

2019-2020
DUDLEY ELEMENTARY - GOTHENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT - PARENT HANDBOOK

Welcome to Gothenburg Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year. This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Dudley Elementary - Gothenburg Public Schools. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing. This handbook is intended to help students have a successful and rewarding school year. The rules, procedures, and practices adopted in the Student - Parent Handbook shall have the effect of Board Policy and is annually reviewed and voted on by the District #20 School Board.

The administration reserves the right to make decisions and rule revisions at any time to assure the well-being of all students and the educational program. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Student rights will be protected and respected and in turn, students must respect the rights of others.

GO SWEDES!!!

Angela Richeson
Elementary Principal

Teresa Schneider
Assistant Elementary Principal
Special Education Director

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Gothenburg Public Schools is to prepare all students to become lifelong learners within a positive and innovative learning environment.

DUDLEY ELEMENTARY STAFF 2019 - 2020

Superintendent: Dr. Todd Rhodes - 537-3651 Ext. 4105

Elementary Principal: Angela Richeson - 537-3651 Ext. 1116

Assistant Principal: Teresa Schneider - 537-3651 Ext. 2242

Board of Education

Devin Brundage

Kyle Fornoff

Jon Hudson

Becky Jobman

Jeremy Sitorius

Nate Wyatt

Swede Preschool Academy

Melissa Bell

Kindergarten

Molly Koehn

Suzanne Neels

Karlie McPheeters

Charity Wyatt

1st Grade

Brittany Jesseph

Anne Ostendorf

Michelle Stienike

2nd Grade

Wendy Bartels

Justin Dowdy

Tara Foster

3rd Grade

Gretchen David

Tiffani Dea

Jena Rahjes

4th Grade

Becky Gibbens
Mary Meisinger
Stephanie Waskowiak

5th Grade

Sharon Andres
Becky Costello
Tony Neels

6th Grade

Barb Hicken
Kaitlyn Mason
Jonathan Meyer

Special Education: Melissa Bell (Birth - Age 5), Maria Andersen (Kindergarten - 2nd Grade), Bryan Bazata (3rd & 4th Grade), Heather Franzen (5th & 6th Grade)

School Psychologist: Jacy Ostergard

Speech Pathologist: Erin Feather (K-6), Carol Keiser (Preschool, Junior High & High School)

Counselors: Melissa Shepherd (Preschool & Kindergarten), Michelle Stevens (1st Grade - 3rd Grade), Pam Glodowski (4th Grade - 6th Grade),

Vocal Music: Melissa Shepherd & Erica Wieseler

Instrumental Music: Tonya Welch

Physical Education: Bryson Mahlberg

Art: Jami Stortenbecker & Kara Libich

Keyboarding: Kara Libich

High Ability Coordinator: Amy Harrison

MTSS Coordinator: Michelle Mroczek

MTSS Interventionist: Kristen Butterfield

School Librarian: Amy Harrison

Technology Coordinator: Jo Wiggins

Secretary: Peyton Ahlenstorf

Nurse: Melissa Haas

Technology Para: Jayne Eggleston

Paraeducators: Sue Finke, Marie Foster, Susan Garrard, Rhonda Hansen, Holly Meints, Katherine Middleton, Terri Nordin, Elaine Smith

Custodians: Keith Henninger & Shelly Henninger

THE SCHOOL DAY

BEFORE SCHOOL

Students are not to arrive on school grounds before 7:50 a.m. (exceptions: students who ride the bus). Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of students. A school employee will be on duty at 7:50 a.m. and students will enter the building at 7:55 a.m. Students will be considered tardy after 8:05 a.m.

AFTER SCHOOL

The school day will end at 3:30 p.m. (3:25 p.m. for kindergarten). School grounds will not be supervised after 3:40 p.m. on a regularly scheduled day or 2:40 p.m. on an early dismissal day. The school is not responsible for supervision of students after these times. We ask students to remain off campus until 4:00 p.m. This assists staff and parents in getting students home safely and in a timely manner. The school playground will become a public playground after 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. School attendance is not only a Nebraska State Law and a Board Policy (5008), but is important to every child's education. Administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations and all staff are expected to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. Teachers are required to maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

REPORTING AN ABSENT STUDENT

If a student will be absent, we ask that a parent / guardian call the school before 9:00 a.m. (537-3651 Ext. 2). If the school does not receive a call an attempt will be made to contact a parent / guardian.

ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES/DEFINITIONS

An absence from school will be reported as an:

- (a) Excused absence
- or-
- (b) Unexcused absence

Excused Absence

An excused absence is an impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child that prevent a student from attending school. The parent must provide

the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness by a medical professional, court (with formal documentation), death of a family member, suspension, or other unique situations that have received prior approval from the principal. Please refer to Board policy 5008 for further reference.

The Principal shall have the discretion to deny approval for any of the foregoing 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 have been taken during non-school time and/or the educational nature of the trip.

Unexcused Absence

An unexcused absence may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows: a parent acknowledged absence is one in which the parent/guardian communicated with the school that the child is absent and the parent/guardian is then responsible for the student for the extent of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to illness, vacations, and medical appointments.

A student who engages in multiple unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law Neb. Rev. Stat. '79-201. Truancy is a violation of school rules. Students are subject to disciplinary consequences for trancies. Students who leave the school premises without permission during the school day will be considered truant. Please refer to Board policy 5008 for further reference.

Five (5) unexcused absences

Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences". Please refer to Board policy No. 5008 for more information.

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 that person having control of the student resides. For further information, refer to Board Policy 5008.

Twenty Unexcused Absences

If a student accumulates more than twenty (20) absences per year, and any of the absences are not excused, the attendance office shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides. For further information, refer to Board Policy 5008.

REPORTING EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney. Please refer to Board Policy 5008.

TARDY POLICY

Students arriving late to school must report to the main office with a parent/guardian and be signed in. A child is considered late for elementary school if he or she is not in the classroom by 8:05 a.m. ready to begin the school day. Letters will be sent home each quarter when students have been tardy five (5) or more times.

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. See Board Policy No. 5008 for further information and details of the exit interview and withdrawal form.

NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Students should register with the District Office at **1322 Avenue I** as soon as possible after moving into the school district. The registration packet and forms are available in the District Office and on the school website. **Registration forms and required documents must be complete and returned prior to attending school.**

Parents/guardians are encouraged to begin the process early.

Nebraska law requires that parents or legal guardians furnish the following documents upon admission:

- A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, prior to admission of a child for the first time.
- Evidence of a physical examination by a physician for a student entering the 7th grade or transferring in from out of state.
- Evidence of visual evaluation by a physician.

- Students are required to be immunized according to laws passed by the Nebraska legislature. Parents/guardians may contact the school nurse regarding immunization requirements.
- Receipt of transcripts, records or grades from previous school are required, if applicable, to insure placement within the appropriate classes.

Any student not in compliance with the law will not be permitted to attend school.

Upon completion of registration, the district secretary will arrange for an appointment with the counselor at the appropriate level to complete the enrollment process.

Elementary students (K-6) will enroll in Dudley Elementary and secondary students (7-12) will enroll in the Junior-Senior High School.

Medical and religious exemptions are available but require a physician's signature or a signed affidavit. The Nebraska Dept of Health and Human Services requires that all immunizations are reported. Students are required to have immunizations completed by October 15 or students will be excluded from school until immunizations are completed or waivers are provided.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Board Policy 5001 requires that all new enrolling students must show a **certified** birth certificate with a raised State Seal. A copy will be made for school files and the original will be returned to the parent or guardian. Other reliable proof of the child's identity and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, may be used in lieu of a birth certificate.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The school should be notified of any change of address or home telephone number. Also, please notify the school of any plans for moving so sufficient time is given for accumulating student records. Parental permission is needed before student records can be transferred or requested by schools. Immunization records need to be taken with the student when moving to a new school.

HOMELESS STUDENT

Policy 5418 includes forms related to homeless students. Gothenburg Public School will ask for enrollment information and request for placement in accordance with policy 5418. District #20 will comply with the federal and state law related to homeless students.

A “homeless child” (for purposes of this policy) is a child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. An “unaccompanied youth” is a child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian. District #20’s designated Homeless Coordinator is the Superintendent of Schools. The duties of the Homeless Coordinator include the identification, enrollment and placement of homeless students, coordination of services, designing of activities, maintenance of student records and other required documentation.

WEATHER RELATED SCHOOL CLOSING

Even in severe weather, Gothenburg Public Schools will attempt to remain open. In the event schools are to be closed prior to the start of classes, the public will be notified through T.V., radio, and social media. The school’s ~~School Reach~~ Swift K-12 telephone system will be also used to contact the public about any decisions to change the school day because of weather. The decision to close school will be made as early as possible.

It is important that parents do not call administrators or the radio stations as it makes it more difficult to call in emergency school closing announcements. It is the parent’s responsibility to determine if they wish to send their child to school during inclement weather if school is not closed.

If the students are to be dismissed early, notification will be given on T.V., radio and social media. A call will also be sent using our Swift K-12 telephone system.

HEALTH SERVICES

Gothenburg Public Schools has a full time registered nurse who coordinates health services. She conducts health screenings on students annually. Should there be any concerns about a child’s hearing or vision, she can evaluate him/her at any time during the school year. A written health services referral will be sent to parents whenever a concern is found on any screening procedure.

When children are not well, they should not be sent to school. Children who have vomited or had diarrhea 12 hours prior to the starting time of school should not come.

Children with the following conditions will be sent home:

- vomiting
- diarrhea
- a fever of 100 degrees or higher
- a suspicious rash
- head lice

- any child showing any signs or symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease.

Children with a confirmed communicable disease should not return to school until the minimum isolation period has elapsed, and all signs and symptoms of acute illness have disappeared. The period of exclusion should extend throughout the period when acute signs of illness are present, or until the student is fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.

Emergency forms are sent out the first day of school. Please fill these forms out carefully and include any health problems specific to the child. These forms enable the school to efficiently handle any sudden illness or injury. Treatment of injury occurring outside of the school jurisdiction is not the responsibility of school employees. Home and emergency phone numbers are required.

Students that have a known medical diagnosis of an allergen or asthma need to provide an Asthma/Allergy Action Plan signed by a physician. Forms may be obtained from your physician or at the school. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction, Rule 59 (per the state of Nebraska protocol) will be followed if there is no individualized action plan provided.

Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse within six (6) months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade, seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a physical examination. Waivers are available in the nurse's office.

Evidence of a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse within six (6) months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade, seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a visual examination. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity. Waivers are available in the nurse's office.

Medication of any type is to be administered by the school nurse or her designee. Written permission from a parent/guardian must be obtained in order to administer medication. **PARENTS/GUARDIANS** are required to bring medication to school in the

original packaging. The only medication to be given at school is that which **cannot** be scheduled around school hours.

IMMUNIZATIONS

Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (chicken pox) and Haemophilus Influenza type b (Hib) and other diseases are required by applicable law, by immunization, prior to enrollment. Exceptions are allowed based on: (1) written statement by health care provider that immunizations would be injurious to the student or a family member or (2) affidavit of a religious reason for non-immunizations have begun, and immunization is continued as rapidly as medically feasible and (3) written statement of parent or guardian that immunizations have been completed, where the child's parent is in the military, the child is enrolling following residence outside the state, and proof of immunization is given within 60 days. Refer to HHS regulations, 173 NAC 3.

The Nebraska Dept of Health and Human Services requires that all immunizations are reported. Students are required to have immunizations completed by October 15 or students will be excluded from school until immunizations are completed or waivers are provided.

CONCUSSION

The superintendent or designee shall develop a Return to Learn protocol for students who have sustained a concussion. The Return to Learn protocol shall recognize that students who have sustained a concussion and return to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered.

ACADEMICS

ACCREDITATION

Gothenburg High School is a member of the North Central Accreditation Association and is accredited by the State of Nebraska. The school maintains rigid standards in order to meet requirements set for by the State of Nebraska Department of Education. The athletic classification is Class C-1 in most sports and Class B in Track, Golf and Softball. The school is considered a Class III school in organization.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Gothenburg Public Schools intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, *Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.*

Gothenburg Public Schools shall:

Provide opportunities for the participation of parents and family members including those with migratory children, limited English proficiency, or have disabilities. Parent shall be notified of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable provided in a language the parents can understand;

Convene an annual parent meeting scheduled 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 this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;

Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy;

Provide opportunities for parents and family members to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The school shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities;

Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand;

Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners;

Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT

Dudley Elementary School 2019-2020 School Year

This School-Parent-Student Compact has been jointly developed with the school, parents and students, and outlines how the entire school staff, parents, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school, parents and students will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. At the annual parent-teacher conferences, the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.

Teacher/School Pledge

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to enable children to meet the challenging state academic standards.
- Regularly communicate with parents on their child's progress.

Parent/Family Pledge

- Communicate and work with teachers and school staff on an ongoing basis to be involved and support my child's learning
- Support my child's learning, volunteer in the classroom, participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to his/her education, guide positive use of extracurricular time.

Student Pledge

- Be at school every day and on time unless I am sick
- Come to school each day prepared with supplies and an attitude to learn.
- Be responsible for my own behavior.
- Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
- Be prepared for school by having school materials, completing assignments, and asking for help when needed.
- Communicate with my parents, family, and teachers about my school progress and experiences so that they can help me be successful at school.

BOOKS

All textbooks and library books are loaned for their use during the school year. Textbooks and library books are to be kept clean and handled carefully. Students will be required to pay for lost or damaged textbooks and library books.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Student planners are provided for students in third through sixth grade. They are designed to help students keep track of their assignments and school activities. Teachers will explain how to use the planners in the classroom. The school provides the first planner each year. It is the student's responsibility to take care of it. If a planner is lost or destroyed by a student, he/she is expected to replace it at an \$8.00 fee.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will be sent home with students in grades 3-6 at the midpoint of each quarter throughout the school year.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are sent home at the end of each nine-week period. For online grading information please go to PowerSchool: <https://ps.gothenburgswedes.org/public>. If you have trouble accessing a student's account please contact the elementary office.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Gothenburg Public Schools holds parent teacher conferences twice during the school year. These conferences provide a two-way communication between home and school.

PROMOTION & RETENTION POLICY

Students will typically progress annually from one grade level to the next grade level. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the principal, in consultation with the student's teachers and counselor, and to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the school's educational program.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY HALL

An After School Study Hall room will be established for students who need extra academic assistance, have missing assignments that need completed or are behind on their learning/work. After School Study Hall will be offered on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Rules for the After School Study Hall room are as follows: students should be prepared to study/review homework, students must be respectful and follow all directions given by the supervising adult, and NO eating, drinking, or sleeping allowed.

PRIVACY OF STUDENT EDUCATION RECORDS

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:

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.

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.

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. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

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. 20202-8520

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, and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;

- School and dates of attendance;
- Student's current grade;
- Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
- Student's date of birth and place of birth;
- Student's extra-curricular participation;
- Student's achievement awards or honors;
- Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
- Student's photograph; and
- School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in [Name] Public Schools.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate 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 information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two

weeks from the time this information is first received. Please contact the Superintendent's office to indicate your refusal to have your child's information designated as directory information.

The District may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

REQUEST OF INFORMATION

Parents in Title I schools (Dudley Elementary) may request and receive:

- Information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher.
- Information on policies regarding student participation in state or district assessments and on procedures to opt the child out of such assessments.
- Information for parents of English learners regarding how they can be involved in the education of their child and assist their child to attain English proficiency and achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education.

More detailed information concerning ESSA may be obtained by contacting the District Office.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Step 1: Schedule a conference with staff member most directly involved in the matter.

Step 2: Address the concern to the Principal If the matter is not resolved in Step 1.

Step 3: Address the concern to the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved in Step 2.

Step 4: Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved in Step 3.

All information to be considered at each step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Action or decisions will be expedited as quickly as possible.

Parent/Patron Comment Forms are available in the office or on the school website in Policy 1030 and 1030A. Comment forms concerning personnel will be forwarded to the supervisor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

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 develop appropriate values.

Cheating involves one or more of the following actions:

- To use the work of another person as your own and/or copy information from another student's test, examination, theme, book report, or term paper.
- To plagiarize - plagiarism means using another person's idea, expression or words without giving the original author credit.
- To prepare for cheating in advance. Such as: (a) having in your possession a copy of a test to be given or having been given by a teacher (b) using the test or notes during a test or examination (c) talking while taking quizzes, tests or examinations.
- To fail to follow test procedures/announced instructions (such as no talking, no turning around in seat, raise hand for questions, etc.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Dudley Elementary believes homework is intended to be an effective tool in the learning process. Homework promotes responsibility and reinforces and extends skills learned during the school day. Child growth and development requires different expectations at each grade level.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCKERS

Students in some grades will be assigned lockers. It is important that these lockers are kept shut at all times in order to protect the articles inside the locker. The school cannot be responsible for books and other articles lost or stolen. It is wise to mark textbooks, coats, jackets and notebooks, so they may be easily identified.

Lockers are the property of the school and should be treated as such. Do not paste signs on or in lockers that will take off the paint. Do not mark in or on them with ink. They are provided only for student use and are not student property. **Students are not allowed to trade lockers without permission from their Principal/Teacher.** The school administrators reserve the right to inspect lockers any time if reasonable suspicion exists.

STUDENT VALUABLES - LOST AND FOUND

Students **SHOULD NOT** bring money or valuable items to school, as the school will assume **NO** responsibility for articles lost, stolen or damaged items. To help prevent lost articles, put your child's name in/on their belongings. If an article belonging to your child is missing, check the lost and found box near the south playground entrance.

BRUNCH/LUNCH PROGRAM

It is the policy (Policy 3571) of the Gothenburg School District to comply with the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program and all other federal grant programs that provide free or reduced meals to qualifying students. Gothenburg Public Schools provides a brunch/lunch program. Brunch price is \$1.65 per meal. Those who qualify for free lunch will also receive free brunch. Those who qualify for reduced price lunches will receive brunch at \$0.25 per meal.

Children bringing sack lunches may purchase milk for \$0.40. Lunch prices are \$2.70 per meal. Ala-Carte price will be \$1.50. For those that qualify for reduced price lunches will receive at lunch at \$0.40 per meal. Free or reduced lunch application forms are available in the office. Adult meals are \$3.75 per day.

Gothenburg Public Schools operates an electronic point of sale system in our cafeteria. All students will have a personal identification number (PIN) that will be used as they purchase a meal. With the electronic point of sale, students will pay in advance (to their family account) and the meal purchase is automatically deducted from the family account. The student enters the four-digit PIN number, the cashier verifies the student name, and the meal is deducted from the family account.

The District will ensure that families can check their meal account balances in a manner other than exclusively online.

Full Pay Families - will pay for meals at the district's published standard rate for each meal. After the FAMILY balance reaches -\$25.00 he/she will not be allowed to charge, however he/she will be offered a designated menu alternate that will be charged to the child's meal account at the standard rate. If the family balance is \$0 your child will not be able to charge for brunch.

Reduced Pay Families will be allowed to receive a breakfast at the district's published reduced rate for each meal. When the balance reaches -\$25.00 he/she will not be allowed to charge, however he/she will be offered a designated menu alternate that will

be charged to the child's meal account at the reduced rate. If the family balance is \$0 your child will not be able to charge for brunch.

Free Status Families will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch each day. The District will disclose individual student eligibility information only to those persons (and organizations) who require the information in order to carry out an activity specifically authorized by the National School Lunch Act, subject to applicable legal exceptions.

Statements are also available upon request. These will be itemized with each child's name, number and date upon which they purchased a meal.

Parents will be asked to fill out a payment envelope with each child's name and grade. These envelopes are available in each office or the cafeteria and can be dropped off at the Elementary office, at the cafeteria, or mailed to the school. Payments must be made at the beginning of each day so they can be entered before lunchtime.

Students going home for lunch should bring a signed parent note and students must sign out/in at the elementary office every time they leave/enter the building for lunch.

SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY

Students bringing food from home should bring healthy choices for their lunch and are prohibited from sharing food with other students. Soda, as well as large sized sports drinks, are strongly discouraged. For additional information on the School Wellness Policy, please refer to Board Policy 5417a.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Please notify the school if your child has any food allergies. A doctor's note is required if any modification is required in your child's meal plan.

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.

PARTY INVITATIONS

We believe that party invitations are an “out of school” activity and should not be delivered at school.

VISITOR'S PASS

Discretion should be used when bringing a visitor to school. Permission to visit a class must be obtained from the teacher. Regulations applying to our students also apply to visitors. A visitor's pass should be obtained in the elementary office before attending any classes.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Students are welcome to attend activities at the elementary and high school. Students are expected to be a courteous audience and display good sportsmanship. Students who are not with a parent or guardian are required to sit in a dedicated seating area (as determined by an administrator) at all events. Students are encouraged to only get up to go to the concession stand or use the restroom during appropriate breaks in play (examples include time-outs, quarters, half-time, etc.). Students who are running around in the hallways or playing outside on school property will be asked to sit down. Non-compliance will result in a parents/guardian phone call and the student(s) will be asked to leave the school activity.

NOTICE CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The District designates the Gothenburg 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.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys orders promptly and as quickly as possible. Students will be instructed by their teachers concerning the proper procedures to be followed.

BUS POLICY

The Gothenburg Public School District will provide transportation for all district students who live beyond the 4-mile limit. Due to school insurance, no other riders will be allowed to ride the bus if they are not on the current route roster.

In the event the bus drop-off location is uncertain or appears unsafe to leave students, the driver will make every attempt to:

- Radio transportation or otherwise communicate with dispatch to notify them of the situation, if possible.
- Release children only if an adult responsible for the children is present. If not, keep children who are to be released in the vehicle, continue with route, and return children who were to be released to the school.
- Dispatch will notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration if appropriate, given the circumstances.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Students are not to engage in conduct which causes or creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well being or rights of other students, staff, or visitors.

BOYS TOWN MODEL

Dudley Elementary students will be accountable for the following 16 skills:

- Following instructions
- Accepting criticism or consequence
- Accepting “NO” for an answer
- Greeting others
- Getting the teacher’s attention
- Making a request
- Disagreeing appropriately
- Giving criticism
- Resisting peer pressure
- Making an apology
- Engaging in a conversation
- Giving/accepting compliments
- Volunteering
- Reporting other youths’ behavior
- Introducing yourself

COURTESY RULES

- Due respect must be shown at all times to all students and school personnel.
- Proper language and manners are expected of all students.
- No fighting, rough play, pushing or shoving—even in fun.
- Do not grab or pull on other children's clothes.

- Respect other classes in session by being quiet at all times.
- Conduct in the restrooms should be quiet at all times.
- Walk, do not run, in the building.
- No candy or gum is allowed in the classroom or on the playground (exception: birthdays and special occasions with the teacher's permission).
- Electronic devices, hard balls, skateboards, roller skates, lasers, cellphones, knives, and toy guns are prohibited at school.
- Use the slide and other playground equipment properly.
- No throwing snowballs at school.
- No tackle football.
- Good manners and quiet voices are required in the cafeteria.
- Students are to leave the school ground promptly after they are dismissed from school.

DISCIPLINE

Board Policy 5101 (Student Discipline) states the superintendent will develop and maintain a system of uniform discipline. The discipline which may be imposed includes actions which are determined to be reasonably necessary to aid the student, to further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, such as (without limitation) counseling, warning students, parent contacts, 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 upon written consent of the parent or guardian, or in-school suspension. The discipline may also include out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term) and expulsion. When a student is suspended or expelled, the student shall not be permitted on school grounds without specific administrator approval. For more information regarding student discipline please reference Board Policy 5101.

Level I - Minor misbehavior that impedes the orderly operation of school.

Consequence - Teacher discretion (may include missing recess or staying after school) following posted classroom rules, cafeteria, or recess rules.

Level II - Misbehavior that is frequent or serious enough to disrupt the learning climate of the school or endanger the well being of others. These acts do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others but need administrative corrective action.

Consequence - Teacher discretion and:

1st Offense - Parent phone call and grade level consequences (based on grade level behavior management program)

2nd Offense - Parent phone call and grade level consequences (based on grade level behavior management program)

3rd Offense - Parent phone call and parent meeting to create a behavior plan.

Level III - Differentiated cases requiring unique consequences (examples include physical behaviors, possession or truancy).

Consequence - Detention (with a classroom teacher or the principal) or suspension

Level IV - Serious acts, which require administrative action and result in removing the student, at least temporarily, from the classroom.

Consequence - Possible suspension or expulsion.

STUDENT SUSPENSION/EXPULSION

Nebraska Law provides the conditions under which students may be excluded from public schools. The statute provides:

- Rules must be clear and definite to provide clear notice to students.
- Rules shall be distributed to students and their parents at the beginning of each school year, or at the time of enrollment.
- Rules shall be posted in conspicuous places in each school during the school year.
- Changes in rules and standards shall not take effect until reasonable effort has been made to distribute such changes to all students/parents.

There are 6 types of exclusions which may be used in Gothenburg Public Schools:

- In-School suspension
- Short term suspension (up to five school days)
- Emergency Exclusion
- Long term suspension (6 school days but less than 20 days)
- Expulsion
- Mandatory Reassignment

All due process procedures shall be followed and information sent to parents and students affected by any exclusion proceedings. Due process will be in 3 parts:

- Oral or written notice of the charges if he or she denies the allegation
- An explanation of the evidence against the student
- An opportunity to present his/her evidence

PRE-EXPULSION PROCEDURE

Prior to expelling a student, the district will convene a conference called by a school administrator and attended by:

- a parent or legal guardian
- the student
- a school representative
- a representative of either a community organization with a mission of assisting young people or a representative of an agency involved with juvenile justice.

The purpose of the conference will be to have the participants assist the district in the development of a written plan to be adopted by a school administrator and presented to the student and the parent/legal guardian.

The plan will:

- specify guidelines and consequences for behaviors which have been identified as preventing the student from achieving the desired benefits from the educational opportunities provided
- identify educational objectives that must be achieved in order to receive credits toward graduation
- specify the financial resources and community programs available to meet both the educational and behavioral objectives identified
- require the student to attend monthly reviews in order to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objectives.

EXPULSION

If the offense which warrants expulsion involves the knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm 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 his or her designate, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, the pre-expulsion procedures do not apply.

WEAPON POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Gothenburg Public School District to undertake all reasonable efforts to prohibit the unlawful possession, the knowingly and intentionally selling, attempting to sell, providing, loaning, delivering, or in any other way transferring the possession of a firearm to a juvenile, and to prevent the unlawful possession of a firearm in a school, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event. This policy shall not to apply to the issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the Armed Services of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of the State, or reserve officers training corp, peace officers, or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to require school action when a firearm is lawfully possessed by a person receiving instruction, or instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor, or as to firearms contained within a private vehicle operated by a non-student adult when the firearm is not loaded, is encased, and is either in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle or is in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied or otherwise fastened with no part of a firearm exposed. Any unlawful use or possession of a firearm as described in this policy and as described by statute shall as soon as is reasonably possible be reported to an appropriate peace officer. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent the district from carrying out regular disciplinary procedures as have been adopted by the Board of Education or as otherwise authorized by law.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is prohibited. No staff member or other agent of the District may use physical force with a student EXCEPT to the extent such is essential for self-defense, the protection of persons or the safe-guarding of property, and only such physical force as is reasonably necessary for such purposes shall be used.

INITIATIONS, HAZING, SECRET CLUBS, AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Gothenburg Public Schools Board Policy 6284 prohibits initiations by classes, clubs or athletic teams except with the approval of the administration. Hazing by classes, clubs, athletic teams or other student organizations are prohibited. It is unlawful for students to participate in or be members of any secret fraternity or secret organization that is in any degree a school organization. It is also unlawful for any person, whether a student of Gothenburg Public Schools or not, to enter upon the school grounds or any school building for the purpose of rushing or soliciting, while there, any student to join any fraternity, society, or association organized outside of the schools. Violation of the policy may result in consequences as defined within the school discipline policies and student handbooks.

VANDALISM

Students and their parents shall be responsible for all damage to equipment or school property. This responsibility applies in the matter of books and supplies of all kinds, as well as equipment, buildings and grounds. Vandalism may result in a discipline referral.

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

One of the missions of the District is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff. Positive behaviors (non-violence, cooperation,

teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others) are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all staff. Inappropriate behaviors (bullying, intimidation, and harassment) are to be identified and students and all staff are required to avoid such behaviors. Strategies and practices are to be implemented to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage and protect others from inappropriate behaviors. Students have the opportunity to use the online form to notify school officials of any incidents of bullying. All students are taught (by the school counselors) where to find the form on the school's website.

DATING VIOLENCE

Gothenburg Public Schools strives to provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all students and staff.

Dating violence means 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. All dating violence incidents will be addressed as the administration determines appropriate, within the scope and subject to the limits of the District 20's authority.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Gothenburg School District #20 prohibits sexual harassment of employees and students on any premise where the district has control or can otherwise lawfully exert jurisdiction. Students have the right to protest and/or register a confidential complaint to the following people: teacher, counselor, principal, superintendent, or the board of education. Students can attend school with security and dignity and without fear of insulting, degrading, or exploiting treatment of a sexual nature.

ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION

This school district hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination. The Superintendent shall be the ADA, 505, Title II, VI, and IX Coordinator, and Coordinator for any other anti-discrimination laws. Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation should be addressed to said Coordinator.

USE OF CANINE UNITS

The district may use area law enforcement or private canine units in efforts to detect illegal drugs and other contraband. The administration may use the canine units at any time, during or outside school hours, announced or unannounced.

With the approval of the superintendent of schools, a building principal may arrange for the use of a canine unit in any area, building, or property on school grounds. This includes the school parking lot and other areas on and off school grounds where students park vehicles during or outside school hours. If a dog alerts on a student's vehicle, the student will be required to unlock the doors, trunk, and other locked compartments for inspection. If a student refuses to comply, the student will be disciplined under the district's student code of conduct and the matter may also be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

If a student is found to possess or control any contraband, whether on the student's person or in a student's personal effects, desk, locker, vehicle, or other place, the administration will (1) seize the contraband, (2) notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), and (3) take such disciplinary action as is appropriate under district policies and rules. The administration shall turn illegal items over to law enforcement authorities.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District #20 property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. The Superintendent may use video cameras in locations as deemed appropriate. Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District #20 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.

INTERNET SAFETY & ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

It is the policy of Gothenburg Public Schools to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). With respect to the District's computer network, the District shall:

- prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications;
- provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;

- prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities online;
- prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors;
- obtain verifiable parental consent before allowing third parties to collect personal information online from students; and
- implement measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors. More information on procedures/policies/laws is found in Board Policy # 6800.

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. 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. Each student and parent/guardian must sign and return to the Principal’s office the Student & Parent Agreement form called “Acceptable Use of Computers and Networks” before student access is allowed.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

School Board policy 5101 states the District strongly discourages students from bringing and/or using electronic devices at school without administrative approval. The use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and are items that are frequently lost or stolen. "Electronic devices" include, but not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, lap top computers, and other electronic and battery powered instruments which transmits voice, text, or data from one person to another. “Sexting” means generating, sending or receiving, encouraging others to send or receive, or showing others, through an electronic device, a text message, photograph, video or other medium that displays sexual content or any sexually explicit conduct as defined at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1463.02. Students shall not record others, (sexual content, sexually exploits a person, and/or displays sexually explicit message). Students shall not record others, (photograph, videotaping, sound recording, etc) without direct administrative approval and consent of the person(s) being recorded, other than recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public. Students are not permitted to possess or use any electronic devices during class time or during class time or during passing time.

Students who violate the prohibitions of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, provided that at a minimum the following penalties shall be imposed:

- Students found in possession of a “sexting” or recording others, (photographs, videotaping, sound recording, etc without direct administration approval and consent of the other person (s) shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.
- Students who send or encourage another to send a “sexting” message shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

Violations of this policy regarding the prohibited use of electronic devices that may constitute a violation of federal or state laws and regulations. Therefore, shall be reported to the appropriate legal authorities and law enforcement.

Each student and parent/guardian must sign and return to the administration the student/parent agreement form called Acceptable use of Computer and Network form before a student access is allowed.

MISUSE OF COMPUTERS/NETWORK

The use of computers, whether stand-alone, or as a part of a local area network, or as part of a wide area network such as the Internet, is a privilege, not a right, and must be consistent with and driven by the educational objectives of the Gothenburg Public Schools.

Inappropriate use of computing facilities shall be defined as:

- The creating, display, access, transmission, reception, exchange, or distribution of any text, image, or sound that is indecent, obscene, racist, sexist, vulgar, defamatory, illegal, or that promotes harm to self or others or otherwise in violation of the Gothenburg Public Schools Internet Safety Policy.
- Using computing facilities to harass or threaten individuals or groups
- Vandalizing computing facilities (network/files or data)
- Plagiarizing computer-based copyright materials in reports/assignments
- Gaining or attempting to “hack” the system (network/files or data)
- Forgery of or interference with electronic mail messages
- Using computers or computer networks to commit, facilitate, encourage, or promote illegal acts.
- Giving a personal password to another individual or letting another individual use a personal account.

- Knowingly introducing materials forbidden by the Gothenburg Public Schools into the Gothenburg Public Schools computers and/or systems via any electronic storage media.

Consequences:

Minimum: Detention or Short term suspension

Maximum: Long term suspension or expulsion.

POSSESSION OF OBSCENE OR PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

Students are prohibited from possessing pronographic or obscene books, magazines, pictures, or material of any kind. The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or texting, sexting, emailing, may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law.

Consequence: Short term or long term suspension, report to law enforcement, possible arrest

DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the 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.

Attire that will not be considered appropriate includes clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear or clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight to be seen through; shorts, skirts, or skorts that do not reach mid-thigh or longer; clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs; clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon or that would encourage "horse play" or that would damage property; head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves; clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double; clothing or jewelry that is gang related; visible body piercing other than facial areas. This list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting.

STUDENT FEES POLICY

The Board of Education adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Nebraska Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. The

District's general policy is to provide for free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution. The District also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

Definitions

- "Students" shall mean students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
- "Extracurricular activities" shall mean student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the District; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the District.
- "Post secondary education costs" shall mean tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post secondary educational institution.

Listing of Fees Charged by this District

- Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities - Students are responsible for complying with the District's grooming and attire guidelines. They are also responsible for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that will detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.
- Safety Equipment and Attire - The District will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.
- Personal or Consumable Items - The District will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. *Personal consumable items may be suggested but will not be required.* Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for

- the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that was lost by the student.
- Materials Required for Course Projects - Students in some courses produce a project that becomes their property at the end of the course. In those circumstances, students must either furnish or pay for the reasonable cost of any materials required for the course project.
 - Extracurricular Activities - The District may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the District's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The District may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of District-owned equipment or attire. The coach or sponsor will provide students with written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.
 - Post secondary Education Costs - Some students enroll in post secondary courses while still enrolled in the District's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post secondary courses.
 - Transportation Costs - The District will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the District to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.
 - Copies of Student Files or Records - The District will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.
 - Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-kindergarten Services - The District will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after-school or pre kindergarten services offered by the District pursuant to statute.
 - Participation in Summer School or Night School - The District will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school, and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.
 - Charges for Food Consumed by Students - The District will charge for items that students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The District will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, a vending

machine, a booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches/activities.

Waiver Policy

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) admission fees and transportation charges for student spectators attending extracurricular activities, (3) materials for course projects, and (4) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The District is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students.

Distribution of Policy

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

Student Fee Fund

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate School District fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all moneys collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students. Legal Reference:

Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.

Neb. Rev. Stat.

79-241, 79-605, 79-611 Transportation

79-2,104 Student files or records

79-715 Eye-protective devices

79-737 Liability of students for damages to school books

79-1,104 Before-and-after-school or pre kindergarten services.

79-1106 to 79-1108.03 Accelerated or differential curriculum

CERTIFICATION

The Board of Education of Gothenburg Public Schools annually holds a public hearing on the student fee policy. The hearing follows a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee

policy for the current school year. This student fee policy was then adopted by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting conducted in compliance with the Public Meetings Law.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

District #20 supports equal educational opportunity for students free from limitations based upon ethnic or racial background, religious beliefs, sex, disabilities, marital status, or economic and social conditions. This concept of equal education opportunity serves as a guide for the school district and the staff in making decisions relating to school facilities, employment or personnel, selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum, and regulations affecting students and their welfare.

DISCLAIMER

The administration retains the right and privilege to issue penalties for acts of discipline not specifically stated in the Gothenburg Discipline Plan and to alter any penalties as they consider necessary. Also, the administration reserves the right to amend any provision in this handbook which is necessary in the best interest of the school process.

With cause, the administration can search a student's person, locker, car, backpack or other personal effects. Also, the administration can search with reasonable cause, students' electronic communication-email or other messages sent from school computers, a students' personal data storage devices, (disks, CD's and portable flash drives).