the Head of Maintenance and/or your building administrator. Additional keys for different parts of the building may be needed at various times. These keys may be checked out for use. ***The loaning of keys to students or non-staff members is strongly discouraged.*** There may be a charge for lost keys if locks need to be replaced or re-keyed.

LEAVING THE BUILDING

Teachers may leave the building during working hours with administrative approval. Teachers may also leave the building during their lunchtime. *****They must communicate to their building administrator when they leave the school building during working hours.***

LESSON PLANS

The building administrator may ask to see these or to have you submit plans for approval. These daily plans should be detailed enough for a substitute to follow and readily available in a sub folder in the office or on your classroom desk. Each day should have a written plan or objective and should include a clearly stated learning goal.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

School closing information will be broadcast on Channel 7 Omaha (KETV), Channel 10 Lincoln (KOLN/KGIN), and KFAB 1110 AM. Also, the automated calling system will be activated.

SCIP

The Mission Statement of Wahoo's School Community Intervention Program:

Because of our commitment to the education of students, we at Wahoo Public Schools will participate in SCIP to provide a means of assistance for students demonstrating behaviors interfering with their education, which 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.

Student referrals will be in written form. These forms may be obtained from the school counselors. This form may be turned into any SCIP team member who will start the process of documentation in motion.

SMOKING OR TOBACCO USE

There will be no smoking or tobacco use on school premises at any time.

STAFF TELEPHONE CALLS, MAILBOXES, AND MESSAGES

During the school day, teacher messages will be sent to voicemail unless there is an emergency. Messages can also be placed in the staff member's mailbox. Staff members are asked to check mailboxes in the morning, noon, and before their evening departure. Emergency messages will be delivered to the teacher immediately.

Staff members are not to use cell phones during times in which they are directly responsible for supervising or instructing students unless it is an emergency situation.

STUDENT USE OF THE TELEPHONE

The telephone in the office is a business telephone. Students will be allowed to use it only in emergency situations (i.e. illness, after school detentions, etc.). In the high school, and middle school, students are to use the phone in the office area with permission from staff. In the elementary students may use the classroom phone with teacher permission and assistance.

MONEY COLLECTIONS

Any staff member that is responsible for collecting money under the pretense of Wahoo Public Schools must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All money, regardless of the reason that it is being collected, is to be counted at the end of a collection day. The amount should be recorded on a deposit form and taken to the school secretary EACH DAY. If the money is being collected at a school activity or event (ball games, soup suppers, musical, etc.), the person in charge of the gate should count the money, complete a deposit slip, and turn the money/bag into an administrator immediately following that school activity or event.
- Money is NOT to be stored in a classroom or taken offsite for safekeeping. Those responsible for storing money need to secure it in a lockable safe or fireproof file cabinet.
- Deposit slips need to specify the account receiving the money.
- Money bags and start money (for change purposes) can be obtained in the business office.

SUPPLIES AND PURCHASE ORDERS

Purchase orders must be obtained prior to ordering or purchasing of any supplies or equipment. Purchase orders must be submitted to the building administrator for approval. Teachers will be personally responsible for purchases with no previous purchase order.

Supplies and equipment are requisitioned at the end of each year for the following year. Should other supplies be needed they may be obtained from the office.

TEACHER DUTY HOURS

Teachers' duty time is 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the school week, Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, teachers may leave at 3:30 p.m.

Occasionally, there may be a need for a conference; student staffing or meeting that may require teacher's attendance outside the times listed above.

TRANSCRIPTS AND CERTIFICATES

All certified staff members should have official updated transcripts of all hours for placement on the salary schedule on file in the superintendent's office. Teacher certificates must be registered with the superintendent prior to a teacher receiving a paycheck.

Staff planning to take additional coursework toward a supplementary degree and/or for movement on the salary schedule should discuss this with their building administrator prior to enrolling in the course(s). All summer coursework must be approved by the teacher's building principal prior to May 30 of the current school year, as per the negotiated agreement.

VISITORS TO THE BUILDING

All visitors to the building are to report to the school office to sign in and, if necessary, obtain a visitor's pass. Class visitors, without written approval from the principal, should be directed to the office immediately.

TECHNOLOGY & INTERNET USAGE

District technology is to be used as a productivity tool for school-related business, curriculum enhancement, research, and communications. Staff members may use District technology and Internet for limited personal purposes subject to the policies outlined below. Staff members also shall exercise appropriate professional judgment and common sense when using the District's technology and Internet.

District staff should not give out the staff internet access password to students.

All school technology, including, but not limited to, laptops, iPads and accessories, are the property of the Wahoo Public Schools and are provided to staff members for a period of time as deemed appropriate by administration.

In addition, all staff members must follow the district's Internet Use Policy:

Wahoo Public Schools has provided access to the Internet to support the academic purposes of the school. No use of the Internet should conflict with the primary purpose of the school or with applicable laws and regulations. As a condition of continued use, each staff member is personally responsible to ensure that these guidelines are followed.

The Wahoo Public Schools may monitor usage of the Internet, including reviewing a list of sites accessed by an individual. No individual should have any expectation of privacy in terms of his/her usage of the Internet. In addition, the Wahoo Public School District may restrict access to certain sites that it deems are not necessary for academic purposes.

The Wahoo Public Schools' connection to the Internet may not be used for activity considered inappropriate for school, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. The Internet must not be used to access, create, transmit, print or download material that is derogatory, defamatory, obscene, or offensive, such as slurs, epithets, or anything that may be construed as harassment or disparagement based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or religious or political beliefs.
2. The Internet must not be used to access, send, receive, or solicit sexually oriented messages or images. The same applies to material that promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, violence, etc.
3. Downloading or disseminating of copyrighted material from any source to the school's network is an infringement of copyright law. Permission to copy the material must be obtained from the publisher.
4. The downloading or posting of any copyrighted material from any source to the school's network is an infringement of copyright law. Permission to copy the material must be obtained from the publisher.
5. Staff members should guard against the disclosure of confidential information through the use of the Internet, including e-mail, newsgroups, blogs, Facebook and other forms of social media.
6. The Internet should not be used to send or participate in chain letters, pyramid schemes or other illegal schemes.

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As a staff member of Wahoo Public Schools, my signature indicates that I have read and understand the faculty handbook in its entirety. Furthermore my signature indicates that I agree to be in compliance with all items presented.

Signature

Date