

TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL  
50 WILLIAMS STREET  
TAUNTON, MA 02780  
(508) 821-1101/1102  
FAX (508) 821-1362

**2019-2020 STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year of Graduation** \_\_\_\_\_

The Taunton High School administration and staff encourage all students and their parents to read the Taunton High School Student Handbook carefully. It contains important information regarding a variety of subjects including attendance policies, academic policies and regulations, guidelines for student behavior, discipline code regulations, bus transportation guidelines, student health information, club listings, and athletic department rules and regulations. **Please sign this page from the handbook to document that you have reviewed the material contained in the student handbook.**

I have reviewed the 2019-2020 Taunton High School Student Handbook with this student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Staff Signature** **Date**

I have read and understand the rules set forth in the 2019-2020 Taunton High School Student Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature** **Date**

I have reviewed the 2019-2020 Taunton High School Student Handbook with my child.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature** **Date**

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**Taunton High School Mission Statement**

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Taunton High School's mission is to create life long learners while providing equal access and opportunity for all members of our school's community. In pursuit of this goal, we recognize that education is a shared responsibility and that we must create an interactive learning environment that is both safe and secure. We must encourage students to develop critical thinking skills, employ current technology, and become proficient in all forms of communication by experiencing a variety of instructional strategies. Our school community seeks to establish high academic expectations for all students while acknowledging that individuals learn and communicate in various ways.

The Taunton High School community views students holistically and recognizes an obligation to develop not only their intellectual capacity but also their social, physical and emotional well-being. In striving to accomplish this goal, we offer a broad-based curriculum stressing social responsibility and offering a network of student support services and numerous opportunities for extracurricular involvement. We value the role of the family in the educational process and actively seek that involvement in our school.

We endeavor to create a school environment that enables students to develop into productive citizens by acquiring skills that foster resiliency in a complex society. Enriched by our diversity, we recognize that we must create an atmosphere that fosters cooperation and respect among all students regardless of their cultural and economic backgrounds. Our efforts to include the community in the educational preparation of our students are enhanced through business partnerships, college affiliations, and alliances with local resources and service agencies.

We acknowledge that this mission statement must be reviewed regularly by the faculty, School Council, Student Council and by departmental curriculum committees during their revision cycles.

**Academic Excellence!**  
**Social Responsibility!**  
**Civic Pride!**

In order to provide an appropriate education for all students at Taunton High School, we believe that the following expectations are essential:

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Expectations for Students**  
***“WE ARE T.I.G.E.R.S!”***

***T*****eammates** *students will*  
*Work collaboratively and think critically*

***I*****nnovators** *students will*  
*Solve problems and think creatively*

***G*****lobal Citizens** *students will*  
*Demonstrate global awareness and a respect for diversity*

***E*****ffective Communicators** *students will*  
*Read, write, and communicate effectively*

***R*****espectful & Responsible** *students will*  
*Demonstrate personal, social, and civic responsibility*

***S*****cholarly** *students will*  
*Be prepared for a variety of post-secondary pursuits*

**TAUNTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Honorable Thomas C. Hoyer, Jr., Mayor

Mr. Joseph Martin	Mrs. Christine Fagan
Mrs. Josephine Almeida	Mr. David Souza
Mr. Jordan Fiore	Mrs. Carol Doherty
Mr. Gregory DeMelo	Mr. Cathal O'Brien, Chair

**CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. John Cabral	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Christopher Baratta	Asst. Supt. of Curr. & Instruct.
Mrs. Brenda Moynihan	Asst. Supt. of Fin. & Operations
Mrs. Marguerite Mitchell	Legal Counsel for Pupil & Pers.
Ms. Judy Mulrooney	Director of Special Education
Mrs. Kathy Perry	Director of Trans. & Stud. Serv.
Mrs. Dalila Mendoza	Director of Eng. Lang. Learners
Mrs. Barbara Bianchini	Director of Virtual Learning
Mrs. Carolyn Blennau	Director of Technology

**TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Matthew Mattos, Headmaster	821-1101/1102
Mrs. Kristen Keenan, Associate Headmaster	821-1134

**Assistant Headmasters:**

Matthew Bertrand	A - Da	821-1113/1114
Eric Lefaivre	De - K	821-1115/1116
Jaimie Pereira	L - Pom	821-1285/1286
Joseph Pomfret	Pon - Z	821-1133/1237

**Guidance Counselors:**

Jared Homer	A-Bun	821-1139
Julie Barbour	Bur-Den	821-1143
Alyson Golder	Dep-Gri	821-1140
Maureen McCarthy	Gro-Let	821-1238
William Ventura	Lev-Mor	821-1142
Lucinda Rosenberg	Mos-Rh	821-1141
Gregory Gay	Rib-Tay	821-1293
Paul Bochman	Tei-Z	821-1105
Jenifer Andrews	College & Career	844-5857

**Curriculum Supervisors:**

Sarah Buckley	English	821-1126
Donna Chaves	Mathematics	821-1131
Jordan Valois	Science	821-1160
Peter Gillen	Social Studies	821-1123
Ashley Pacheco Guilmette	Foreign Lang.	822-5197
Caitlin Antrim	Visual Arts	821-1109
James Frye	Performing Arts	821-1153
Maj. David Anderson	AFJROTC	821-3828
Amy Moynihan	Special Education	821-1308
Michael Raposa	Bus. Tech. (F&CS)CTE	821-1163
Darla Hartung	Ind. Tech. (F&CS) CTE	821-1161
Brad Sidwell	Wellness	844-5844

**Student Support Services**

F. Canavan/S. Littlefield	Access Center	821-1125
Virginia Martin	School Psychologist	821-1117
S. LaPlante/J. Peterson	Resource Officers	821-1271
Matt McCaffrey	Attendance Officer	821-1339
Chris Brady	Attendance Officer	821-1339
Jeff Martin	Attendance Officer	821-1339
Steve Turner	Attendance Officer	821-1339
Community Facilitators		821-1229

**I. ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

**Graduation Requirements** - Gr. 9-12 students must pass:

- 4 semesters of English (including senior research paper)
- 3 semesters of Social Studies
- 4 semesters of Mathematics
- 3 semesters of Science
- 1 semester of Health/Wellness & 1 semester of PE\*

\*Students must take a HW&PE class or file a PE Waiver every year. (A PE waiver does not supplant a Wellness course).

**MCAS** - In addition to these local requirements, all students must also meet the state's Competency Determination (CD) standards in order to earn a diploma. Currently, Massachusetts high school students are required to pass MCAS tests in ELA, Mathematics, and Science and Technology/Engineering (STE) in order to graduate from high school. The requirements for each of these tests are as follows:

- a score of at least 240 on the existing grade 10 ELA and Mathematics tests, **or**
- a score of between 220 and 238 on those tests **and** fulfilling the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan, which outlines how the student will become proficient in that particular subject; **and**
- a score of at least 220 on one of the STE tests, currently: Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics, or Technology/Engineering.

Students will take the next-generation, computer based MCAS in both ELA and Mathematics starting in the spring of 2019 (i.e., the graduating class of 2021). The interim standard for this class and for the class of 2022 will require a similar level of achievement to the current required standard on the legacy tests. The existing science MCAS and requirement will not change for the class of 2021. The state has yet to determine the passing standard for subsequent classes.

Students who have not completed all requirements will not be allowed to participate in graduation without the express approval of THS administration in collaboration with the Superintendent or his/her designee. Listed below are credit requirements necessary to remain in appropriate Year of Graduation (Y.O.G.):

**All students must accumulate 140 total credits to graduate.**

Class of 2020 - 100 credits by end of junior year

Class of 2021 - 60 credits by end of sophomore year

Class of 2022 - 30 credits by end of freshman year

Class of 2023 - Must pass 3 of 4 core subjects

#### **REPORT CARDS/PROGRESS REPORTS**

Report cards are available through the School Community Portal, which can be accessed through the THS website. Progress reports are also available at the mid-point of each term. Final examinations will be administered at the close of each semester. Report card grades are designated as follows:

A+	=	95	-	100
A	=	90	-	94

B+	=	85	-	89
B	=	80	-	84
C+	=	75	-	79
C	=	70	-	74
D	=	60	-	69
F	=	Below 60		Failure
AU = Audit Grade		INC = Incomplete		

### **INCOMPLETE GRADES**

Incomplete grades must be made up within two weeks of the end of a term. Students are responsible to arrange meetings with teachers to finalize all required work. Guidance Counselors will be available for assistance throughout this process.

### **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

Guidance Counselors focus on college/career readiness and academic planning for each student. They also provide assistance with social/emotional issues and transitional planning for adult life. Collaborative relationships with families and the community are vital in assisting students to realize their potential. Counselors work with all students to actively prepare for higher education and post-secondary pursuits. Counselors share resource information to enable each student to realize their full potential. Students who are behind in academic credit towards graduation, or who may have adjustment issues at THS, may be referred to the Alternative HS or the Summer School program. Students should see their Guidance Counselor for information.

### **STUDENT SCHEDULE DEVELOPMENT**

New course schedules are developed at the beginning of the second semester. Counselors meet with students in large groups and also individually. We expect family discussion will follow. Elective choices and course levels should be seriously considered. Course selection forms are to be signed and returned by parents/guardians. After the 2nd week of each semester schedule adjustments should be complete. Requests after that time will be reviewed by the Assistant Headmaster.

### **CLASS STANDING BY QUALITY POINTS**

The system consists of a three leveled rank point value. Courses are classified as Level I through Level III.

#### **LEVEL I                      Advanced Placement Courses**

5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.0	0
A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F

#### **LEVEL II                      Honors Courses**

5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	1.5	0
A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F

### **LEVEL III College Prep Courses**

4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.0	0
A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F

These quality points are granted for a course earning a minimum of five (5) credits. AP students are not required to pay for AP exams, unless they fail the AP course or register and do not take the AP exam. In that case, they will reimburse TPS the full cost.

### **CALCULATING GPA & CLASS RANK**

GPA and Class Rank are calculated three times a school year.

- At the end of Junior year, this goes on college transcripts
- After Term 3 of Senior year, this determines Class Rank for Graduation purposes
- At the end of Senior year for final transcript

### **GRADUATING HONORS**

Summa Cum Laude	A four-year average of 4.7000 or above
Magna Cum Laude	A four-year average of 4.1000 or above
Cum Laude	A four-year average of 3.5000 or above

(Honors are finalized at the end of Term 3).

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The National Honor Society is a prestigious high school organization with chapters throughout the nation. The Taunton High School Chapter was founded in 1949 and recognizes the school's most outstanding students. The purpose of the Society is to honor and promote excellence in scholarship, character, leadership, and service. In the fall, eligible members of the junior and senior classes are invited to apply for membership. The selection process is rigorous: applicants must maintain a G.P.A. of 3.5, display an exemplary record of conduct, have fewer than 15 unexcused absences/tardies for the academic year, present documentation of community service and leadership activities, and provide letters of recommendation. A Faculty Advisory Committee reviews applications, and not all applicants are selected for membership. Once inducted, members must continue to meet all requirements and complete at least 20 hours of community service per year. Students who are suspended from school for any reason immediately forfeit their membership.

### **HONOR ROLL**

- Highest Honors - Students with fifteen credits of A.
- Honors - Students with five credits of A and ten credits of B.



- Honorable Mention - Students with fifteen credits of B.  
To attain Honor Roll status, a student must have all B or better grades and no suspensions from school. For gr. 8 students letter grades will be considered in lieu of credits.

### **HOMEWORK**

Homework is defined as tasks assigned to students that are to be completed during non-instructional and/or non-school hours. Because education is a lifelong process that extends beyond the school, it is important that students recognize that learning occurs in the home and community. Taunton Public Schools defines homework very broadly, to include not only written work, but also related activities such as review of class notes, textbook readings, long term assignment(s), reporting news, recreational reading, and other activities that support classroom work.

### **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM**

Evidence of cheating will result in no credit for the work involved, and the student is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the Assistant Headmaster, Teacher and Curriculum Supervisor.

## **II. ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance at school every day is necessary for the academic and social growth of all students. To receive full academic credit for courses passed, students must adhere to the Attendance Policy. A student who does not meet this requirement will lose academic credit for those courses. Students should not exceed 7 unexcused absences per semester. When a student is absent from school, tardy to school, or going to be dismissed from school, parents/guardians **must** call the respective Associate Headmaster:

#### **Student's Last Name:**

A - Da	Mr. Bertrand	821-1113/1114
De – K	Mr. Lefavre	821-1115/1116
L – Pom	Mrs. Pereira	821-1285/1286
Pon – Z	Mr. Pomfret	821-1133/1237

**Absences will only be excused for illness that is certified by a doctor's note, court appearances supported by a document from the court, appointments involving certified outside agencies, bereavement of a family member, authorized school sponsored activities, or if the THS Nurses determine that the student needs to be sent home with parent permission. THS administers the PSAT in October of**

each year to grades 8-11, this day can be used by Seniors, as an excused absence, for college and/or career visits.

Doctor's notes must verify that the doctor saw the student in the office on the day(s) absent from school or specify the dates the student needed to remain at home for a medical issue.

**All documentation must be on file in the associate headmaster's office within 5 school days after the student returns to school.**

Students who have a chronic medical condition must provide a doctor's note at the start of each school year and may utilize a parent's note to verify absences related to their condition. Parents should call the Associate Headmaster's office on the day a student is absent and send a note with the student upon their return to school.

It is recommended that students absent for 5 or more consecutive days due to illness should return with written consent from a doctor to excuse absences. **Out-of-school suspensions and family vacations will not be excused.**

Parents will be notified by letter from an Associate Headmaster if their son/daughter is in danger of a violation of this policy.

**Students who are in violation of this policy, exceeding 7 unexcused absences, must meet with their respective Assistant Headmaster and Guidance Counselor to sign a Taunton High School Attendance Contract.**

Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting as well. The student must adhere to the provisions of this contract in order to receive credit for courses passed during that semester. The appointment for the attendance contract must be made through the student's Guidance Counselor within five days of the conclusion of that semester.

### **APPEAL PROCESS**

Students found to be in violation of the Attendance Policy, and who do not complete the Attendance Contract with their respective Assistant Headmaster, may have their credits pulled from their academic record for that semester. They may appeal this decision through the following:

- **Level I** Associate Headmaster
- **Level II** Headmaster
- **Level III** Superintendent of Schools (or designee)

A student is allowed only one appeal in their five years at THS.

### **TRUANCY**

In accordance with the attendance policy, all students are expected to attend school each day. Absent students must have a parent/guardian telephone call into their child's respective Assistant Headmaster on the day of absence so the student is not found to be truant. Students who do not follow attendance procedures when absent from school may be considered truant and subject to Saturday detention, or out-of-school suspension as a result. Students who intentionally arrive late to school may be considered truant and subject to a Saturday detention. THS administration does not recognize or condone organized student skip days.

#### **TARDY TO SCHOOL**

Students are expected to be on time for school. Arriving late results in the loss of valuable school time and interferes with the learning process. Any student arriving after 10:30 a.m. will be considered absent for that school day. Students who intentionally arrive late to school shall be considered a.m. truant on that date, thereby subject to a Saturday detention or a suspension from school. **Student athletes should refer to page 48 for daily attendance eligibility.** Students who accumulate **three** unexcused tardies during a month will be subject to one hour of detention. **Seven** unexcused tardies will result in a Saturday detention. Tardies will only be excused in accordance with the attendance policy. Failure to serve detentions may result in a Saturday detention or a one day out-of-school suspension. Students who violate the tardy policy will have their driving privileges and eligibility for extra-curricular activities placed under review through their respective Assistant Headmaster.

#### **TARDY TO CLASS/ BEHAVIOR IN THE HALLWAYS**

A student arriving tardy to class within the first 30 minutes of class will be marked present. If the student arrives after this, the student will be marked absent. Teachers will assign detention for tardiness to their classes. Students who are chronically tardy to class will be referred to their Assistant Headmaster. Movement in the corridors will proceed quickly and smoothly, students should keep to the right, not loiter, and not congregate in stairwells, at corridor intersections, and in the lobbies. There is 4 minute passing time between classes. All internal posters, fliers, etc. must be approved by administration prior to posting.

#### **EARLY DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL**

No student is to leave school without an early dismissal slip from the appropriate Assistant Headmaster. Students wishing to be dismissed early **must** present their request to the Assistant

Headmaster before A Block. A student who is dismissed before 11:15 a.m. will be considered absent from school on that date unless the student returns to school no later than 1:00 p.m. A student who leaves the building unauthorized (p.m. truancy) may be assigned a Saturday detention.

**A call from the parent/guardian must confirm the request.** A dismissal slip will be issued at the end of A Block. Students may be released by the school nurse if the extent of the illness is sufficient to warrant dismissal. **This slip must be stamped in the Assistant Headmaster's office before leaving.**

- Students being dismissed from school must be picked up at the Main Entrance.
- Students may not initiate their dismissal from school by making calls from the Assistant Headmaster's office.

### **III. DISCIPLINE CODE**

Obtaining an education is a serious endeavor. This condition cannot exist in schools without mutual respect between students and teachers. All students are asked to exemplify this attitude by the manner in which they conduct themselves in order:

- To create an atmosphere where learning can proceed best.
- To create an environment where there are no disruptions to the educational process.
- To prevent damage to school equipment and property.
- To provide for the safety of all students and staff members.
- To make individuals responsible for their actions.

For teaching and learning to take place effectively, the classroom has to be an orderly place where everyone respects the learning process. Students who misbehave in class will be disciplined appropriately. Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) gives the school and parents joint jurisdiction over students on their way to and from school. Students should always be mindful that they hold in their keeping the good name of the school and should conduct themselves in the proper manner of responsible adults.

The Taunton High School Discipline Code is administered within the guidelines set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with regard to due process for students.

Students, due to their behavior, may be subject to the following disciplinary actions:

#### **TEACHER DETENTION**

Students may be asked to stay after school by their teacher for a variety of behaviors, academic progress, or violations of classroom rules. Students should report to these teacher detentions so the matter does not advance to the Office Detention level.

#### **OFFICE DETENTION**

Students may be assigned to office detention for various infractions including, but not limited to:

Failure to report for teacher detention, repeated tardiness to class, misuse of pass, leaving class without permission, disrespect to school staff/insubordination, forged signature, class cut, harassment of a fellow student, selling or trading personal property during the school day, or classroom or hallway disruption. Detention is held in assigned locations on Tuesday - Thursday afternoons from 2:10 - 3:00 p.m. or until 4pm.

#### **SATURDAY DETENTION**

Students may be assigned Saturday detention as an alternative to out-of-school suspension for various infractions including, but not limited to: failure to report to office detention, being in a restricted area (locker rooms, roof, stairwells, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor auditorium/lobby, or Parker Middle School) disrupting office detention room, excessive office referrals, excessive class cuts, cheating, excessive tardies to school and/or class, failing to return library books/textbooks in a timely manner, smoking and/or tobacco usage, a.m./p.m. truancy, leaving the building unauthorized, misuse of technology, insubordination, cafeteria or hallway disruption, selling or trading personal property during the school day, or violation of Attendance Contract. Students must attend from 9a.m. to 11a.m. Refusal to attend, or to behave appropriately, may result in a suspension from school, pending conference with an Assistant Headmaster. Students should ask their Assistant Headmaster for the assigned room and entrance. Students must be on time for Saturday detention or they will not be admitted.

#### **SUSPENSION**

Students may be assigned a suspension from school for various infractions including, but not limited to:

Failure to report to Saturday detention, fighting/assault, vulgar or obscene language to staff/student, insubordination, vandalism, theft, use or possession of drugs or alcohol, repeated incidents of a.m./p.m. truancy, threatening school staff, leaving the

building unauthorized, possession of a weapon, being in a restricted area (locker rooms, roof stairwells, second floor auditorium lobby, or auditorium), smoking tobacco, or possession or usage of an E-cig or vape, harassment, bullying, hazing, inappropriate school behavior, webpage postings that are offensive to students or staff, disrupting office detention, or Saturday detention, excessive tardiness to school, excessive class cuts, selling or trading personal property during the school day, or removal from MCAS Remediation Room.

The Superintendent of Schools and the Headmaster, or his designee, may suspend for a period up to ten (10) school days, a student who has committed an infraction for which suspension is a possible discipline. Before students are suspended they are first given an informal hearing by the Assistant Headmaster. A parent or guardian is then contacted by phone and a follow-up letter is sent detailing the situation. The suspension may be as a disciplinary measure or as a prelude to expulsion or exclusion procedures. Students suspended for violent or assaultive behavior, for making threatening gestures or comments, for possessing or using a weapon, or for any reason or behavior determined by Administration and school support personnel to be a threat to the school setting will be referred for a risk assessment. Students referred for a risk assessment cannot return to school until the results have been reviewed and accepted by THS Administration and school support personnel and the student is deemed safe to return to school. Students suspended from school will be re-admitted after a meeting with the parent and administrator.

Students who have been suspended will be allowed to make up the work missed and, in most cases, will be allowed to obtain assignments from teachers prior to their day(s) of suspension. During the time of suspension, a student may not participate in team practices, games, and extra-curricular activities. Students must stay off school grounds while on out-of-school suspension or they are subject to arrest for trespassing.

The school administration may call for a conference with the parent and student at any time during the suspension. In all cases of suspension the student shall have the right of appeal to the next highest administrator in the high school. If the student is suspended by an Assistant Headmaster, the appeal would be to the Associate Headmaster, then to the Headmaster, then the Superintendent of Schools. Taunton High School will honor and finish carrying out any suspensions issued to students entering THS from another school or district if the student left the other school or district prior to the completion of the suspension term.

### **MCAS TUTORIAL/REMEDATION ROOM**

Underclassmen who face disciplinary action, including suspension, may be referred to the MCAS Tutorial/Remediation Room. This tutorial program serves as an alternative to out of school suspension. As part of the Academic Service Learning grant, students are provided with MCAS assistance and attention is paid to their Individual Student Success Plans. The MCAS Room is supervised by a tutor who works closely with the Assistant Headmasters to monitor student progress.

### **EXPULSION/EXCLUSION**

Expulsion from school can be for a prescribed length of time beyond the maximum term for suspension, for the remainder of the current school term, or on a permanent basis. The Headmaster can expel a student for the following offenses under the Massachusetts General Laws c. 71, s.37H, which state:

- a. Any student who is found on school premises or at a school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, in possession of a dangerous weapon, including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife; or a controlled substance as defined in M.G.L. c. 94C, including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.
- b. Any student who assaults a principal, assistant principal, teacher, teacher's aide, or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events, including athletic games, may be subject to expulsion from the school or school district by the principal.
- c. Any student who is charged in violation of either paragraph (a) or (b) shall be notified in writing of an opportunity for a hearing; provided, however, that the student may have representation, along with the opportunity to present evidence and witness at said hearing before the principal. After said hearing, a principal may, in his discretion, decide to suspend rather than expel a student who has been determined by the principal to have violated either paragraph (a) or (b).
- d. Any student who has been expelled from a school district pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent. The expelled student shall have ten days from the date of the expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of his appeal. The

student has the right to counsel at a hearing before the Superintendent. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of the school.

- e. When a student is expelled under the provisions of this section, no school or school district within the Commonwealth shall be required to admit such student or to provide educational services to said student. If said student does apply for admission to another school or school district, the Superintendent of the school district to which the application is made may request and shall receive from the Superintendent of the school expelling said student a written statement of the reasons for said expulsion.

**FELONY CHARGES M.G. L. Ch. 71, Section 37H½**

(1) Upon the issuance of a criminal complaint charging a student with a felony or upon the issuance of a felony delinquency complaint against a student, the Headmaster may suspend such student for a period of time determined appropriate upon determining that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and the reasons for such suspension prior to such suspension taking place. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such suspension; provided, however, that such suspension shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent set forth in section (3).

(2) Upon a student being convicted of a felony or upon an adjudication or admission in court of guilt with respect to such felony or felony delinquency, the Headmaster may expel said student upon determination that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. The student shall receive written notification of the charges and reasons for such expulsion prior to such expulsion taking place. The student shall also receive written notification of his right to appeal and the process for appealing such expulsion; provided, however, that the expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing conducted by the Superintendent set forth in section (3), below.

(3) The student shall have the right to appeal a suspension and/or expulsion decision made under sections (1) or (2), above, to the Superintendent. The student shall notify the



Superintendent in writing of his request for an appeal no later than five calendar days following the effective date of the suspension and/or expulsion. The Superintendent shall hold a hearing with the student and the student's parent or guardian within three calendar days of the student's request for an appeal of a suspension decision or within three calendar days of an expulsion. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony on his behalf, and shall have the right to counsel. The Superintendent shall have the authority to overturn or alter the decision of the Headmaster, including recommending an alternate educational program for the student. The Superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal within five calendar days of the hearing. Such decision shall be the final decision of Taunton Public Schools with regard to the suspension and/or expulsion. Upon expulsion of such student, no school or school district shall be required to provide educational services to such student. Students returning from Section 37H½ suspensions should bring authentic court documents proving adjudication to their re-entry meetings.

**M.G. L. Ch. 71, Section 37H 3/4**

(a) This section shall govern the suspension and expulsion of students enrolled in a public school in the commonwealth who are not charged with a violation of subsections (a) or (b) of section 37H or with a felony under section 37H ½.

(b) Any principal, headmaster, superintendent or other person acting as a decision-maker at a student meeting or hearing, when deciding the consequences for the student, shall exercise discretion; consider ways to re-engage the student in the learning process; and avoid using expulsion as a consequence until other remedies and consequences have been employed.

(c) For any suspension or expulsion under this section, the principal or headmaster of a school in which the student is enrolled, or a designee, shall provide, to the student and to the parent or guardian of the student, notice of the charges and the reason for the suspension or expulsion in English and in the primary language spoken in the home of the student. The student shall receive the written notification and shall have the opportunity to meet with the principal or headmaster, or a designee, to discuss the charges and reasons for the suspension or expulsion prior to the suspension or expulsion taking effect. The principal or headmaster, or a designee, shall ensure that the parent or guardian of the student is included in the meeting, provided that such meeting may take place without the parent or guardian only if the principal or headmaster, or a designee, can

document reasonable efforts to include the parent or guardian in that meeting. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations that address a principal's duties under this subsection and procedures for including parents in student exclusion meetings, hearings or interviews under this subsection.

(d) If a decision is made to suspend or expel the student after the meeting, the principal or headmaster, or a designee, shall update the notification for the suspension or expulsion to reflect the meeting with the student. If a student has been suspended or expelled for more than 10 school days for a single infraction or for more than 10 school days cumulatively for multiple infractions in any school year, the student and the parent or guardian of the student shall also receive, at the time of the suspension or expulsion decision, written notification of a right to appeal and the process for appealing the suspension or expulsion in English and in the primary language spoken in the home of the student; provided, however, that the suspension or expulsion shall remain in effect prior to any appeal hearing. The principal or headmaster or a designee shall notify the superintendent in writing, including, but not limited to, by electronic means, of any out-of-school suspension imposed on a student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 3 prior to such suspension taking effect. That notification shall describe the student's alleged misconduct and the reasons for suspending the student out-of-school. For the purposes of this section, the term "out-of-school suspension" shall mean a disciplinary action imposed by school officials to remove a student from participation in school activities for 1 day or more.

(e) A student who has been suspended or expelled from school for more than 10 school days for a single infraction or for more than 10 school days cumulatively for multiple infractions in any school year shall have the right to appeal the suspension or expulsion to the superintendent. The student or a parent or guardian of the student shall notify the superintendent in writing of a request for an appeal not later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension or expulsion; provided, that a student and a parent or guardian of the student may request, and if so requested, shall be granted an extension of up to 7 calendar days. The superintendent or a designee shall hold a hearing with the student and the parent or guardian of the student within 3 school days of the student's request for an appeal; provided that a student or a parent or guardian of the student may request and, if so requested, shall be granted an extension of up to 7 calendar days; provided further, that the superintendent, or a designee, may proceed with a hearing

without a parent or guardian of the student if the superintendent, or a designee, makes a good faith effort to include the parent or guardian. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present oral and written testimony, cross-examine witnesses and shall have the right to counsel. The superintendent shall render a decision on the appeal in writing within 5 calendar days of the hearing. That decision shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the suspension or expulsion.

(f) No student shall be suspended or expelled from a school or school district for a time period that exceeds 90 school days, beginning the first day the student is removed from an assigned school building.

#### **SUSPENSION OF STUDENTS WITH IEPs AND 504 PLANS**

The following are procedures required with respect to the suspension of students with disabilities:

1.) Any student may be suspended up to ten (10) days in any school year.

2.) After a student with special needs has been suspended for ten (10) days in any school year, during any subsequent removal the public school must provide sufficient services for the student to continue to receive a free and appropriate public education.

3.) The school must also provide the following procedural safeguards for students with disabilities prior to any suspension of more than ten (10) consecutive days or more than ten (10) cumulative days (if there is a pattern of suspension) within a school year:

A.) A suspension of longer than ten (10) consecutive days or a series of suspensions that are shorter than ten (10) consecutive days but constitute a pattern are considered to represent a change in placement.

B.) Prior to a suspension that constitutes a change in placement of a student with disabilities, district personnel, the parent, and other relevant members of the Team, as determined by the parent and the district, convene to review all relevant information in the student's file, including the IEP, any teacher observations, and any relevant information from the parents, to determine whether the behavior was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the disability or was the direct result of the district's failure to implement the IEP – "a manifestation determination".

C.) If district personnel, the parent, and other relevant members of the Team determine that the behavior is not a manifestation of the disability, then the district may suspend or

expel the student consistent with policies applied to any student without disabilities, except that the district must still offer:

1. services to enable the student, although in another setting, to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and to progress toward IEP goals; and

2. as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications, to address the behavior so that it does not recur.

D.) Regardless of the manifestation determination, the district may place the student in an interim alternative educational setting (as determined by the Team) for up to 45 school days.

1. on its own authority if the behavior involves weapons or illegal drugs or another controlled substance or the infliction of serious bodily injury on another person while at school or a school function or, considered case by case, unique circumstances; or

2. on the authority of a hearing officer if the officer orders the alternative placement after the district provides evidence that the student is "substantially likely to injure himself/herself or others."

In either case, the interim alternative educational setting enables the student to continue in the general curriculum and to continue receiving services identified on the IEP, and provides services to address the problem behavior.

E.) If district personnel, the parent, and other relevant members of the Team determine that the behavior is a manifestation of the disability, then the Team completes a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention plan if it has not already done so. If a behavioral intervention plan is already in place, the Team reviews it and modifies it, as necessary, to address the behavior. Except when he or she has been placed in an interim alternative educational setting as identified above, the student returns to the original placement unless the parents and district agree otherwise.

F.) Not later than the date of the decision to take disciplinary action, the school district notifies the parents of that decision and provides them with the written notice of procedural safeguards. If the parent chooses to appeal or the school district requests a hearing because it believes that maintaining the student's current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or others, the student remains in the disciplinary placement, if any, until the decision of the hearing officer or the end of the time period for the disciplinary action,

whichever comes first, unless the parent and the school district agree otherwise.

4.) There are also procedural requirements applied to students not yet determined to be eligible for special education including the following:

A.) If, prior to disciplinary action, a district has knowledge that the student may be a student with a disability, then the district makes all protections available to the student until and unless the student is subsequently determined not to be eligible. The district may be considered to have prior knowledge if:

1. the parent had expressed concern in writing; or
2. the parent had requested an evaluation; or
3. district staff expressed directly to the special education director or other supervisory personnel specific concerns about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the student.

The district may not be considered to have had prior knowledge if the parent has not consented to evaluation of the student or has refused special education services, or if an evaluation of the student has resulted in a determination of ineligibility.

B.) If the district had no reason to consider the student disabled, and the parent requests an evaluation subsequent to the disciplinary action, the district must have procedures consistent with federal requirements to conduct an expedited evaluation to determine eligibility.

C.) If the student is found eligible, then he/she receives all procedural protections subsequent to the finding of eligibility.

#### **VAPING/E-Cig/TOBACCO**

Student possession of any tobacco product, E-Cig or vape (Juuling) is in violation of school policy, as well as M.G.L. Tobacco and vape products will be confiscated and will not be returned. Smoking and chewing tobacco are prohibited on school property and on school buses. Students using, or in possession of a vape, e-cig or tobacco product may be subject to disciplinary action and/or suspension consistent with the drug use/or possession policy, as detailed in the Discipline Code on Page 11. Any student found to have set off the Fire Alarm, may be subject to police charges.

#### **ALCOHOL AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

The use, possession, or serving of any alcoholic beverages or controlled substances in school, on school grounds or at school sponsored activities is prohibited. Further, any person shall be barred from school or any school sponsored activity if he/she has

been drinking alcoholic beverages or using controlled substances prior to his/her attendance at, or participation in, said school sponsored activity. Violation of this policy will result in the immediate suspension of the student for a period of up to ten (10) school days with an exclusion hearing unless a harsher punishment is mandated by another provision of this discipline code. As a result of an exclusion hearing, a student suspension may be extended at the discretion of the Headmaster. Notwithstanding, any other provision of the discipline code to the contrary, students who have been disciplined for alcohol or substance abuse-related infractions are expected to participate in a substance abuse education program upon their return to school. The high school administration considers the student's willingness to cooperate in determining the length of suspension.

#### **STUDENT SEARCH POLICY**

Upon reasonable suspicion of a violation of the school's discipline code, school officials will exercise their right to conduct a search of a student and/or his/her belongings. The search will be reasonable in scope in light of the age and gender of the student and the nature of the infraction. This may include, but not be limited to, student vehicles, backpacks and lockers. It is the responsibility of the administration of the school to act swiftly on any circumstance which may pose a clear and present danger to the safety of the school community.

#### **LOCKERS**

Students may request a locker from their respective Assistant Headmaster. Students will be allowed to utilize lockers before school, between classes, and at the end of the school day. Students, if needed, should leave valuables in an Assistant Headmaster's office. Students should not bring significant amounts of money to school. The school is not responsible for loss or theft. Lockers may never be used for storing contraband items such as alcoholic beverages, stolen property, weapons, or controlled substances. Lockers are the property of the school department and, therefore, are subject to inspection by public school officials at any time to ensure that students are in compliance with these regulations. Master locker keys and records of locker combinations are retained by school officials. Many students opt for personal backpacks; they should not be too heavy, cumbersome, or used to store contraband. Backpacks are subject to search while on school grounds.

#### **METAL DETECTOR SEARCH POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to promote an effective educational environment and to ensure the safety of all students and school personnel within the City of Taunton. The policy is intended to encourage compliance with, and to identify those who fail to comply with school policy, local ordinances and state statutes regarding the carrying of dangerous weapons or objects on school property. The cooperation of all students and faculty is expected and school officials and the Taunton Police Department shall make every effort to implement the policy in a reasonable, orderly, and efficient manner. With or without prior notice, school officials may require students to pass through a metal detector. The metal detector may be set up or a hand-held metal detector may be used for the specific purpose of conducting a random search of the entire student body, or a search of one or more individual students. A metal detector may be temporarily or permanently installed at a school entrance or doorway. A metal detector may be used at any time during regular school hours or in conjunction with any school-sponsored event. If the metal detector indicates that the student has a metal object on his or her person, the student will then be requested to produce the object or to otherwise explain what has caused the device to detect a metal object. If the student fails or refuses to produce the object and/or explain what may have caused the device to detect the presence of a metal object, school officials or police officers may conduct a "pat-down" search of the student or compel the student to empty his or her pockets and/or remove outer clothing (jacket, sweatshirt, etc.). If a dangerous weapon or object, as defined by THS administration, a city ordinance, or a state statute is found, school officials and/or police officers will take appropriate action including, but not limited to, confiscation of the dangerous weapon or object and suspension, expulsion and/or criminal prosecution of the student.

#### **VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS**

THS utilizes internal and external video surveillance cameras with the purpose of promoting school safety and fostering a safe school environment as part of our security plan. Surveillance cameras will only be utilized in public areas of the school and campus where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy. Video recordings will be maintained for 30 days and may be used during the course of school investigations. Access to recordings shall be limited to school officials, district officials and law enforcement agencies as approved by the Superintendent of Schools (or designee). Recordings shall be subject to and

distributed in accordance with state and federal student record laws and public record laws and retained in accordance with standard record retention procedures and requirements. If necessary, retained recordings shall be forwarded to appropriate law enforcement agencies.

### **VANDALISM**

Taunton Public Schools and the Taunton School Committee recognizes that any acts of vandalism committed against public and private property are costly and require positive interventions through educational programs. Consequently, the committee will support various programs aimed at reducing the amount of vandalism in the school. Every citizen of the city, staff members, students, and members of the police department are urged by the School Committee to cooperate in reporting any incidents of vandalism to property under control of the school department, and the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible. Each employee will report to the Headmaster, or his designee, every incident of vandalism known to him and, if known, the names of those responsible. THS utilizes surveillance cameras which may assist in the process of identifying vandals.

The Superintendent, or his designee, and the Headmaster are both authorized to sign criminal complaints and to press charges against perpetrators of vandalism against school property, and are further authorized to delegate, as they see fit, authority to sign such complaints and to press charges.

After it has been determined that a student(s) is responsible for vandalism, the student(s) will be suspended out-of-school for a period of up to ten days. Parents and students will be made aware of the legal implications involved. Restitution will be sought for all or part of any damages.

### **HAZING**

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 269, Sections 17-19 define "hazing" to mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which will fully or recklessly endanger the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any school student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep rest or



extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action. The administration will conduct a thorough investigation of any alleged hazing incident. After it has been determined that hazing has taken place, the student(s) will be suspended out-of-school for a period up to ten days. The matter will be referred to the police department and the School Committee will be informed by the Superintendent.

#### **RESTRAINING ORDERS**

Any person affected by a restraining order (209A or 258E), issued by any Trial Court, must provide a copy of the order to their Assistant Headmaster and Guidance Counselor.

#### **IV. TPS BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION PLAN**

**As required by the provisions of M.G.L. c. 71 s 37O, relevant portions of the current District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, as of the date of this publication, are set forth below. Amendments to this law took effect on July 25, 2014. As a result of those amendments, the District will be updating its Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, and it will be posted on the school website when approved. A complete copy of the entire District Plan can be requested from the main office or found at [www.tauntonschools.org](http://www.tauntonschools.org).**

**Purpose:** The Philosophy of the Taunton Public Schools is to provide a safe educational environment for all students and members of the school community that is free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying. This provision is an integral part of our comprehensive effort to promote a safe, positive learning environment, and to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that could impede the learning process. The Taunton Public School District expects that all members of the school community will treat each other in a respectful manner.

**Definition:**

Bullying: is an intentional, repeated, and hurtful act used by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or a paraprofessional of written, verbal or electronic expression or physical act or gesture, or combination that results in an imbalance of power between the aggressor and the target. When these acts resulted in:

1. Causing physical or emotional harm to the victim or damage to the victim's property;
2. Placing the victim in reasonable fear of harm to him or herself or damage to his or her property;
3. Creating a hostile environment at school for the victim;
4. Infringing on the rights of a victim at school; or
5. Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process of the orderly operation of a school.

**Oversight of the Plan:**

The following identifies the school and the district leaders responsible for the planning and oversight of the Taunton Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. In order to assure that the district as well as schools are informed.

<b>Districtwide Bullying Prevention Team</b>
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<p><b>The Districtwide Bullying Prevention Team is made up of those staff members who volunteered to be trained by the MARC and now provide training to the staff in his/her building. These members would meet on a bi-annual basis with the Director of Personnel-Student services to report on programs, events, and activities being conducted within his/her building as well as be updated on revisions and changes to the law. The Team will also review and address how the Anti-Bullying Policy and Intervention Plan is being implemented within his/her building and address and provide guidance with specific Bullying issues. The Districtwide Bullying Prevention Team will meet in September and May and at any other time throughout the school when deemed necessary by the Superintendent and or Director of Personnel-Student Services.</b></p>
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<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>
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<p>Headmaster, Associate Headmaster, Assistant Headmasters Guidance Counselors, School Psychologist Adjustment Counselors, Resource Officers</p>
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**ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND SERVICES**

- A. Resources, Counseling and Other Services  
Guidance Counselors- responsible for academic, social/emotional, and future planning, Adjustment Counselor, School Psychologist, School Resource Officer, Access Center, and Community Counseling for Bristol Community
- B. On-line resources:

United States Department of Education:  
<http://www.stopbullying.gov>  
Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary  
Education: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/bullying>  
Bristol County Sheriff's Office: <http://www.bcsso-ma.us>  
Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center:  
<http://webhost.bridgew.edu/marc>  
Open Circle: <http://www.open-circle.org/resources/index.html>

C. Students with Disabilities

As required by M.G.L. c. 71B, section 3, as amended by Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010, when the IEP Team determines the student has a disability that affects social skills development that the student may participate in or is vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or teasing because of his/her disability, the Team will consider what should be included in the IEP to develop the student's skills and proficiencies to avoid and respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

D. Referral to Outside Services

When a referral to an outside agency i.e., Community Counseling of Bristol County Agency is appropriate, or when it is determined that outpatient counseling would benefit the target, aggressor, bystander, and or appropriate family members information regarding access to outside counselors can be obtained from the principal, Director of Personnel-Student Services, adjustment counselors, guidance counselors, school psychologists and the school nurse.

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO BULLYING AND RETALIATION**

**A. Reporting bullying or retaliation.**

Reports of bullying or retaliation may be made by staff, students, parents or guardians, anonymously or other and may be oral or written. Oral reports made by or to a staff member shall be recorded in writing. A school or district staff member is required to report immediately to the principal or assistant principal any instance of bullying or retaliation the staff member becomes aware of or witnesses. Reports made by students, parents or guardians or other individuals who are not school or district staff members, may be made anonymously. The Taunton Public School District will make a variety of reporting resources available to the school community including, but not limited to, the Harassment or Bullying Reporting Form, a voicemail box, a dedicated mailing address and an email address.

Use of the Harassment or Bullying Reporting Form is not required as a condition of making a report. The Taunton Public School District will:

- include a copy of the Harassment or Bullying Reporting Form in the beginning of the year packets for students and parents or guardians;
- make it available in the school's main office, the counseling office, the school nurse's office and other locations determined by the principal or designee; and
- post it on the school's website.

The Harassment or Bullying Reporting form will be made available in the most prevalent language(s) of origin of the student and parents or guardians.

1. Reporting by Staff:

A staff member will report immediately to the principal/headmaster and/or assistant principal or assistant headmaster when he/she witnesses or becomes aware of conduct that may be bullying or retaliation. The requirement to report to the principal or assistant principal does not limit the authority of the staff member to respond to behavioral or disciplinary incidents consistent with school or district policies and procedures for behavior management and discipline.

2. Reporting by Students, Parents or Guardians & Others:

The Taunton Public School District expects students, parents or guardians and others who witness or become aware of an instance of bullying or retaliation involving a student to report it to the principal or assistant principal. Reports may be made anonymously, but no disciplinary action will be taken against an alleged aggressor solely on the basis of an anonymous report. Students, parents or guardians and others may request assistance from a staff member to complete a written report. Students will be provided practical, safe, private and age-appropriate ways to report and discuss an incident of bullying with a staff member or with the principal or designee.

**B. Responding to a report of bullying or retaliation**

1. Safety

Before fully investigating the allegations of bullying or retaliation, the principal or assistant will take steps to assess the need to restore a sense of safety to the alleged target and/or to protect the alleged target from possible further incidents. Responses to promote safety may include, but not limited to, creating a personal safety plan; pre-determining seating arrangements for the target and/or the

aggressor in the classroom, at lunch or on the bus; identifying a staff member who will act as a “safe person” for the target; and altering the aggressor’s schedule and access to the target. The principal or designee will take additional steps to promote safety during the course of and after the investigation, as necessary.

The principal or designee will implement appropriate strategies for protecting from bullying or retaliation a student who has reported bullying or retaliation, a student who has witnessed bullying or retaliation, a student who provides information during an investigation or a student who has reliable information about a reported act of bullying or retaliation.

## **2. Obligations**

### **Notice to Parents or Guardians**

Upon determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor of this, and of the procedures for responding to it. There may be circumstances in which the principal or designee contacts parents or guardians prior to any investigation. Notice will be consistent with state regulations at 603 CMR 49.00.

### **Notice to School or District**

If the reported incident involves students from more than one school district, charter school, non-public school, approved private special education day or residential school or collaborative school, the principal or designee first informed of the incident will promptly notify, by telephone, the principal or designee of the other school(s) of the incident so that each school may take appropriate action. All communications will be in accordance with state and federal privacy laws and regulations and 603 CMR 49.00.

### **Notice to Law Enforcement**

At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, including after an investigation, if the principal or designee has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor, the principal will notify the local law enforcement agency. Notice will be consistent with the requirements of 603 CMB 49.00 and locally established agreements with the local law enforcement agency. Also, if an incident occurs on school grounds and involves a former student under the age of 21 who is no longer enrolled in school, the principal or designee shall contact the local law enforcement agency if he or she has a

reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor.

In making this determination, the principal will, consistent with the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and with applicable district policy and procedures, and consult with the Director of Personnel.

In contacting the Taunton Police Department principals or designee should contact the following TPD personnel:THS Resource Officers LaPlante or Peterson at (508) 821-1271 or Taunton Police Department at (508) 821-1471. Voice Mail Taunton Police Department at (508) 989-9048.

**C. Investigation**

The principal or designee will investigate promptly all reports of bullying or retaliation and, in doing so, will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of the students involved.

During the investigation the principal or designee will, among other things, interview students, staff, witnesses, parents or guardians and others as necessary. The principal or assistant principal will remind the alleged aggressor, target and witnesses that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

Interviews may be conducted by the principal or assistant principal, other staff members as determined by the principal or designee and in consultation with the school counselor, as appropriate. To the extent practicable, and given his/her obligation to investigate and address the matter, the principal or designee will maintain confidentiality during the investigative process. The principal or designee will maintain a written record of the investigation.

Procedures for investigating reports of bullying and retaliation will be consistent with the Taunton Public School District policies and procedures for investigations. If necessary, the principal or designee will consult with legal counsel about the investigation.

**D. Determinations**

The principal or designee will make a determination based upon all of the facts and circumstances. If, after investigation, bullying or retaliation is substantiated, the principal or designee will take steps reasonably calculated to prevent recurrence and to ensure that the target is not restricted in participating in school or in benefiting from school activities. The principal or designee will: 1) determine what remedial action is required, if any, and 2)

determine what responsive actions and/or disciplinary action is necessary.

Depending upon the circumstances, the principal or designee may choose to consult with the students' teacher(s) and/or school counselor and the target's or aggressor's parents or guardians, to identify any underlying social or emotional issue(s) that may have contributed to the bullying behavior and to assess the level of need for additional social skills development.

The principal or designee will promptly notify the parents or guardians of the target and the aggressor about the results of the investigation and, if bullying or retaliation is found, what action is being taken to prevent further acts of bullying or retaliation. All notice to parents must comply with applicable state and federal privacy laws and regulations. Because of the legal requirements regarding the confidentiality of student records, the principal or designees cannot report specific information to the target's parent or guardian about the disciplinary action taken unless it involves a "stay away" order or other directive that the target must be aware of in order to report violations.

#### **E. Responses to Bullying**

##### **1. Teacher Appropriate Behavior Through Skills-building:**

Upon the principal or designee determining that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the law requires that the Taunton Public School District use a range of responses that balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior. M.G.L. c. 71, section 370 (d)(v). Skill-building approaches that the principal or designee may consider include:

- Offering individualized skill-building sessions based on the school's/district's anti-bullying curricula;
- Providing relevant educational activities for individual students or groups of students, in consultation with guidance counselors and other appropriate school personnel;
- Implementing a range of academic and nonacademic positive behavioral supports to help students understand pro-social ways to achieve their goals;
- Meeting with parents and guardians to engage parental support and to reinforce the anti-bullying curricula and social skills building activities at home;
- Adopting behavioral plans to include a focus on developing specific social skills; and
- Making a referral for evaluation.

2. Taking Disciplinary Action:

If the principal or designee decides that disciplinary action is appropriate, the disciplinary action will be determined. On the basis of facts found by the principal or designee, including the nature of the conduct, the age of the student(s) involved, and the need to balance accountability with the teaching of appropriate behavior. Discipline will be consistent with the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and with the school's or district's code of conduct.

If the principal or designee determines that a student knowingly made a false allegation of bullying or retaliation, that student may be subject to disciplinary action.

3. Promoting Safety for the Target and Other:

The principal or designee will consider what adjustments, if any, are needed in the school environment to enhance the target's sense of safety and that of others as well. One strategy that the principal or designee may use is to increase adult supervision at transition times and in locations where bullying is known to have occurred or is likely to occur.

Within a reasonable period of time following the determination and the ordering of remedial and/or disciplinary action, the principal or designee will contact the target to determine whether there has been a recurrence of the prohibited conduct and whether additional supportive measures are needed. If so, the principal or designee will work with appropriate school staff to implement them immediately.

**F. Collaboration With Families:**

1. Parent Education and Resources:

The Taunton Public Schools will offer yearly parent and community forums that are focused on the parental components of the anti-bullying curricula and any social competency curricula used by the Taunton Public Schools.

2. Notification Requirements:

Each year, the Taunton Public Schools will inform parents or guardians of enrolled students about the anti-bullying curricula being used. This notice will include information about the dynamics of bullying, including cyberbullying and online safety. All notices and information made available to parents and guardians will be in hard copy and electronic formats. Taunton Public Schools will post the policy and all related information on its website.

**G. Prohibition Against Bullying and Retaliation:**

Acts of bullying, which include cyberbullying, are prohibited:



1. On school grounds and property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school-sponsored or school related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds, at a school bus stop, on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased, or used by the Taunton Public School; or through the use of technology of an electronic device owned, leased, or used by the school district or school, and

2. At a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the school district or school, if the acts creates a hostile environment at school for the target or witness, infringe on their rights at school, or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying is also prohibited. As stated in the M.G.L. c. 71, section 370, nothing in this plan requires the Taunton Public Schools to staff any non-school related activities, functions or programs.

#### **H. Definitions:**

**Aggressor:** individual(s) who engage(s) in bullying, cyberbullying or retaliation

**Bullying:** is an intentional, repeated, and hurtful act used by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or a paraprofessional of written, verbal or electronic expression or physical act or gesture, or combination that results in an imbalance of power between the aggressor and the target. When these acts resulted in:

- Causes physical or emotional harm or damage to his/her property;
- Places a target in reasonable fear of harm or of damage to his/her property;
- Creates an unwelcoming or hostile environment at school for another person
- Infringes on the rights of another person at school, or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a school.

**Cyberbullying** is bullying through the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers and the internet. It includes, but is not limited to,

email, instant messages, text messages and Internet postings. See M.G.L., c. 71, section 370 for legal definition of cyberbullying.

**Hostile environment** as defined in M.G.L., c. 71, section 370, is a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of a student's education.

**Retaliation** is any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

**Staff** includes, but not limited to, educators, administrators, counselors, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors or extracurricular activities, support staff, or paraprofessionals.

**Target** is a student against whom bullying, cyberbullying or retaliation has been perpetrated.

In addition, nothing in the Anti-Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan or Policy is designed or intended to limit the authority of the Taunton Public Schools to take disciplinary action or other action under M.G.L., c. 71, section 37H or 37H ½. Other applicable laws, or local school or district policies in response to violent, harmful or disruptive behavior, regardless of whether the Anti-Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan or Policy covers the behavior.

#### **V. STUDENT & STAFF INFORMATION**

#### **DISCRIMINATION POLICY, GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE AND TITLE IX AND 504 COORDINATOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 76 s. 5 and policy of the Taunton Public Schools.

The Taunton School System has an obligation to prevent discrimination and sexual harassment in the schools by employees, non-employees, and students. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Forms of discrimination and sexual harassment include, but are not limited to the following: **Verbal Harassment** For example – suggestive or insulting comments, whistling, jokes or slurs, discussion of one's protected status, sexual activities and/or sexual orientation. **Visual Harassment** For example –

discriminatory, derogatory, offensive posters, cards, cartoons, graffiti, drawings, sexual gestures and leering. **Physical Harassment** For example – unnecessary or offensive touching and obstruction of an individual's movement. Most physical forms of harassment are also considered assaultive behaviors.

Any student, school employee, parent or interested party who believes that he/she has been subjected to or has witnessed an incident of discrimination or sexual harassment, denied a benefit or excluded from participation in any educational program or activity on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender equity or disability, may file a grievance using the following procedure:

**Step 1 (Headmaster/Supervisor):** The student, employee, parent or other interested party should verbally report the allegation to the Headmaster (if the grievant is a student) or to the immediate supervisor (if the grievant is an employee) within twenty (20) days of when the student or employee knew or should have known of the incident. Once an allegation has been reported, the Headmaster/Supervisor will conduct an investigation of the incident. Due to the investigation process, the student cannot be given an absolute promise of confidentiality. The investigation may include interviews of the student who has reported the allegation, the alleged perpetrator to determine his/her response to, the allegation and any additional witnesses to gain a clearer understanding of the event under investigation.

After completing the investigation, and within five (5) days of receiving the report of the incident, the Headmaster/Supervisor will render a verbal decision and notify the involved parties of the action taken. When a student is found to be responsible for sexual harassment, the administrator will utilize progressive discipline consistent with school system policies and procedures including but not limited to detention, suspension, expulsion, counseling referral and peer mediation.

**Step 2 (Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator):** If the student or employee is not satisfied with the verbal response issued under Step 1, then within five (5) days after receiving the verbal response, he or she shall put the complaint in writing, sign it personally, and submit it to the Title IX Coordinator (for incidents of discrimination) and/or the Section 504 Coordinator (for incidents of violations of Section 504) identified below. The written complaint shall name the student or employee involved, state the facts giving rise to the incident, identify the specific provisions of Title IX or Section 504 alleged to be violated and set forth the specific relief requested. Within five (5) days after

receiving the written complaint the Title IX or Section 504 Coordinator shall issue a written response.

Step 3 (Superintendent): If the student or employee is not satisfied with the written response issued under Step 2, then within five (5) days of receiving the written response, he or she may appeal to the Superintendent by filing a copy of the written complaint and the written response from Step 2, and any written response of the student or employee to the Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator's written response in Step 2. The Superintendent shall hear the appeal within ten (10) days after receipt, and shall render a written decision within ten (10) days of the hearing, which shall be provided to the student or employee. The student or employee shall have the right to be represented by counsel at the hearing, and shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the facts and to the issues related to the incident. The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the Taunton Public Schools.

Timelines: References to "days" shall be school days for student-filed incidents or working days for employee-filed incidents. Failure of a student or employee to meet any timelines for which he or she must act shall preclude him or her from proceeding with the grievance. Failure by Taunton Public Schools to meet any timelines for which it must act shall allow the student or employee to immediately proceed to the next step. Any timelines may be extended in writing by both parties.

Retaliation against an individual filing claims of discrimination or sexual harassment and/or retaliation against individuals for cooperating in an investigation of alleged discrimination or sexual harassment are unlawful and will not be tolerated.

Title IX Coordinator: For all inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX for activities relating to insuring nondiscrimination in the admission and treatment of students, curriculum or discrimination in employment policies and practices contact Kathy Perry, Director of Transportation & Student Services, 215 Harris Street, Taunton, MA 02780 at 508-821-1215.

Section 504 Coordinator: For all inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504, contact Ms. Judy Mulrooney, Director of Special Education, 50 Williams Street, Taunton, MA 02780 at 508-821-1210

#### **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT (IDEA)**

Under M. G. L. c. 71B, children with disabilities will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. Questions about special education

should be directed to your guidance counselor or to Ms. Judy Mulrooney, Director of Special Education at (508) 821-1210.

#### **ACCESS CENTER**

The Access Center, staffed by a coordinator, provides a range of services including information on topics relevant to teens, grief counseling, crisis intervention, and on-going therapeutic services. These services are offered at the school in cooperation with local human service agencies. The Access Center is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor across from the Library near B-House.

#### **PEER MEDIATION**

This program attempts to resolve conflicts peacefully before violence occurs. It is voluntary. Mediators are students who are neutral, impartial, and trained in mediation skills. Mediation sessions are confidential. Peer Mediation is strongly encouraged as a first option for resolution when a conflict arises but is also a useful intervention after a suspension has occurred. (The Peer Mediation program will remain as long as there is funding.)

#### **FIELD TRIP INFORMATION**

Students on a field trip are responsible to adhere to THS rules of conduct as described in the student handbook. Students are also required to make up the work missed while they were on a field trip. Assistant Headmasters and teachers will check student status prior to field trips to determine student eligibility. Students who in violation of the Attendance Policy or who are failing any class will not be allowed to go on field trips. Students must have parental permission to attend a field trip. Taunton School Committee policy states that no child will be denied access to a school sponsored academic field trip due to financial reasons. To request full or partial waiving of any academic field trip fee, a parent may complete and submit the *Field Trip Fee Waiver Request* form to the Headmaster.

#### **RESTROOMS**

Students should use the restroom in the house in which his/her class meets. During lunch, students may use the 2nd floor auditorium restrooms subject to regulation by security staff.

#### **STUDENT USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

Students who find it necessary to drive to school must register their cars with their Assistant Headmaster and receive a parking

sticker. Students must sign a statement indicating that they have been given a copy of school driving and parking regulations, that they fully understand these regulations, and that they will abide by them. The privilege may be revoked if a violation of the attendance or tardy policy occurs or if the student is in violation of any of the driving/parking regulations. Student eligibility for extra-curricular activities may be placed under review as well. All vehicles should be locked. THS is not responsible for damages or theft to any vehicle parked on school property. Students should be aware that THS does utilize surveillance cameras to monitor the parking lots.

### **VISITORS**

All visitors must enter THS through the main entrance, sign in at the Main Office, show a valid ID, and wear a visitor's pass throughout their stay. Visitors cannot report to any area of the building without signing in at the Security Booth. Visitors who have not signed in, or who exhibit inappropriate behavior, may be asked to leave the campus by Security. Visitors wishing to see former staff members must do so after 2pm.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

THS administration is not responsible for lost or stolen items, although all articles found will be held in the Main Office. Students should report there for help in finding lost articles.

### **FIRE DRILL AND SAFETY REGULATIONS**

If an alarm sounds, all students must move quickly and in an orderly fashion to the nearest exit as directed by staff. They must gather outside with their respective teacher for attendance purposes. No one will be allowed back into the building until an "ALL CLEAR" announcement is made. All students must follow teacher directions with regards to fire drills/safety regulations. Helium balloons are strongly discouraged. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### **EVACUATION PROCEDURES AND RALLY POINTS**

When an evacuation of the building is warranted, students must leave the building with their teacher in a calm and controlled manner and report to their teachers outside for attendance. If an "ALL CLEAR" call is given, students may report back to their classrooms. If the building has to remain evacuated, **students and staff** must report alphabetically to their designated Rally Points as follow for attendance and dismissal procedures:

<u>Students</u>	<u>Administrator</u>	<u>Location</u>
-----------------	----------------------	-----------------

A-Da	Mr. Bertrand	Varsity Baseball Field
De-K	Mr. Lefaivre	Tennis Courts
L-Pom	Mrs. Pereira	Varsity Softball Field
Pon-Z	Mr. Pomfret	Football Field
<u>Inclement Weather</u>		
A-Da	Mr. Bertrand	E. Pole Cafe
De-K	Mr. Lefaivre	Skating Rink
L-Pom	Mrs. Pereira	Armory
Pon-Z	Mr. Pomfret	E. Pole Gym

### **SCHOOL DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to dress appropriately in a school setting. Students who meet this expectation assist in creating an environment that is conducive to learning, and develop appropriate judgments that will assist them in moving from school to a variety of work environments. All clothing should be appropriate with regard to health and safety factors. Students should adhere to the following:

- Tops should be one inch wide at the shoulders.
- Tops must extend over the pants, shorts, skirts etc.
- Shorts and skirts should be at least mid-thigh, and fit comfortably.

The following items of clothing are not to be worn at THS: shirts or accessories that depict or promote vulgarities, weapons, drug usage or paraphernalia; pajamas; visible undergarments/tank tops; or slippers. In addition, clothing that causes a disruption or is offensive in nature will not be permitted. If a student's appearance disrupts the educational process, that student will be expected to change or cover their clothing. Students may not wear or carry hats, bandannas, headbands, hairpicks, other head gear, chains, etc. unless otherwise approved by the high school Administration. This is necessary due to students holding hats, and then putting them back on when not in the presence of a faculty member. When requested to do so, students should immediately hand over items not allowed in school to any faculty member. Refusal to turn over items not allowed in the school will be deemed insubordination and subject to disciplinary action. Parents may be called upon to pick up items, or to assist with clothing changes for students. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. Fads and styles change quickly and require the judgment of the school administration and staff in the areas of health, safety and disruptions to the educational process.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

Students will be held accountable for all textbooks. Textbooks must be covered. The student handbook is a textbook and should be carried at all times. Students must pay for lost, stolen, or damaged textbooks. Saturday detention will be assigned to students who do not return textbooks and their eligibility for extra-curricular activities and graduation may be placed under review.

#### **TELEPHONES, PERSONAL CELLULAR PHONES and ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Students may use the telephone in their respective Assistant Headmaster's office during their lunch period after receiving permission. Students cannot use cellular phones during the school day in class without permission from their teacher. Cell phones must be turned OFF and not visible. This is necessary due to cell phone activity during class causing a disruption to the educational process. Students found to be using their cell phone in violation of this section (ex. texting, recording, pictures) will be subject to confiscation of the cell phone (with return to parent) and/or disciplinary action, including suspension from school for insubordination. The THS administration, which does not recommend students having cell phones in school, is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones or electronic devices.

#### **LUNCH**

Students may bring their lunch/breakfast from home or purchase their meal in the cafeteria. Students can pre-pay for meals on-line through the TPS website or they can submit a check, made out to Taunton Food Services, to the cashier when they purchase their meal. The menus are posted in the cafeteria and on the TPS website.

The cost for breakfast is \$.80/\$.30 and lunch is \$2.00/\$.40. Students cannot charge breakfast. All students are encouraged to apply for meal benefits and applications are available in the guidance office and the Food Service office. Students eligible last year must reapply during the first three weeks of school to ensure the continuance of benefits.

If a student forgets his lunch or money, a meal will be provided. Students will be given an alternate lunch once they have charged their limit of 5 meals. No student may purchase ala carte items if they owe money to Foods Services. All charges must be paid back by the end of the year.

Students can only eat during their assigned lunch, and should be orderly and considerate when purchasing their meals and disposing of all waste material. **Absolutely NO FOOD OR**



**DRINK is to be taken out of the cafeteria.** Students who do not behave appropriately may be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **DANCE/PROM REGULATIONS**

- Dances are for THS students only. (Proms may have approved guests).
- Dances/Proms may begin at 6:00p.m. and must end no later than 10:00 p.m.
- Tickets are non-transferrable. **In emergency circumstances only**, an appeal to transfer tickets may be made first to the Class Advisor, and then if needed, to HS Administration. Tickets unable to be used may be subject to refund if prior notice is given at least 48 hours to the dance/Prom.
- No tickets will be sold at the door the night of the dance/Prom.
- Prom guests must be under the age of 21 (except upon prior approval of the Headmaster, for enrolled students and guests). and can only attend if they are accompanied by a current THS student from that class and have been approved by the advisors.
- The approval of the administration is required before any organization may sponsor a dance.
- The organization sponsoring the dance is responsible for hiring a police officer and firefighter for that event. A *Use of Facilities* form must be filled out by the sponsoring organization at least four weeks prior to the event.
- One administrator and at least six other chaperones must be in attendance at any dance or it will be canceled.
- Students must behave accordingly. Any student whose behavior is disruptive or poses a possible threat to those around him or her may be denied entry or asked to leave.
- Students will not be admitted to any dance or prom after 7:30p.m. Students are not allowed to leave and return unless accompanied by a chaperone.
- In order to attend, all students must have proper paperwork filled out and must have parental permission and signed consent forms regarding the breathalyzer examination (to be administered prior to entrance into dance/proms).
- Students having major disciplinary actions resulting in suspension(s), after review, may not be allowed to attend dances and/or proms.
- Students will have their personal belongings searched upon entry to dances/proms.

- Students must be marked present (consistent with Attendance Policy/Dismissals as listed on page 12 and Athletic Eligibility as listed on page 48) in order to attend dances/Proms.

### **LIBRARY**

The library is open to students for reading, study, research, computer use, and book borrowing from 7:15a.m. until 3:30p.m. daily. During the school day, individual students must have a pass from the teacher whose work they are doing. Students who want to use the library instead of going to lunch must have a pass signed by the teacher.

Unless coming as an entire class, students **must sign in** at the circulation desk as they enter the library. Students in the library must adhere to the general rules of conduct.

Students must pay for lost books and return overdue volumes before borrowing additional books. Students may be assigned a Saturday detention if books are not returned. Additionally, student eligibility for extra-curricular activities and graduation may be placed under review.

### **RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION TO MILITARY/COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY RECRUITERS**

Under the federal “No Child Left Behind” Act, public high schools must give the names, addresses and telephone numbers of students to the U.S. military and college/university recruiters if the recruiters request the information. However, students or their parents have the right to instruct the school in writing that this information is **not** to be released to either the military or colleges or both. An opt out letter is sent home to all students every Fall and needs to be signed by parents and returned to THS.

### **INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND ASSOCIATED ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

Students should review the district’s Internet Acceptable Use Policy and Associated Administrative Procedures, a copy of which can be found on the Taunton Public Schools website at [www.tauntonschools.org](http://www.tauntonschools.org). A paper copy of this Policy and Associated Administrative Procedures can also be obtained from your Assistant Headmaster or at the THS Main Office.

## **VI. SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION**

Any student in regular attendance in Taunton Public Schools may receive transportation at the expense of the city if such student resides at or beyond a distance of two (2) miles.

Any student may be required to walk one (1) mile to a bus stop. The School Committee and school personnel share with students and parents the responsibility for student safety during transportation to and from school. Buses are not expected to operate over improperly maintained roads, private lanes leading to a residency or into limited access roads which do not have adequate turnarounds for school buses. Also, transportation does not mean door-to-door pickup and drop-off. The conduct expected of students on the school bus is the same as that expected in the classroom. Any conduct which might distract the driver and interfere with safe driving practices is prohibited. Such conduct will be reported by the bus driver and the offending student will be subject to disciplinary action. To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on the school bus endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the Taunton School Committee. "Be aware of the fact that the general laws give to school and parents/guardians joint jurisdiction over students on their way to and from school." The school day begins when the student leaves the home and it ends when they return. The student comes under the jurisdiction of the school administration during this entire period. The authority for enforcing school committee requirements of student conduct will rest with the headmaster. The following disciplinary action may result for bus infractions:

- |                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| • First Offense  | Warning                        |
| • Second Offense | Three day suspension from bus  |
| • Third Offense  | One week suspension from bus   |
| • Fourth Offense | Thirty day suspension from bus |
- Students desiring to ride a bus other than their regularly assigned bus must bring written permission from a parent or guardian on that day and have it signed by an administrator.

## VII. STUDENT HEALTH ISSUES

**Taunton High School Nurses can be reached by calling 508-821-1154.**

### **HEALTH SERVICES / SCHOOL NURSE**

The following is a list of services provided by the Taunton Public School nurses that is mandated by the Massachusetts

Department of Public Health (MDPH) in conjunction with the Massachusetts Board of Nursing regulations.

#### **Annual Health Card**

Yearly the school nurse sends home an Annual Health Update Card in order to update important information about a student's medical needs. All information is kept confidential.

Parents/guardians are asked to **complete this card each year** so the nurse has the most up to date medical information.

Please notify the school nurse if there is any change to the home, work, cell, or other emergency contact information.

Please, **fill in your insurance information** on the Annual Health Update card. If you are in need of health insurance, please contact the school nurse. The school nurse can provide you with further information regarding the application as mandated under the Massachusetts Health Reform Law.

#### **Exclusions and Extended Absences**

The school nurse is required to exclude a child from school under certain circumstances. These include a **failure by the family to provide the required documentation of immunizations**, failure to provide a doctor's certificate upon return after an **absence of five or more days**, or the confirmation that a child has a highly contagious disease.

Extended Absences: Parents must provide a doctor's certificate any time the child is absent for five (5) consecutive school days. This certificate should include the reason for the child's extended absence, if not in violation of confidentiality. This information helps the nurse to properly monitor the child's health and well-being in the days following an injury or extended illness.

#### **Medications**

Whenever possible, medications should be scheduled at times other than school hours. A parent/guardian or responsible adult, designated by the parent, must deliver all medications to the school nurse. A student may not carry medication in their back pack, or on their person or self-administer medication without the authorization of their physician, school nurse, and parent. All prescription and non-prescription (over the counter) medications must have written authorization from the physician and parent (medication orders sent by fax are acceptable). Short-term prescription medication (less than 10 days), such as antibiotics, may be given without written authorization from a physician. However, the school nurse may require a written medical orders anytime there are concerns or questions about the medication.

Prescription medication needs to be brought to the school nurse in a pharmacy-labeled container. Non-prescription (over the counter) medication must be brought to the school nurse in a manufacturer's labeled container. All prescription and non-prescription medication container labels must include the name of the medication, expiration date, and the dosage. Baggies and unlabeled containers are not acceptable. At any time a nurse can require additional information about a medication from the doctor or pharmacist before she will administer the medication.

### **Field Trips**

Taunton Public Schools has registered with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the school nurse to train school personnel to administer epinephrine to students. The school nurse must have a completed physician's order and parental permission for the student.

### **Illness/ Injuries**

The school nurse will notify the parent/guardian when any significant injury takes place. In cases of reported illness, the nurse will assess the student and make a determination as to whether or not the child is able to remain in school. A **fever above 100 degrees**, vomiting or diarrhea usually requires that a **child be sent home**. Please contact the school nurse if your child is diagnosed with a communicable illness.

### **Immunizations**

Massachusetts law and Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations require that children be **immunized against several diseases before they enter school and also at different ages during their school years**. The parent/guardian must provide documentation of the required immunizations to the school nurse. These regulations may change every few years as new vaccines become available. The school nurse will contact the parent/guardian if additional information is needed.

### **Physical Exams**

Students are required to have documentation of a physical exam prior to entry into 11th grade. This form should be dated within 12 months of entry.

### **Medical Screenings at School**

Screenings are designed to detect conditions as early as possible so as to not hinder a student's scholastic performance. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulations

require schools to conduct vision and hearing screenings in 9th grade. Scoliosis screening and a confidential interview based screening (SBIRT) will be conducted with 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to assess for substance abuse issues. The height and weight of students in grade 10 will also be done. Parents will be notified if a follow-up with a health professional is recommended. The screenings performed by at the school nurse are not meant to replace routine or diagnostic procedures and testing done by your family physician. Parents should notify the school nurse at the beginning of each school year if they do not want their child to participate in any health related screenings.

#### **Medical Support Services for Families**

Parents are encouraged to have their child's health care provided by their own physician. However, when that is not possible, there is a School-Based Health Center available to the community that offers most medical services for children. Appointments are required and can be made using the following information: School Based Health Center, Friedman Middle School, 500 Norton Ave. (1-508-821-5779)

### **VIII. STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND CLUBS**

#### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The THS Student Council was established to meet the following goals: to create a higher quality of school spirit, to encourage wider participation of students in school activities, and to aid in the solution of school problems through closer cooperation between the student body and the faculty to improve the general welfare of the school. Students may apply for membership in the Student Council in September and in May. The Council is comprised of officers and representatives from all classes, reflective of student beliefs, cultures, and diversity of the student body. Potential candidates for Student Council must meet academic requirements, must have an exemplary record of conduct and attendance, and must complete the entire application packet, inclusive of 4 teacher recommendations. Non-compliance will result in automatic suspension from the Student Council for the remainder of the school year. The member may be reinstated when he/she has re-attained these standards, only through the consent of the Advisor.

#### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ADVISORS:**

STUDENT COUNCIL	Dave Purpura & Caitlin Dermody
SENIOR CLASS	Amanda Machado & Jordan Valois

JUNIOR CLASS	Cassandra	L'Esperance,	Bill
McGarrigle			
SOPHOMORE CLASS	Kristen Bellavance & Alissa Murfitt		
FRESHMAN CLASS	Kait Lovering & Chris Sullivan		
8 <sup>th</sup> GRADE CLASS	Melissa Grimes & Michael Fox		

### **TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS AND ADVISORS**

Academic Challenge	TBA
AFJROTC Drill Team	David LaPlant
African American Club	Gloria Palmer
Animal Care Club	Shira Marcure
Art Club	Danielle Magivney
Aviation Club	David Anderson
Color Guard	Lorrie Hassan
Comic Character Club	John Collins
Communications Club	Steve Jacques
Craft/Knit Wits Club	S. Marcure & T
Brainsky	
Creative Writing Club	Nicholas Androski
Culinary Club	Sarah Gibson
Design Club	C. Kimber & K. Sullivan
Disney Club	Daniel Rivera, Jr.
Distributive Education Clubs of America	Jesse MacPhail
Dr. Who Club	Steve Kilpatrick
Drama Club	Aly Golder
Fellowship of Christian Students	Daniel Rivera, Jr.
French Club	Sandra Oliveira
Friends of the Library Book Club	Sharon Dorian
Garden Club	Heather Sanborn
Gender Sexuality Alliance	M. Grimes & S. Doherty
Green Earth Alliance	Alyssa Murfitt
Guitar Club	Amandio Silveira
Interact Club	Debbie Logan
International Club	Y. Portela & M. Barros
Jazz Band	Dan McKenzie
Judo Club	James Quaintance
Key Club	Melissa Hastings
Latin Club	Jessica Charlesworth
Math Team	T. Menard & A. Murphy
THS Outing Club	M. Gates & A. Murfitt
Mentors in Violence Prevention	Sue Silva
Model UN Club	Pete Gillen
National Honor Society	Jenifer Andrews
Peer Assistance Leaders (PALS)	M. Shaw & G. Gay
Poetry Club	Alyson Silveira

Portuguese Club	Brianna Medeiros
Skills USA	Sarah Gibson
Spanish Club	Anthony Gottlich
Students Against Destructive Decisions	William McGarrigle
Taunton Dance Club	Tara Correia
Tauntonian & As You Like It	J.Ferreira & M. Bourque
Technology Club	James Quaintance
Ted Talk Club	MacPhail & McGarrigle
Tenacity Team	W. McGarrigle
THS Game Club	Keith McClay
Travelling Classroom	Jamie Prevost
Yearbook	M. Peach/C. Bartel
Youth & Government	C. Barriga & D. Houlker

No student will be denied an opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities due to race, color, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, homeless status or national origin. Students must meet academic requirements, attendance requirements and adherence to the discipline code to maintain extracurricular activity eligibility.

## **IX. ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT**

Mark Ottavianelli, Athletic Director 821-1150

Taunton High School encourages the participation of all students in our Athletic Department, in accordance with the T.H.S. student handbook given to each student at the start of the school year. The Athletic Program is committed to the total physical, emotional, and social development of its participants. The program is an extension of the values and ideals of our school and aims to promote the development of a *connected student*. Taunton High athletes should take pride in themselves and in their team, school, and community while learning to work together to achieve common goals. Every athlete should enjoy the experience of being a team member. Tryouts for the athletic program are open to all students, provided they meet the standards of academic eligibility and physical/health qualifications. Participation in our program is a privilege granted to students who meet and maintain these standards.

All student-athletes must have an up to date physical on file with the athletic office before any tryout. **A physical is valid for 13 months from the date it was conducted.** A student becomes ineligible to participate when the physical expires.

Each student athlete is required to pay an athletic fee of \$150 for the academic year. The fee is in no way designed to exclude



students from participating in the Athletic program. Exemptions from the fee may be granted by the Athletic Director. All such requests will remain confidential.

### **TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS**

#### **Fall Sports**

Football	Field Hockey	Girls Volleyball
Boys/Girls Soccer		Golf (Co-Ed)
Boys/Girls Cross Country		Cheerleading

#### **Winter Sports**

Boys/Girls Basketball		Wrestling
Ice Hockey	Gymnastics	Boys/Girls Swimming
Cheerleading		Boys/Girls Indoor Track

#### **Spring Sports**

Baseball	Boys/Girls Tennis
Boys Volleyball	Boys/Girls Outdoor Track
Softball	Boys/Girls Lacrosse

### **TAUNTON HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY RULES**

A student-athlete is eligible in the fall sports season if they have attained twenty-five credits in the previous academic year. All student-athletes must attain the equivalent of fifteen credits each marking period. All fees, lost texts, etc. impact eligibility.

In order to participate in a team activity, student athletes must be present in school on that specific day. They must adhere to attendance policies as defined in the student handbook on pages 9-12. Teachers may fill out *blue forms* for academic concerns. Students must arrive to school before 8:15 a.m. and may not be dismissed before 11:15 a.m. in order to participate in a team sponsored activity on that day.

### **Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association -**

#### **M.I.A.A.**

Eligibility rule violations may result in forfeiture of a game won. If there is any doubt concerning your eligibility, consult the athletic director. The M.I.A.A. Standing Committee on Athletics will resolve all questions on eligibility.

- If you are 19 years old before September 1, you are no longer eligible. A student is eligible for no more than eight consecutive semesters beyond grade eight.
- A student who transfers from one high school to another high school is ineligible for participation for a period of one year from the date of transfer, unless the conditions of and reasons for the transfer satisfy one of the

exceptions listed in Rule 2, Section 3. Some exceptions require MIAA approval before participation.

- The eligibility of all pupils shall be considered official only on the date when the report cards for that marking period have been issued to the parents of all the pupils.
- A participant ruled out of a game twice in the same season for flagrantly unsportsmanlike conduct shall be ineligible for further participation in that sport season for one year.
- The eligibility rules apply to both boys' and girls' interscholastic sports at all levels. (See THS Athletic Handbook).
- MIAA Alcohol and Drug Policy mandates that from the first allowable day of practice, through the end of the academic year, or final athletic competition of the year, whichever is later, any student found to be in violation of this policy will be penalized according to MIAA rules. (See THS Athletic Handbook).

**A CONNECTED STUDENT IS A  
BETTER STUDENT!**

