

Vermillion School District Student Handbook

2024-25 Edition

Vermillion School District
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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Damon R. Alvey

Dr. Damon R. Alvey
Superintendent

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Dr. Damon R. Alvey, Superintendent
Vermillion School District
1001 East Main Street
605-677-7000
Damon.Alvey@k12.sd.us

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr?field_state_value=684 or contact:

Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Education
One Petticoat Lane
1010 Walnut Street, Suite 320
Kansas City, MO 64106

Telephone: 816-268-0550
FAX: 816-268-0599
TDD: 877-521-2172
Email: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053 – Nondiscrimination.

MISSION STATEMENT

Together we connect, inspire, and achieve. (CIA)

VISION STATEMENTS

The Vermillion School District will build relationships that empower students to learn and optimize their potential.

SECTION ONE BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Attendance

Required Attendance: Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

Mandatory Attendance Age: All children who are or will turn five years old before September 1 of the current school year are eligible to attend kindergarten. Children who are or will turn six years old before September 1 but who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age. Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption, even if that student has not previously attended Kindergarten or does not meet the age requirements described in this policy.

Exceptions: This policy does not apply when a child is provided with alternative instruction in accordance with state law.

Attendance Officer: Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides.

Excused Absences: The following absences may be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Physical or mental illness of the student or of a child whom the student is parenting (a physician's verification may be required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather
3. Medical appointments for the student or for a child whom the student is parenting
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation
6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
8. College planning visits
9. Personal or family vacations

Excessive Absenteeism: Data shows a student missing 10% or more of the school year results in substantial harm to the student's learning. To

avoid this harm, the District will use the following procedure to incentivize attendance.

Student's missing their 5th day of school will have a letter sent to the parent/guardian from the attendance officer. A copy of the district's attendance policy will be sent with the letter.

Students missing their 7th and 9th days of school will have a letter sent to the parent/guardian reviewing the student's absences. A copy of the letter will be sent to the superintendent. Parents/guardians will agree to a meeting regarding the student's absences. If the parents/guardians do not agree to a meeting, the attendance officer will consider the student truant and send a letter to the State's Attorney concerning the number of absences.

Students missing their 11th day of school will have a letter sent to the parents/guardians, the superintendent and potentially sent to the State's Attorney.

Absences related to school activities will not count against the student as absences. However, for this to occur, students must check with teachers prior to the event and have all work completed prior to the next class block. The teacher will have discretion regarding due dates of late work.

Absences due to illness: The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

Planned absences: Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

Students are obligated to:

1. Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated.
2. Attend school a full day before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or prearranged absences.
3. Check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
4. Make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

Parents are obligated to:

1. Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence.
2. Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

Pregnant and Parenting Students: Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. The district will also inform the student of the Title IX Coordinator's contact information and that the Title IX Coordinator can coordinate actions to prevent sex discrimination and ensure the student's equal access to the district's education program or activity, including the coordination of reasonable modifications based on the student's individualized need.

Band

Students may participate in the elementary band and begin taking band lessons in the 5th grade. Students in grades 6-8th may participate in the middle school band; grades 9-12 may participate in the high school band. Instruments will be provided by students, or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided by state law and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

Bills

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school business manager's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Vermillion School District unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty as imposed by the school's bank for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

Books and Supplies

Students must take care of books, electronic devices, and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

Breastfeeding and Lactation

In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or

breastfeed in a place (typically in the office or lounge), other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public. The district will also provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated (typically in office or lounge) for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule must work with school administrators to create a schedule that accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with Student Discipline Law and other state and federal law.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards or electronic displays are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards or electronic displays carefully each school day. A written copy of daily announcements will be posted on the main bulletin board by the offices.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be pre-approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.
2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.
3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as "any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." South Dakota statute defines bullying as:

"A pattern of repeated conduct that causes physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students that may include threats, intimidation, stalking [as defined by state law], physical violence, theft, destruction of property, any threatening use of data or computer software, written or verbal communication, or conduct directed against a student that:

1. Places a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; and either
2. Substantially interferes with a student's educational performance; or
3. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying also includes retaliation against a student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying."

The district's administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations

School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Cafeteria Rules

1. All food must be consumed in the areas designated by the school.
2. After students have eaten, they must return trays to the kitchen. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray onto the correct container. Forks and spoons should be placed in the pan with water, NOT THROWN AWAY!
3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. Students may not throw food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays and have requisite funds as required by board policy.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed.

7. On special occasions, parents who wish their child to eat lunch away from school must come in and check child out in the school office.
8. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
9. Students who violate the above rules may be disciplined.

Candy and Gum

Elementary and middle school students may not bring candy or gum to school unless they have prior permission from their classroom teacher or the administration.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices on the school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms or restrooms. Students must comply with each teacher's classroom rules regarding cell phone use in class. Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle, but recording in school vehicle is prohibited.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

1. Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
2. Lying.
3. Copying another person's work or answers.
4. Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
5. Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
6. Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
7. Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
8. Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
9. Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
10. Failing to use quotation marks, use of artificial intelligence to complete or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source to enhance one's work is prohibited.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Child Abuse and Neglect

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. South Dakota law defines an "abused and neglected child" as child:

1. Whose parent, guardian or custodian has abandoned the child or has subjected the child to mistreatment or abuse;
2. Who lacks proper parental care through the actions or omissions of the parent, guardian or custodian;
3. Whose environment is injurious to his welfare;
4. Whose parent, guardian or custodian fails or refuses to provide proper or necessary subsistence, supervision, education, medical care, or any other care necessary for his health, guidance, or well-being; or
5. Who is homeless, without proper care, or not domiciled with his parent, guardian, or custodian through no fault of his parent, guardian or custodian;
6. Who is threatened with substantial harm;
7. Who has sustained emotional harm or mental injury as indicated by an injury to his intellectual or psychological capacity evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in his ability to function within his normal range of performance and behavior, with due regard to his culture;

8. Who is subject to sexual abuse, sexual molestation or sexual exploitation by his parent, guardian, custodian, or any other person responsible for his care;
9. Who was subject to prenatal exposure to abusive use of alcohol, marijuana or any controlled drug or substance not lawfully prescribed by a practitioner as authorized by state law;
10. Whose parent, guardian or custodian knowingly exposes the child to an environment that is being used for the manufacture, use or distribution of methamphetamine or any other unlawfully manufactured controlled drug or substance.

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

Classroom Behavior

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

1. arrive to class on time;
2. prepare for class with all necessary materials;
3. be considerate of others;
4. respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
5. take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

Closed Campus

Students may not leave the building without permission from the administration. Parents requesting their student to leave school for lunch shall contact the building principal. If they have secured their parents' written permission and submitted it to the office.

Coats and Boots

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Winter Recess—Elementary students must have all snow gear to play on the equipment or on the ground when snow is present. This gear includes: coat, snowpants, snowboots, and hats/mittens. Students without needed items will be required to stay on the concrete areas. Elementary students will go outside when the real feel is 0 degrees or higher. Students will also go outside if it is not raining substantially.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school must be marked with the student's name.

Communicable Diseases

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from physical attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. Generally, individuals with a communicable disease will be restricted only to the extent necessary to prevent the transmission of the disease, to protect their health and rights of privacy, and to protect the health and safety of others. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition not otherwise specified in board policy or this handbook, please call school nurse or school principal.

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through parent portal, report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. Report cards are not utilized at the high school level. Parents are recommended to use their parent portal instead. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card.

Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy, or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below.

Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

Reference to "coordinator" in the policy refers to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process

- A. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if the complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject the complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.
- B. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
 1. Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 2. Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
 3. Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
 4. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may be submitted to the applicable, coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
- C. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

1. Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - a. If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - b. If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
 2. Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 3. Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
 - a. All relevant details of the complaint;
 - b. All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - c. The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
 4. Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.
- D. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
1. This appeal must be in writing.
 2. This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
 3. For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
 4. The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent receives complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other

appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

E. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve allegations against the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

1. When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy.
2. When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
3. When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

4. This appeal must be in writing.
5. This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated the decision to the complainant.
6. This policy allows, but does not require, the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint or appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
7. The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of the decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
8. There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

F. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action

of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint and shall:

1. Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
2. Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 1. If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
 2. If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
3. Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
4. Respond to the complainant or appeal, if the complainant or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
5. Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation

The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be

used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the South Dakota Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the Board of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings

The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (d) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Computer Network Use by Students

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.

3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, use of a shared document for chatting, e.g. Google Docs or Word, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs, or data.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
10. Students shall not copy, change, or transfer any software, data, Betamax, or documentation provided by the school district, teachers, or another student without permission from the system administrator.
11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.

12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
14. Students shall not falsify electronic mail messages or web pages.
15. Students shall not reference inappropriate use of AI technology to misrepresent oneself, other students or staff through the use of images or text.

II. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.
2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
 - a. Loss of computer privileges;
 - b. Short-term suspension;
 - c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with state law; and
 - d. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

III. Protection of Students

A. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on
 - a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
 - b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.
 - c. Appropriate use of AI.
3. The School District's technology coordinator shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first and third quarter.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy,

and review *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student's school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinators: Kim Johnson at 605-677-7000, KimmarielJohnson@k12.sd.us, Sam Jacobs at 605-677-7000, Samuel.Jacobs@k12.sd.us, Tom O'Boyle at 605-677-7000, Tom.Oboyle@k12.sd.us, Jon Frey at 605-677-7000, Jon.Frey@k12.sd.us, or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Jason Huska at 605-677-7000, Jason.Huska@k12.sd.us, 1001 East Main Street or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Superintendent, Dr. Damon R. Alvey at 605-677-7000, Damon.Alvey@k12.sd.us, or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff members will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Dress Code

Vermillion High School Students represent themselves, their families, the school, and the community. During the school day, VHS students are expected to dress according to standards that enhance the learning environment. Dress styles that disrupt the learning environment will not be tolerated. In the interest of promoting cleanliness, decency and an appropriate educational environment, restrictions on students' dress and grooming are necessary. Whenever dress styles and/or grooming creates an

interference with the educational process, a danger to the students' health and safety, a disruption to school or an intrusion on the rights of others, intervention becomes necessary.

In order to promote a positive and safe learning environment, all students shall abide by the following minimum dress code expectations:

Student attire should include both a shirt with pants or skirt or the equivalent (for example, dresses, leggings, or shorts) and shoes.

When the student is standing straight, clothing should cover the chest, back, torso, stomach, and lower extremities from underarm to underarm, to mid-thigh. Tops must have a minimum one-inch strap over the shoulder and at no time may any part of a student's underside be exposed.

No underwear or otherwise undergarment should be visible at any time. Clothing may not be see-through.

Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, industrial tech activities, cooking and art classes, field trips and other activities where unique hazards or specialized attire or safety gear is required. Bare feet are not permitted in school, at any time.

Attire and/or grooming depicting or advocating violence, weapons, criminal activity, gang-related activity (including clothes, accessories, or colors identified by law enforcement as gang-affiliated), use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs, pornography, inappropriate language hate speech, political speech, or clothing that could be considered dangerous or that could be used as a weapon, are prohibited.

No list of dress and appearance guidelines for students can be written that will anticipate all potential dress and grooming extremes. In the case of questionable dress or grooming that is not specifically covered in the list above, the administration will make the final decision. Appropriate action will be taken at that time and when necessary, contact will be made seeking parental cooperation and assistance.

The administration retains the sole discretion to make the final determination whether clothing, jewelry, accessories and/or appearance meet acceptable standards. All school certificated and classified personnel shall be responsible for reporting violations of this dress code. When a dress code violation occurs, the student will be required to change into proper attire. Continued violations of the dress code will be considered insubordination and will be referred to administration for disciplinary action.

Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students

will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.

2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling any drug, alcohol, or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Evacuations

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

Food Service Program

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily at Elementary School from 7:50 a.m. until 8:20 a.m., Middle School from 7:50 a.m. until 8:15 a.m., and High School from 7:55 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. The school district meal prices are on the school website.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Meal prices are on the school website.

Payment for Meals

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to the bookkeeper in the office.

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student may go negative \$25.00 and receive up to five limited "courtesy meals," such as a plain sandwich. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into the new school year.

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent or guardian must authorize a student to participate in a field trip leaving town by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

Head Lice

Students found to have live head lice or louse eggs may not be permitted at school and may be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice or louse eggs the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students may not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice or eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student.

The student may not be allowed to ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Health Problems Limiting Activities

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify the principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, or the like.

Homebound Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill, injured, and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time, or if the student's IEP or 504 team determines homebound instruction is appropriate. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs.

If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is Jennifer Olafson who may be contacted at 605-677-7000.

Illness or Injury at School

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher, school nurse, or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list

the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

Immunizations

All students must furnish a physician's certification that the student has received the following immunizations within 45 days of the start of classes:

1. poliomyelitis;
2. diphtheria;
3. pertussis;
4. rubeola;
5. rubella;
6. mumps;
7. tetanus;
8. meningitis; and
9. varicella.

Exceptions

The student is not required to receive immunizations if the student can provide certification from a licensed physician that immunizations would endanger the student's health or the student's parent, or guardian provides a written statement asserting adherence to a religious doctrine opposed to immunization.

K-9 (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use K-9 dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by K-9 dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by K-9 dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by K-9 dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Lockers and Other School Property

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particular suspicion.

Lost and Found

All lost and found articles are to be taken to school office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours.

Prescription medication

Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

Non-prescription medication

Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication.

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Self-Administration

Students in 5th grade or lower may not self-administer medication. Students in 6th grade or higher may self-administer prescription medication. Students who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

Memorials

Memorials or plaques honoring deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds unless authorized by board policy.

Opting Out of Assessments

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at Vermillion School District or found on the school website <https://vermillion.k12.sd.us/board-of-education/board-policies/> Policy #5018

Parental Involvement

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.
3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. The goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.
4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.
7. The district will 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.

Parties

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties. Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed at school.

Personal Items

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. **Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. Cell phone policies are handled at each school building. See the building principal for clarification. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.**

Physical Education

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear P.E. uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

Physical Exam

All students wishing to participate in athletics will provide evidence of a physical examination by a licensed physician in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SDHSAA.

Objection to Examination

Any parent(s) or guardian(s) who object to a physical and/or vision examination and evaluation must submit a signed and dated refusal form to the school.

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Playground Rules

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe when they are using the playground as part of the school day:

1. Students will follow the recess expectations and playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football in grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention, and/or other consequences.

The school's playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas are generally not supervised. Staff will supervise students when the students are using these areas as part of the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and in all other circumstances, the school district does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided with a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided with information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

School Day

The elementary and middle school day typically begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:12 p.m. The high school day typically begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds beginning at 8 a.m. and until 4:00 p.m. at the end of the day. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must arrange for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

Secret Organizations

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact their child's principal or school nurse.

Smoking and Tobacco

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Standardized Testing

Students will participate in standardized testing as follows:

Grades 3-6: Smarter Balanced in Spring

Grades 7-8: Smarter Balanced in Spring

Grade 10: PSAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (optional)

Grade 11: ASVAB (optional)

Smarter Balanced in Spring

ACT (for college admissions) (optional)

Grade 12: NCRC (National Career Readiness Assessment)

ACT (for college admissions) (optional)

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that are not being addressed by the school district

should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fee Policy

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the South Dakota State Constitution and South Dakota law. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. 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.

Student Illness

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodation to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and arrange for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

Student Council

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation,

and scope of the student council shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents with certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that are believed to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information

FERPA authorizes school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

name and grade, name of parent and/or guardian, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, social media usernames and handles, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Directory information about students may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or

manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1, annually.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third- year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the South Dakota Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Student schedule changes may be made without penalty during the first week of each semester. Students cannot change their schedule unless they first consult with their VHS counselor or administrator and have parental approval.

Classes dropped after the first week of the semester will be handled on an individual basis.

Tardiness

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention. Three tardies will constitute one absence. Students with five or more tardies can make up time before or after school, and may be required to attend Saturday school if they do not make up the time.

Telephone Calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff.

Threat Assessment and Response

Team Concept

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. **Definitions**

- A. A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
1. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 2. A transient threat is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 3. A substantive threat is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- B. A Threat assessment is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
1. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion, or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 2. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act solely as part of a threat assessment.

2. **Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors**

All staff and students must report substantive threats to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such a report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made, or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), guidance counselor and local law enforcement. It could also include information technology staff, the school nurse, members of the mental health profession who would be willing to work with the school. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

1. Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
2. Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
3. Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
4. Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline

policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and state law.

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

Title IX

The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, and individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The school district's Title IX policy, notice, and other information may be accessed at the following line: <https://vermillion.k12.sd.us/board-of-education/board-policies/>

Transportation Services

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

Transportation to School

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact the bus company if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule. Parents are responsible for ensuring their students are ready when the bus arrives.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

Bus Regulations

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. Vermillion School District contracts its bus services to Harlow's Bus Inc. (605-670-2942). All bus-related incidents must be reported to the bus company for initial review. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in

school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

A. Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:

1. Students must obey the driver promptly.
2. Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
3. Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
4. Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
5. Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
6. Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
7. Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
8. Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
9. Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
10. Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
11. Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
12. Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
13. Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
14. Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
15. Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

B. Consequences

The bus company will report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. The bus company may provide consequences for incidents. The school may also impose discipline for bus incidents if deemed

appropriate. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

C. Records

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to ride home with their parents may take private transportation home from a school event and must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent. Students may not ride home with anyone other than their parents without prior administrator approval.

Video Surveillance and Photographs

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Unless otherwise authorized by board policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or

programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. In such an instance, the students remain subject to the district's appropriate use and student discipline policies. For example, students are not prohibited from making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron are permitted, subject to other applicable board policy. However, this policy generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or taken in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. School closings will be announced on WNAX Radio, Dakota First News, and **School Messenger**. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students' home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from the district must follow proper school check-out procedures through the school office.

Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

SECTION TWO ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class Rank

Student class rank is calculated for transcript purposes only.

Grades

Students will receive letter grades for their academic core classes.

All schools grading system is as follows:

A	Superior	100% - 90%
B	Above Average	89% - 80%
C	Average	79% - 70%
D	Unsatisfactory/Below Average	69% - 60%
F	Failing (no credit)	59% - 0%
I	Incomplete	

A student may earn an incomplete when he or she fails to complete classroom assignments. Any student in grades 7-11 who receives an incomplete will have this grade recorded on his/her permanent record until the required work is completed to the teacher's satisfaction. If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the minimum classroom assignments, the incomplete will be calculated as a failing grade in determining the student's grade point average.

If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the necessary work within two weeks of the end of the grading period, the incomplete will become a failing grade that the student may make up only by taking the entire course again. The two-week period may be extended by mutual agreement of the teacher, principal, and student.

A student who receives an incomplete during his/her senior year must satisfactorily complete the classroom assignments to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors with an incomplete will take part in summer school to complete the work and will be awarded his/her diploma at the conclusion of the work.

Graduation Requirements

Students must earn twenty-two (22) total credit hours in order to graduate from high school.

Required courses and credit hours that students must complete in order to qualify for the Vermillion High School Diploma are:

<u>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</u>	<u>CREDIT HOURS</u>
<u>English/Lang. Arts</u>	- 4 credits
English I	= 1 credit
American Lit./Lang Skills	= .5 credit + .5 credit
(or) Am. Heritage	= (1) credit
Composition/ Speech	= .5 credit + .5 credit
World Lit.	= .5 credit
English elective	= .5 credit

(or) AP Lit	=	(1) credit
Mathematics	-	3 credits
Algebra I	=	1 credit
Algebra II	=	1 credit
Geometry	=	1 credit
Sciences	-	3 credits
Physical Science	=	1 credit
Biology	=	1 credit
Chemistry or Physics	=	1 credit
Social Studies	-	3 credits
Geography	=	.5 credit
World History	=	.5 credit
U.S. History	=	1 credit
(or) Am. Heritage	=	(1) credit
U.S. Government	=	.5credit
Social Studies elective	=	.5 credit
Physical Education/Health	-	1 credit
Healthy Lifestyles	=	.5 credit
Physical Education elective	=	.5 credit
Fine Arts	-	1 credit
Fine Arts electives	=	1 credit
Computer Technology	-	.5 credit
Computer Applications	=	.5 credit
Personal Finance	-	.5 credit
Personal Finance or Economics	=	.5 credit
Other	-	1 credit
Career Technical Ed. (CTE)	=	1 credit
(or) World Language		
(or) additional Math/Science elective (or)		
Capstone Experience/Service Language (beginning 2013)		
TOTAL CREDITS		22 CREDITS
Required Credits	=	17 credits
Elective Credits	=	5 credits

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multi-Disciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

High School Math Requirements

Purpose

Mathematics performance scores have fallen in recent years. Students are assessed by the State of South Dakota in the spring of their junior year. Since providing students access to a high school Algebra I credit in the 8th grade, Vermillion High School has experienced a growing number of students completing the 3-credit math graduation requirement by the end of the sophomore year of high school. Consequently, some VHS juniors have opted to avoid taking math in the junior and/or senior year of high school.

Definitions

- A. "Credit" an educational unit equal to one year of instruction. One semester = 1 half credit. Two semesters = 1 credit.
- B. "State Assessment" the statewide test completed during the junior year of high school as well as each year of middle school. Currently, the State of South Dakota requires juniors to take the Smarter Balanced assessment for math and English/Language Arts. Beginning in the spring of 2026, the junior year assessment for South Dakota will be the ACT.

Standards

Because the State of South Dakota assesses student performance in mathematics in the spring of the junior year of high school, all Vermillion High School students will heretofore be required to take a full year of math during the junior year of high school to complete three full years of math coursework at the high school level. Math during the senior year will be recommended, but not required (see Guideline #4 below).

- A. A total of three credits in math are required for graduation at Vermillion High School. By requirement of the State of South Dakota, one of the three credits required for graduation must be Algebra I.
- B. Students demonstrating advanced levels of mathematics proficiency in the 7th grade may be offered the opportunity to take Algebra I in the 8th grade. If the student earns a grade of "A" or "B" in the course as an 8th grader and/or scores proficient or higher on the 8th grade state assessment, the student will be awarded 1 credit of high school Algebra I.
- C. If the student takes 8th grade Algebra I and either fails to earn an "A" or "B", but scores proficient on the state assessment or earns the required letter grade but fails to demonstrate proficiency on the 8th grade math assessment, no high school Algebra I credit will be earned and the course will need to be taken in the 9th grade year.
- D. Mathematics course sequencing may vary for each student, but typically a student will take Algebra I, followed by Geometry or Advanced Geometry, and then Algebra II or Advanced Algebra II. If the student would elect to take something other than Algebra II in the

junior year or if the student completed Algebra II as a sophomore, he/she will be able to take Technical Math for a full or partial year (.5 or 1 credit), Finite (.5 credit) and Statistics (.5 credit), ACT Math Preparation or Precalculus.

Guidelines

The mathematics requirement through the junior year is necessary both to better prepare students for the state assessment as well as to ensure a better mathematics foundation for whatever post-high school plans the student may have.

- A. Students wishing to remain on an advanced mathematics track throughout high school in preparation for college may, at the recommendation of his/her math instructor, work with the school counselor to develop a four-year plan that will reflect the student's strong mathematics aptitude.
- B. If the student, the student's parent(s), instructor and counselor agree, doubling-up on math classes can be permitted to facilitate the opportunity to take more advanced mathematics courses as a junior or senior. Such an occurrence will be documented in the student's four-year plan.
- C. Mathematics courses may only be doubled-up for the purpose of pursuing academic rigor and not for the purpose of finishing mathematics requirements early. Again, this will be documented in the student's four-year plan.
- D. In 2024-25 only, students who do not wish to take a mathematics course as a junior, may be exempted from doing so only if the student subsequently scores proficient or higher on the junior assessment. If the junior opts to not take a year of math in the junior year and fails to demonstrate proficiency on the junior assessment, another year of math will be *required* in the senior year.

Homework

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher. Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student. Normally, at least an hour a day should be spent in preparing for an average assignment.

Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the guidance counselor.

Mid-Term Graduation

Students are generally required to attend four years of high school (minimum of seven semesters) to be eligible to receive a diploma from the school district.

The Board of Education, upon receiving administrative recommendation, may grant mid-term exit from high school to students who have completed the requirements for graduation. To be considered for mid-term exit from high school, the student and his/her parents or guardian should apply during the first quarter of the student's senior year. The Board of Education will act on all requests. Any student who is granted mid-term exit from high school forfeits all privileges of high school enrollment, except the right to participate in commencement exercises.

Online Courses

The school district does not pay for most online courses, exceptions include Black Hills Online, or courses required by administration.

Report Cards

Report cards (K-8) are sent home the week following the end of the nine-week reporting period. Report cards for high school students are found on Infinite Campus. Mid-quarter reports are also sent to parents of students who are having difficulty in an academic subject.

SECTION THREE STUDENT DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.

4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Forms of School Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior that are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this section shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this section may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be

determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

1. After-school sessions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend an afterschool session may be given detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
2. Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

Saturday School

High school students who are behind will be asked to attend Thursday morning Academic Assistance Time. Failure to attend may result in a Saturday School assignment. Saturday School will be typically scheduled twice a month. All Saturday School sessions will be from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the high school library.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of up to ten school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth;
or
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the board of education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal or Superintendent shall give oral or written notice to the student as soon as possible after discovery of the alleged violation, stating the facts that form the basis for the suspension.
2. The student shall be given the opportunity to respond to the alleged violation.
3. If a student is suspended, the principal or superintendent shall give the parent or guardian oral notice of the suspension, if possible. This notice shall be provided directly to the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor.
4. The student may be removed from the school's premises following either the written or oral notice, described above, or if the student's presence poses a continuing threat or danger, in which case the student may be immediately removed from the school and transferred into the custody of a parent or law enforcement.
5. If a student is suspended, the principal or superintendent shall send to the parent or guardian a written notice which provides information regarding the student's due process rights. This notice shall be provided directly to the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor. Students who are short-term suspended may be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state or federal law.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than 10 school days but less than 90 school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

1. The student may be temporarily suspended at the discretion of the Superintendent if the Superintendent finds grounds for a long-term suspension from a class or classes. This suspension shall follow the procedures set forth above for short-term suspensions.
2. The superintendent shall file a sealed, written report with the school board by the end of the fifth school day following the first day of the long-term suspension. The report shall include the facts of the situation, the action taken, the reasons for the action, and the superintendent's decision or recommendation. The report must

- remain in the possession of the school board secretary or business manager, sealed and unavailable for review by individual school board members, until the time set for a hearing.
3. The superintendent shall send a copy of the report to the student's parent or to the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor at the same time the report is filed with the school board's secretary or business manager.
 4. The superintendent shall also send written notice to the student's parent or to a student who is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor of:
 - a. the rule, regulation, or policy allegedly violated;
 - b. the reason for the disciplinary proceedings;
 - c. notice of the right to request a hearing or waive the right to a hearing;
 - d. a description of the hearing procedure;
 - e. a statement that the student's records are available at the school for examination by the student's parent or authorized representative;
 - f. a statement that the student may present witnesses.
 5. The student, if of the age of majority or emancipated, or the student's parent may waive the right to a hearing in writing to the superintendent.
 6. If a hearing is requested, the superintendent shall give notice to each school board member of an appeal to the board for a hearing. The superintendent shall set the date, time, and place for the hearing and send notice by first class mail to each school board member and by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the student's parent or to a student who is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor.
 7. If no hearing is requested or the hearing is waived, the action of the superintendent is final.

Hearing Procedure - Long-Term Suspension

The following process applies to any hearing requested and scheduled in relation to a long-term suspension:

1. The board shall act as the hearing board and shall conduct the hearing.
2. The school board shall appoint a school board member or a person who is not an employee of the school district as the hearing officer.
3. Each party shall be provided with the opportunity to make an opening statement.
4. Each party shall be provided the opportunity to introduce evidence, present witnesses, and examine and cross-examine witnesses.
5. Each party shall be provided the opportunity to be represented by an attorney.

6. The school administration shall present its case first.
7. The hearing shall be closed to the public. A verbatim record of the hearing will be made and will be sealed pending court order.
8. Witnesses shall be present only when testifying. All witnesses must take an oath or affirmation administered by the school board president or business manager.
9. Each party may raise objections as to relevancy and scope of the question.
10. All relevant evidence shall be admitted, except that unproductive or repetitious evidence may be limited by the hearing officer.
11. The hearing officer may ask questions of witnesses and may allow other school board members to interrogate witnesses.
12. Each party shall be provided with the opportunity to make a closing statement.
13. After the hearing, the school board shall continue to meet in executive session for deliberation. No one other than the hearing officer may meet with the school board during deliberation, except that the school board may seek advice during deliberation from an attorney. Consultation with any other person during deliberation may occur only if a representative of the pupil is present.
14. The decision of the school board shall be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing and must be formalized by a motion made in an open meeting. The motion shall omit the name of the pupil and must state the reason for the board's action. The school board shall notify the pupil or the pupil's parents in writing of the decision. The notice must state the length of the suspension or expulsion.
15. The student may appeal an adverse decision by the school board to the circuit court.

Expulsion

Students may be excluded by the school board from school or any school function for a period of not more than 12 consecutive months (expulsion) for violation of rules or policies, for insubordination or misconduct, or for aggressive or violent behavior that disrupts school or that affects a health or safety factor of the school or its programs. The following process applies to expulsion:

1. The student may be temporarily suspended at the discretion of the Superintendent if the Superintendent finds grounds for expulsion from a class or classes. This suspension shall follow the procedures set forth above for short-term suspensions.
2. The superintendent shall file a sealed, written report with the school board by the end of the fifth school day following the first day of the student's exclusion from one or more classes and request that a hearing be held before the school board. The report

shall include the facts of the situation, the action taken, the reasons for the action, and the superintendent's decision or recommendation. The report must remain in the possession of the school board secretary or business manager, sealed and unavailable for review by individual school board members, until the time set for a hearing.

3. The superintendent shall send a copy of the report to the student's parent or to the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor at the same time the report is filed with the school board's secretary or business manager.
4. The superintendent shall send written notice to the student's parent or to a student who is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor of:
 - a. the rule, regulation, or policy allegedly violated;
 - b. the reason for the disciplinary proceedings;
 - c. notice of the right to request a hearing or waive the right to a hearing;
 - d. a description of the hearing procedure;
 - e. a statement that the student's records are available at the school for examination by the student's parent or authorized representative;
 - f. a statement that the student may present witnesses; and
 - g. a statement that the student may be represented by an attorney.
5. The superintendent shall set the date, time, and place for the school board hearing. The superintendent shall send notice of the hearing to each school board member by first-class mail and to the student's parent or to a student who is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the superintendent recommends expulsion, the school board must act on the recommendation before it is implemented.
6. The student, if of the age of majority or emancipated, or the student's parent may waive the right to a hearing in writing to the superintendent.
7. If the hearing is not waived, the hearing shall be held on the date and at the time and place set in the hearing notice unless a different date, time, and place are agreed to by the parties.
9. If the hearing is waived in writing, the school board may consider the matter at a regular or special meeting without further notice to the student or the student's parents

Hearing Procedure - Expulsion

The following process applies to any hearing requested and scheduled in relation to an expulsion:

1. The board shall act as the hearing board and shall conduct the hearing;
2. The school board shall appoint a school board member or a person who is not an employee of the school district as the hearing officer;
3. Each party shall be provided the opportunity to make an opening statement;
4. Each party shall be provided the opportunity to introduce evidence, present witnesses, and examine and cross-examine witnesses;
5. Each party shall be provided the opportunity to be represented by an attorney;
6. The school administration shall present its case first;
7. The hearing shall be closed to the public. The school board shall make a verbatim record of the hearing by means of an electronic or mechanical device or by court reporter. This record and any exhibits must be sealed and must remain with the hearing officer until the appeal process has been completed;
8. Witnesses shall be present only when testifying. All witnesses must take an oath or affirmation administered by the school board president, hearing officer or other person authorized by law to take oaths and affirmations;
9. Each party may raise any legal objection to evidence;
10. All relevant evidence shall be admitted, except that unproductive or repetitious evidence may be limited by the hearing officer;
11. The hearing officer may ask questions of witnesses and may allow other school board members to interrogate witnesses;
12. Each party shall be provided the opportunity to make a closing statement;
13. After the hearing, the school board shall continue to meet in executive session for deliberation. No one other than the hearing officer may meet with the school board during deliberation, except that the school board may seek advice during deliberation from an attorney who has not represented any of the parties to the hearing. Consultation with any other person during deliberation may occur only if a representative of the pupil is present; and
14. The decision of the school board must be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing and must be formalized by a motion made in an open meeting. The motion shall omit the name of the student and shall state the reason for the board's action. The school board shall notify the student's parent or parents or a student who is 18 years of age or older or who is an emancipated minor in writing of the decision. The notice shall state the length of the expulsion.
15. The student may appeal an adverse decision by the school board to the circuit court.

Grounds for Discipline:

Inappropriate conduct constitutes grounds for discipline when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may also be disciplined for aggressive or violent behavior that disrupts school or that affects a health or safety factor of the school or its programs.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm or weapon as defined by state and federal law;
2. The violation results in child abuse or neglect as defined by state law;
3. It is a violation of the South Dakota Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the South Dakota Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or

It is a violation of the South Dakota Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Rachel Olson, School Board President
Carol Voss-Ward, School Board Vice-President
Mike Phelan, School Board Member
Jacob Skelton, School Board Member
Mark Winegar, School Board Member

Administrative Staff:

Dr. Damon Alvey, Superintendent
Kevin Kocer, Business Manager
Jon Frey, High School Principal
Jason Huska, High School Vice Principal/Athletic Director
Tom O'Boyle, Middle School Principal
Sam Jacobs, Elementary Principal
Kim Johnson, Elementary Vice Principal/Curriculum Director
Jennifer Olafson, Director of Special Services
Ashlie Jacobs, Director of Technology

Administrative Assistant Staff:

Ashley Steeneck, High School Principal Assistant
Jasmine Stewart, High School Vice Principal/AD Assistant
Ashley Neumann, Middle School Principal Assistant
Christina Beach, Elementary Principal Assistant
Tracy Larson, Elementary Vice Principal Assistant

Administrative Office Staff

Ofelia May, Accounts Payable
Nicole Mockler, Payroll Clerk
Jayme Mulheron, Superintendent Assistant

Child Nutrition Program

Rachelle Loutsche, Lunchtime Cafeteria Manager

Custodians

Jon Walser, Facilities & Maintenance Manager
Christina Jensen, High School Head Custodian
Todd Moore, Elementary & MS Head Custodian
Teresa Millage, Middle School Lead Custodian
Kevin Millage, Elementary School Lead Custodian

Transportation Department

Chet Moser, Director of Transportation

SCHOOL CALENDAR

<https://vermillion.k12.sd.us/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Calendar24-25.pdf>

SECTION FIVE

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Vermillion School District’s discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Vermillion Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District’s administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district’s regular means of contact.

PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORMS

AUTHORIZATION FOR SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATION

Prescription Medication

PHYSICIAN/LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STATEMENT

The student _____ has
_____ asthma _____ anaphylaxis _____ diabetes _____ other _____
and is capable of self-administering the following prescription medicine at school:
Medication: _____
Dose: _____
Times/Circumstances to Administer: _____
Reason child is taking medication: _____
Precautions and reactions to observe and report _____

Signature of Physician/Other Licensed Health Care Provider _____ Date _____

Over-The-Counter Medication (Middle School and High School)

The student _____ has permission and is capable of
self-administering the following over-the-counter medicine:
Medication: _____
Dose: _____
Times/Circumstances to Administer: _____
Reason child is taking medication: _____
***Students may only bring a one-day supply of medication. Students are prohibited from
transferring, delivering or receiving medications to or from other students.

PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION

1. I am the parent/guardian of _____ and I authorize my child/ward to self-administer the medication identified above while on school property or at a school-related event or activity.
2. I release the school and its employees and agents from liability for injury arising from the student's self-administration of the medication while on school property or at a school-related event.
3. I understand that if the student identified herein uses the medication in a manner other than prescribed, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the school, however, any disciplinary action may not limit or restrict the student's immediate access to the medication.
4. I authorize the school nurse to inform appropriate school employees who would have a need to know that the student may self-administer medication.
5. I give permission for the student to have the prescription medication with the student while on school property or at a school-related activity or event.

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS

CONSENT FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

This form **MUST** be signed and turned in to the office for medications to be given at school.

1. For student safety, **all medication should be brought to school by the parent. Controlled substances MUST be brought to the school by the parent and administered by authorized staff.** No medications are provided by the school.
2. All OTC medication, including cough drops, must be in it's original, properly labeled container.
3. All prescription medication must be in its original container from the pharmacy with appropriate labels with student name and instructions for use.
4. I acknowledge that the school nurse or authorized district employees will administer the medication unless an Authorization for Self-Administration Form is completed.
5. I authorize the school to inform appropriate school employees who would have a need to know of the administration of medication.
6. I acknowledge and agree that the school shall secure (store) the medication for the student until administration of the medication is necessary unless an Authorization for Self-Administration Form is completed. **NOTE: All controlled medication will be stored and administered by school staff.**
7. I understand that the school district and individuals involved will not be held liable for any adverse effects of the medication. I hereby release the District and its employees and agents from liability for injury arising from the school's administration of the medication while on school property or at a school-related event.
8. In the event of a field trip, I understand that my child's medication will be sent with designated personnel (typically the teacher) in the amount to be administered during the activity unless otherwise specified by me.
9. I understand that I am responsible to pick up unused medication at the end of the year. If medication is not picked up by parent/guardian at the end of the school year it will be destroyed.

I am the parent/guardian of _____ and I authorize my child/ward, grade _____, to be administered the prescription/non-prescription medication identified below while on school property or at a school-related event or activity by the school nurse or employee trained in the administration of prescription medication.

Medication: _____

Dose: _____

Time/Circumstances to Administer: _____

Authorization start date: _____ end date: _____

Reason child is taking medication: _____

Precautions and reactions to observe and report: _____

Date _____ Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Phone _____