



# OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

August/September 2009

#### Administration

David Uminski, Principal  
Greg Smith, Assistant Principal  
Brian Sargent, Dean of Students

#### Main Office Staff

Gin Koski, Registrar  
Pegi Deshayes, Administrative Assistant  
Inga Morin, Administrative Assistant

**FIRST DAY  
MONDAY,  
AUGUST 31  
7:30 AM**

#### **FRESHMEN PARENT/STUDENT ORIENTATION NIGHT**

A new event this year will be a freshmen parent/student orientation night on **Thursday, August 27 6:30-8 pm.** Freshmen students will receive their class schedule and will participate in introductory activities with the Student Council including a scavenger hunt, locker opening, and ice breakers. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions to administrators, sophomores, and possibly some teachers and guidance counselors. Students and parents will also have the opportunity to explore the school.

### **PRINCIPAL'S NEWS**

We will face new challenges this year due to budget constraints. We are limited in the number of courses we can offer and more importantly the flexibility of our master schedule. We have made significant cuts in our social studies, foreign language, and special education departments. We are also offering fewer courses in our math, English and art departments. The role of the dean of students has been reduced and department coordinators have been eliminated.

However, our goal this year is to continue to provide all students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to ensure that they are prepared for success in whatever they choose to do after leaving Oakmont, whether it's continued academic study, employment, or military service. We believe that our focus must be on the changing needs of our economy and society and that our curriculum needs to continually evolve in response to the challenges of the future. In particular we're concerned about helping our students develop the skills to think critically, creatively solve complex problems, understand diverse cultures, and communicate effectively.

Our school enjoys a tradition as a respectful, orderly learning community within which each person is treated with dignity and respect. That tradition depends on mutually accepted values, responsibilities, and guidelines. It's important that everyone understand the expectations for responsible behavior. It's equally important that everyone understand students' and parents' rights to quality educational services. In this atmosphere student learning and success is more easily attained.

Despite the challenges, we're very proud of our school community and what it has to offer. We have an outstanding faculty and support staff. We have a wonderful building and great sports facilities. We have a student body that is energetic, talented, and responsible. Oakmont offers a wide variety of opportunities. Our athletic teams, music program, dramatic productions, art department, technology education department, and academic programs are among the best in Massachusetts. Please become involved in our school community as much as possible. Together we can accomplish great things.

Please consult our website often for updated information <http://www.awrsd.org/oak>. If at any time you have questions, concerns, or unanswered questions, please contact us directly.

Mr. Uminski  
david\_uminiski@awrsd.org.  
(978) 827-5907 X2157

Mr. Smith  
gsmith@awrsd.org  
(978) 827-5907 x2155

### TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY

7:00- Cafeteria open for breakfast  
7:20- Students may enter other parts of the building  
7:30- Block A begins  
9:03- Bagel Bars Open after HR (7 minute break)  
10:33- First Lunch-Downstairs Classes (20 minutes)  
12:09- Second Lunch-Upstairs Classes (20 minutes)  
One 10 minute break (either 10:30 or 12:22)  
1:55- Dismissal  
2:00-Extra Help/Activities/Detention  
**THERE WILL BE NO LATE BUS THIS YEAR.**  
A, B, C and D Blocks are 83 minutes in length

### ACADEMIC CALENDER

#### Semester I

Term 1: August 31-October 1, 2009  
Term 2: October 2-January 19, 2010  
A and B Block Finals: January 20, 2010  
C and D Block Finals: January 21, 2010

#### Semester II

Term 3: January 25- April 1, 2010  
Term 4: April 2-June 10, 2010  
A and B Block Finals: June 11, 2010  
C and D Block Finals: June 14, 2010  
Last Day- June 15, 2010 (Day 180)

\*Above dates subject to change due to weather related cancellations.

### GRADE REPORTING DATES

#### Semester I

Term 1: Progress Reports-October 7, 2009  
Term 1: Report Cards-November 12, 2009  
Term 2: Academic Warnings- December 14, 2009  
Term 2: Report Cards- January 27, 2010

#### Semester II

Term 3: Progress Reports- March 8, 2010  
Term 3: Report Cards- April 7, 2010  
Term 4: Academic Warnings- May 13, 2010  
Term 4: Report Cards- June 17, 2010

\*Above dates subject to change due to weather related cancellations.

### GRADUATION RELATED DATES

Last day for Seniors: May 27, 2010  
SII A and B Block Finals: May 28, 2010  
SII C and D Block Finals: June 1, 2010  
Class Trip: June 2, 2010  
Baccalaureate: June 3, 2010  
Relays and BBQ: June 4, 2010  
Class Night: June 4, 2010  
Graduation: June 6, 2010

### SUMMER READING

Please complete your summer reading and writing assignments. More information is available at [www.awrsd.org/oak/Academics/Academics](http://www.awrsd.org/oak/Academics/Academics)

## SCHOOL PICTURES WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009



Booster Meetings  
8/31, 10/5, 11/2, and 12/7.

Booster Fall Sports BBQ  
Sunday, 8/23 from 4-6pm (open to all  
Fall Sports Players and Parents)

The Booster Club can always use help in the Shack during the Fall sports season. If you are interested in volunteering please call Joe Biggs at 978-874-6279

### ARMED FORCES RECRUITMENT

Oakmont Regional High School provides times for recruiters to be available to our students during some lunches. Federal regulations require us to supply names and contact information of our students to recruiters. If you want your student's information to be withheld please contact our guidance office in writing.

### SENSITIVE COURSE CONTENT

Biology, Health 9 and 11, Sociology, and Psychology contain human sexuality content. If you have a concern please contact the specific course teacher for more information.

**PARENT FALL SEASON INFORMATION  
MEETING: SUNDAY AUGUST 23 6-7:30 pm  
ALUMNI AUDITORIUM**

**FALL ATHLETICS PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

**Cheerleading:**

**Field Hockey:** August 27: 6:30 am-8 am  
2 pm-4 pm  
August 28: 8 am-12 pm  
August 29: 8 am-12 pm

**Football:** August 24-26: 6 pm-8 pm  
August 27-28: 8 am-10 am  
1 pm-3 pm

**Golf:** August 27 2:30 pm  
Westminster Woods

**Boys Soccer:** August 27-29: 12 pm-2 pm

**Girls Soccer:** August 27: 2 pm-5 pm  
August 28: 10 am-12 pm  
1 pm-3 pm

**EACH STUDENT WHO PLANS TO TRYOUT  
MUST HAVE PROOF OF PHYSICAL EXAM  
WITHIN THE LAST CALENDAR YEAR AND  
SUBMIT A CHECK PAYABLE TO AWRSD IN  
THE AMOUNT OF \$195 FOR THE ATHLETIC  
PARTICIPATION FEE.**

For more information contact Mr. Stiles at  
lstyles@awrsd.org

**CUSHING DONATION**

As part of Cushing's library conversion project, the school donated a number of library books and furniture. The furniture included bookshelves, study carols, tables and chairs. The furniture was moved by 16 Oakmont student volunteers organized by the athletic booster club as part of the OBC's new focus on community service. The furniture was distributed to all of the district's schools.

Thank you to Dr. Tracy, Headmaster, and John Moylin for their generosity and thank you to our students for helping with the move.

**MCAS Requirement**

The Massachusetts Department of Education requires that students achieve competency determination on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, or MCAS, in order to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

Students in the class of 2009 must achieve a passing score of 220 on the MCAS Mathematics and English Language Arts Tests.

Students in the classes of 2010 and 2011 must achieve a passing score of 220 on the MCAS Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science and Technology Tests. However, students who score less than 240 in Mathematics or English Language Arts must participate in an Educational Proficiency Plan, which requires that the student continue to take courses in the deficient subject area until he or she reaches a 240 MCAS score or its equivalent.

Students in the class of 2012 must achieve a passing score of 220 on the MCAS Mathematics, English Language Arts, U.S. History, and Science and Technology Tests. However, students who score less than 240 in Mathematics or English Language Arts must participate in an Educational Proficiency Plan, which requires that the student continue to take courses in the deficient subject area until he or she reaches a 240 MCAS score or its equivalent.

The MCAS Testing Schedule for the 2009-2010 school year is as follows:

November 4-6, 9-10	MCAS Retest (primarily for juniors and seniors who have not yet achieved competency)
February 1-2	MCAS Biology (for freshmen who have taken Biology during first semester and sophomores who have not yet achieved competency)
March 1-5	MCAS Retest (primarily for juniors and seniors who have not yet achieved competency)
March 23-25	MCAS English Language Arts (all sophomores)
May 17-18	MCAS Mathematics (all sophomores)
June 2-3	MCAS Science and Technology (freshmen and sophomores who have not yet passed the Science and Technology MCAS)

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 2	School Photos		
September 3	Field Hockey Jamboree	Hurd Field	4 pm
September 5	Girls Soccer Jamboree	Hurd Field	12 PM
September 17	Parent's Night	Alumni Auditorium	6:30 pm
September 19	Jonathan Edwards Trio Concert	Alumni Auditorium	7 pm
September 25	Homecoming Parade	So. Main Street, Ash.	6 pm
September 26	Homecoming Dance	Cafeteria	7 pm
September 27	Westminster 250 <sup>th</sup> Parade	Main St., Westminster	TBA

## Ashburnham Conservation Trust Benefit



**JONATHAN EDWARDS TRIO**  
**Saturday, September 19, 2009 7 pm**  
**Oakmont Regional High School Alumni Auditorium**

For More Information:  
 Visit the ACT Website at  
[www.ashburnhamconservationtrust.org](http://www.ashburnhamconservationtrust.org)

### YEARBOOK

Senior photos are due SEPTEMBER 21

### PARENT CONFERENCE INFORMATION

- September 22 -- Conference Request Forms sent home with students
- September 28 -- Conference request forms due back at school
- October 9 -- Conference schedule sent home with students
- October 15 -- **Parent Conferences**  
12-4 pm and 6-9 pm

### PARENTS' NIGHT THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 6:30 pm-8:15 pm

- 6:30-7:15 Alumni Auditorium**
- 7:15-7:25- A Block**
- 7:30-7:40- B Block**
- 7:45-7:55- C Block**
- 8:00-8:15- D Block**

### NEW FACE AT OAKMONT

Mr. Zach Hertel-Therrien-History Teacher

### FALL SPORTS SCHEDULES

AVAILABLE AT

<http://www.highschoolsports.net/>

## CHARTWELL'S Food Service

Chartwell's serves a nutritious hot lunch with many choices. An extensive a la carte program is also available including a morning Bagel Bar. The price for a complete student lunch is \$2.75; reduced price lunch is \$.40. Various milks are available at \$.40.

A prepayment system is available and a student's balance is recorded. Lunches not taken because of absence will be credited.

Checks should be made payable to: Oakmont Food Service OR AWRSD Food Service.

Free and Reduced: Last years list of students will carry over until Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. Parents need to submit an application every year to qualify. They should get these applications in ASAP so they are approved by the Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Checks can be dropped off in the main office or cafeteria.

### ART STUDENTS AT DE CORDOVA



Greg Barry and a number of past and present Oakmont art students worked with sculptor Steven Siegel at the De Cordova Sculpture Park and Museum in Lincoln, MA this summer.

Steven Siegel transforms familiar, everyday objects like newspapers, plastic bottles, and e-waste into monumental sculpture to create a meditation on impermanence, temporality, and our vulnerability to the effects of time, deterioration, and cyclicity. For *Big, with rift*, designed specifically for De Cordova, Siegel worked with a corps of volunteers to stack and nail twenty-five cubic yards of over-printed newspaper around an armature of Douglas fir. Neatly folded and meticulously arranged in repeating layers,

the exposed newspaper emulates geological strata. Siegel removed the native vegetation from the surrounding ground and transplanted it on the top of the final sculpture to create an experience that mimics an excavation site. As such, the layered sculpture functions as a core sample of the earth with the surrounding land eroded away, exposing the effects of time.

The integration of the newspapers with the nearby landscape creates an uncanny scenario in which the detritus of civilization emulates ephemeral organic forms. Symbolized by the newspapers, society's remains are buried under earth and vegetation, subject to erosion, deterioration, and historic memory. Over time, Siegel's construction will shift and change as the newspapers decompose and the plant life continues to grow and consume the work. This evolutionary process literally gives the newspapers new life as they weather rain and other environmental effects and ultimately return to the soil.

([http://decordova.com/decordova/sculp\\_park/siegel.html](http://decordova.com/decordova/sculp_park/siegel.html))

The students were featured on Boston University's NPR radio station, WBUR 90.9 FM. The program featured the museum and the sculpture installation. Additionally, the *Sentinel and Enterprise* published an article about the project. *Wild Apples*, a journal of nature, art, and inquiry is a new twice-yearly arts and literary publication, who will be featuring an article on the Siegel sculpture and interviews and photographs of students working on the installation. The journal will debut in November.

## Basic School Supply List

**A rugged backpack** (large enough to hold books, fitness clothing, and lunch)

**A 2 GB or larger flash drive** (to save computer files and documents)

**A calculator** (some Math or Science teachers require a specific type of calculator, so it might be best to wait until school begins)

**No. 2 pencils or mechanical pencils**

**Ballpoint pens** (blue or black are best)

### **Highlighters**

**Four spiral-bound or composition notebooks** (one for each course)

**A three-ring binder with at least four dividers** (one for each course)

**Four pocket folders** (one for each course)

**Loose-leaf notebook paper**

**A ruler**

**A three-hole punch**

**A pencil case that fits in a binder**

**A small notebook to record assignments**

**A calendar for scheduling events and due dates**

**Index cards**

**Tissues**

**Hand sanitizer**

**(Teachers may recommend other supplies based on specific course requirements.)**



## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

The Ashburnham Board of Selectmen have invited Oakmont students to participate in town government as student representatives on various town boards and committees. The students would be non-voting members, yet they will be able to participate in the decision-making process and give the students a better appreciation of the mechanics of town government. The board of selectmen are hopeful that this program will benefit the town by giving the students the opportunity to give their perspective to the governance of the town and cultivate future interest in serving the town.

Town boards and committees that will participate in the program are: the Advisory Board, the Board of health, the Planning Board, the Capital Planning Committee, the Historical Commission, the Rail Trail Committee, and the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Students will earn Community Service Credit with their participation. This will also be a unique addition to a student's college application resume. Their experience may also directly connect to various career opportunities.

Interested students should contact Mr. Uminski during the first days of school.

# GUIDANCE NEWS

**Attention All Parents:** When choosing to communicate with the guidance counselors **via e-mail**, be sure to fill in the subject box (e.g. student's name) otherwise we may not recognize/open your message.

**New Student Registration:** Registration for new students will take place in the Oakmont Guidance Office on:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday, August 20	9:00 A.M. - 2:00 PM
Friday, August 21	9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M
Monday, August 24	9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M
Tuesday, August 25	9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M

You may make an appointment by calling (978) 827-5907 X: 2161. In order to register their student, parents must bring a copy of the immunization and academic records, proof of residency, and birth certificate. (See registration requirements on [www.awrsd.org](http://www.awrsd.org). click on "online forms" to open the **Residency Establishment Form.**)

**SAT Registration and Test Dates:** SENIORS applying Early Action/Decision – Be aware of the early September registration date for the October SAT. You may register on-line at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). or pick up forms and preparation booklets in the Guidance office. You will be reminded to sign-up upon returning for your final year at Oakmont.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
<b>October 10, 2009</b>	<b>September 9, 2009</b>	<b>January 23, 2010</b>	<b>December 15, 2009</b>
<b>November 7, 2009</b>	<b>October 1, 2009</b>	<b>March 13, 2010</b>	<b>February 4, 2010</b>
<b>December 5, 2009</b>	<b>October 30, 2009</b>	<b>May 1, 2010</b>	<b>March 25, 2010</b>
		<b>June 5, 2010</b>	<b>April 29, 2010</b>

(Juniors are encouraged to take the PSAT on October 17, 2009 and the SAT in the spring of 2010)  
(Sophomores may take the PSAT on October 17, 2009)

**Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT):** The PSAT is a practice test for the SAT and is administered at Oakmont High School each October. Any junior or sophomore student planning to apply to a four-year college during her/his senior year may take this test. JUNIORS – The PSAT is the *qualifying test* for the National Merit Scholarship Program so be sure to take it if you want to be considered! SOPHOMORES – Do you perform better when you practice something? If you answered yes, why not plan to register for the PSAT. Guidance is encouraging sophomores to take this test to become familiar with the type of questions and the testing format. Remember, the SAT is a longer version of the PSAT. Also, the PSAT scores do not go on your transcript. **Test Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009 at Oakmont.** Registration information will follow.

**ACT:** The ACT is an achievement test which is utilized as an alternative to the SAT. Juniors may want to take both the SAT and ACT in the Spring and retake the tests in the Fall of Senior Year. Most colleges accept results from either test.

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>	<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>
<b>October 24, 2009</b>	<b>September 18, 2009</b>	<b>February 6, 2010</b>	<b>January 5, 2010</b>
<b>December 12, 2009</b>	<b>November 6, 2009</b>	<b>April 10, 2010</b>	<b>March 5, 2010</b>
		<b>June 12, 2010</b>	<b>May 7, 2010</b>

**Orientation Meetings:** We welcome the **Class of 2013** and wish you a productive and enjoyable school year. To assist with your transition from the eighth grade to high school, the Guidance Counselors will meet with all of you in small groups in September. We look forward to hearing how the first few weeks have been for you.

**CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGE TIME LINE:**

**August 31, September 1, 2, 3, 2009 – is for emergency changes only:** e.g. system error, course failure needing makeup/repeat, fewer than 8 blocks, summer school makeup.

**September 8, 2009:** Course change requests may be considered, but a parent must call the guidance office to initiate any request. Counselors will schedule an appointment with the student to discuss the request, though no guarantees are promised because of the complexity of the entire schedule and the large enrollment in most classes.

**Parents of Seniors:** Don't forget to return your brag sheets by Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

**SPARTANS...ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER... SEE YOU AUGUST 31, 2009**

## Summary of Changes and Additions 2009-2010

**SPECIFIC CHANGES HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW**

*Page 6 –*

### **MCAS Requirement**

The Massachusetts Department of Education requires that students achieve competency determination on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, or MCAS, in order to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

Students must achieve a passing score of 220 on the MCAS Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science and Technology Tests. However, students who score less than 240 in Mathematics or English Language Arts must participate in an Educational Proficiency Plan, which requires that the student continue to take courses in the deficient subject area until he or she reaches a 240 MCAS score or its equivalent.

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For further information about MCAS, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/>

*Page 7 –*

### **Incomplete Course Work**

In case of incomplete course work the following will apply:

- (1) An INC will be recorded on a report card when a student has not completed any part of the required term course work.
- (2) The incomplete student will be given two weeks (10 school days) after report cards are issued to make up the missing work. If the work is not made up within the two-week time frame the course grade will be changed from incomplete to F (failure). For percentage grading, missing work will be zeros.
- (3) In extraordinary circumstances the teacher, guidance counselor and student will design a makeup contract. All work must be made up and completed by this schedule, or the course grade will be changed from incomplete to F (failure).
- (4) Under special circumstances, a student may make arrangements with his/her teachers along with guidance and administrative approval to complete work during the summer vacation or to attend summer school.
- (5) All senior work is to be completed and submitted to senior teachers by the end of the last day of final exams.

No Incompletes will be issued except for special circumstances approved in writing by the Principal.

- (6) All incomplete grades must be resolved by the last day of the school year. Only the Principal may grant an exception to this policy.

*Page 10 –*

## Notification of Student Absence

The Oakmont Voicemail program is available 24 hours a day, to report student absence dial 978 827-5907 and press 3. Parents should call the school the evening before or the morning to report their child's absence. Parents will be contacted if an absence call is not received. **Students who are absent without a parental excusal will be reported as truant to the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education.** *(Clarification: A parent note excuses the absent student from being truant, but does not excuse the absence as it relates to our attendance policy.)*

Page 12 –

## Truancy

Absences that do not conform to excused reasons will be recorded as truancy. **Any student who is absent from school without a parental excusal will be considered truant.** A student will be considered truant if the absence is unexcused. Students who are truant may face the following consequences:

1. Administrative contact with parent or guardian
2. Student will receive a zero for all classroom work missed, including tests/quizzes, projects etc.
3. In-school counseling may be recommended
4. Truant officers may be notified to investigate an absence.
5. A truancy complaint may be filed in juvenile court.
6. **Refer to Disciplinary Offense Code (p. 20) for possible punishment.**
7. Students under sixteen years of age may be apprehended by police in accordance with state law.
8. Repeated truancy for students under sixteen years of age will result in filing a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petition in juvenile court.

## Tardy Policy

A student is tardy to school if he/she is not present in his/her assigned class when the 7:30 A.M. tardy bell rings. Tardiness produces a disruption to the educational process and is a very poor habit to develop. In the job market tardiness is the number one reason for job dismissal. Tardiness is not acceptable at Oakmont. Tardy students must report to the office to sign in with a note from a parent or guardian to excuse the tardy. **Students will receive administrative detentions if they are tardy without an excusal note or parent phone call.** Students will be granted two (2) 15-minute tardies a semester for extenuating circumstances. Tardy students must report to the office immediately upon entering Oakmont and complete the necessary tardy form. Tardy students must have a parent note explaining the tardy when they sign in.

Tardiness to class is a serious infraction; it is an avoidable educational interruption. Unexcused tardies to any class period are to be given detention by classroom teachers or the administration. Only an authorized pass will excuse a student for class tardies. *(Clarification: A parent note excuses the tardy student from a detention, but does not excuse any absence that resulted from the tardy.)*

## Dismissals

In case of emergency, it may be necessary for the parent or guardian to have a student leave school during the school day. Written requests for early dismissal should be presented at the Administrative Office before the start of the school day.

Reasons for early dismissal should be comparable to those for absences in general. Only in the case of illness or emergency will dismissals be granted during the school day without a note from home. **Parents must come to the main office to pick up their children for dismissal.** Students will return to the main office at their dismissal time to sign out.

## **Behavioral Guidelines**

### **Electronic Devices**

Student use of cell phones and electronic devices is prohibited during the school day. Emergency messages for students should be called into the main office (978-827-5907) during the school day.

Students who are found to be using a cell phone or electronic device during the school day will be required to turn the cell phone or device over to a staff member, who will then turn it into the main office. When a staff member requests that a student turn over a cell phone or device, the student must comply **without** disassembling or tampering with the cell phone or device.

On the first offense, the cell phone or device will be returned to the student at the end of the school day and he/she will receive Level I consequences. On the second offense the student will again receive Level I consequences, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense, and parents or guardians will be notified. Subsequent offenses will result in more serious consequences, parent or guardian conferences, and retention of the cell phone or device until a parent or guardian claims it.

### **Bullying and Harassment**

Oakmont Regional High School is committed to providing a safe and constructive learning environment that honors the dignity and worth of every individual. It is the responsibility of everyone at Oakmont Regional High School to address bullying and harassment if they observe it. **Any incident of bullying or harassment must be reported immediately to the administration.**

### **Detention System**

Students may be assigned detention by administration or any other member of the faculty. These detentions are for those students with undesirable patterns of attendance, tardiness or conduct as well as other disciplinary problems. Detentions will be served on the next school day following the detention as long as the detention hall is open that day. . Postponement of detentions may be granted for extenuating circumstances when requested by a parent or guardian. Detentions owed at the end of the school year must be served either during summer vacation or the first full week in September. **Students who fail to serve assigned detentions without being excused will be subject to further disciplinary action up to and including suspension.**

Lack of transportation, work, or nonessential appointments are not valid reasons for failing to attend detention. If you have obligations to fulfill, don't get detentions.

### **Detention Hall Rules**

1. Detentions will start at 2:00 PM sharp and will end at 2:55 P.M.
2. Detentions will be held in the cafeteria unless otherwise announced.
3. Students will sit in the seats assigned to them by the detention hall teacher.
4. Students will report to detentions prepared to work on homework or school related projects for the entire period. Sleeping is prohibited as well as the use of personal electronics, cards, toys, games etc.
5. Absolutely no talking will be allowed during detentions.
6. Students are to take care of restroom visits before detentions begin.
7. **After detention students will immediately leave the building.** No students will be allowed to go to lockers or any other area of the building without the permission of the detention hall supervisor.
8. Students who fail to comply with the detention hall rules will be assigned additional detentions by the detention hall supervisor or be subject to further administrative disciplinary action.

## **Disciplinary Guidelines**

Five levels of disciplinary violations, along with the consequences for breaking school rules, have been established (page 16). It should be noted, however, that the listing of these violations cannot anticipate every eventuality that would require a written policy. Where such policies do not exist, the administration will formulate and recommend them, and they will be considered in effect until modified or rejected by the School Committee.

### **Disciplinary Offense Code Levels**

#### **LEVEL I**

Unexcused tardy to school; tardy to homeroom, or class; misconduct in class, or out of class; pass violations; refusal to sign detention; public display of affection; loitering; **use of electronic device during the school day.**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense = 1 teacher or administrative detention

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = 2 teacher or administrative detentions

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = 3 teacher or administrative detentions

#### **LEVEL II**

Failure to be in assigned area; truancy; failure to attend assigned teacher or administrative detention; referral to an administrator for disruptive or inappropriate behavior in class, or out of class; dress code violations; minor technology misuse; forgery; false identification; **dishonesty to administrator**, faculty, or staff.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense = 3 administrative detentions

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = 5 administrative detentions

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = 2 day suspension

#### **LEVEL III**

Leaving or returning to school grounds without permission; vulgar, obscene or defamatory language; accumulation of minor infractions; accumulation of tardies; insubordination; continued dress code violations; continued PDAs; **taunting or disrespect.**

1<sup>st</sup> Offense = 2 day suspension

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = 3 day suspension

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = 5 day suspension

#### **LEVEL IV**

Gross disrespect to persons of authority by word or action; accumulation of administrative detentions; bullying and harassment; nonconformity to school rules; major technology misuse; trespassing on school property.

1<sup>st</sup> Offense = 3 day suspension

2<sup>nd</sup> Offense = 5 day suspension

3<sup>rd</sup> Offense = possible suspension for up to 10 days and referral to the Superintendent

#### **LEVEL V**

Vandalism; theft; extortion; hazing; possession, use of, or attendance after the use of alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia or tobacco (see Chemical Health Policy); weapons or incendiary devices; pulling of false fire alarms; threats of violence; bomb threats; assault; threats; fighting; threats and assaults against faculty, staff, or administration, or any other illegal acts; **conspiracy to commit a crime or offense.**

1. Law enforcement officials may be notified.

2. Punishment will incorporate penalties outlined in Level IV at the discretion of an administrator as well as referral to the School Committee by the Superintendent with all legal requirements prescribed, including exclusion from school.

## **Discipline of Students with Special Needs:**

Federal and state laws govern discipline procedures for students with special needs. These laws pertain to all students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Section 504 Accommodation Plans, and students for whom the district is deemed to have knowledge of a disability (see definition below).

The following information is provided by the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. Additional information may be found at the Department's website:

[http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/IDEA2004/spr\\_meetings/discipline.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/IDEA2004/spr_meetings/discipline.html)

### **Discipline of Special Education Students Under IDEA 2004 20 U.S.C. § 1415(k) and 34 CFR §§ 300.530-300.536**

- This chart should be read in conjunction with discipline procedures in state law, M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H & 37H1/2, and district-wide and school-wide student codes of conduct.
- Protections in the IDEA apply to students who have been found eligible for special education and to students for whom the school is deemed to have knowledge that the child might have a disability (i.e., students who have not yet been found eligible but the school had a basis of knowledge of a disability, including students who have been referred for initial evaluation). 34 CFR § 300.354
- Beginning on the 11<sup>th</sup> school day of a student's disciplinary removal during the school year, and if removal is a change in placement, the student must be provided free appropriate public education (FAPE) services during the period of removal to allow him/her to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and progress towards IEP goals, even if in a different setting. 34 CFR § 300.530(b) & (d).
- If the conduct that the student is being disciplined for involves the "special circumstances" of weapons, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or serious bodily injury, school personnel may remove the student to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES) for up to 45 school days, regardless of the manifestation determination. 34 CFR § 300.530(g). The IEP Team must determine the IAES.
- Although the following flowchart lays out the steps that a school district must take when disciplining a student with a disability, it is important to remember that at any point the parent and school district can agree to change a student's placement for disciplinary reasons. Agreements should be in writing, and signed by the school personnel and the parent.

## **DEFINITIONS**

A student for whom the district is deemed to have knowledge of a disability – A child who has not yet been determined to be eligible for special education and related services may assert the disciplinary protections under IDEA if the school had a basis of knowledge that the child is a child with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. The school is deemed to have knowledge if: (1) the child's parent expressed concern in writing to administrative or supervisory personnel of the school or district that the child is in need of special education and related services; (2) the parent of the child had requested a special education evaluation; or (3) the child's teacher or other school or district personnel expressed specific concerns to the director of special education or to other supervisory personnel about a pattern of behavior demonstrated by the child. The school or district is *not* deemed to have knowledge of a disability if (1) the parent has not allowed an evaluation or has refused special education and related services, *or* (2) the child has been evaluated and determined not to be a child with a disability. 34 CFR § 300.534.

Change of placement – A change of placement because of a disciplinary removal occurs if a child with a disability is removed from his/her current educational placement for more than 10 consecutive school days, or the child is subjected to a series of removals that constitutes a pattern because: (1) the removals total more than 10 school days in a school year; (2) the child's behavior is substantially similar to previous incidents that resulted in the series of

removals; and (3) additional factors such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the child has been removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another constitute a pattern. 34 CFR § 300.536.

Current placement – The placement from which the student was removed for disciplinary reasons.

Interim alternative educational setting (IAES) – An IAES is a disciplinary placement that is not the same as the child's current placement as defined in his/her IEP.

Manifestation determination – The determination made by the district, the parent, and relevant members of the student's Team, after review of all relevant information in the student's file including the IEP, teacher observations, and relevant information provided by the parents, whether (1) the conduct in question was caused by or had a direct and substantial relationship to the child's disability; *or* (2) the conduct in question was the direct result of the district's failure to implement the student's IEP. 34 CFR § 300.530(e).

Special circumstances – Where the disciplinary conduct is a "special circumstance," school personnel may remove a student to an IAES for not more than 45 school days, regardless of the results of the manifestation determination. Special circumstances exist if the student:

- carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency (district); or
- knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency; or
- inflicts serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State or local educational agency. 34 CFR § 300.530(g).

Serious bodily injury – As defined in 18 U.S.C. § 930, a bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty. 34 CFR § 300.530(i)(3).

Page 25 –

### **Bus Transportation**

Bus transportation to and from school is provided for all students living 1.5 miles or more distant. Eligible students MUST ride their assigned bus. Students will not be allowed to ride a different bus. All students riding buses are under the direct supervision of the bus driver. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and are expected to follow all school rules. Once boarded, students must remain seated until their bus stop. Excessive noise, profanity or any behavior distracting the bus driver or endangering others will not be tolerated. Possession or use of Alcohol, Tobacco or Drugs is prohibited on all AWRSD transportation.

Students violating school and bus safety rules may be denied bus transportation. Bus trips and Bus Stops are extensions of the school day.

Please refer all bus problems to the administration.

### **School Dances**

School dances may be sponsored by any school group. Groups desiring dances must work through their advisors and the administration, who will see that the necessary forms are filled out and dates cleared. Forms are available in the main office. Do not make contract commitments before you have administrative approval. The Principal must approve all contracts.

The following rules are observed at all school dances:

1. Students will conform to all school rules.
2. Non Oakmont guests are not allowed without a signed guest pass, authorized by the Oakmont administration and the guest's school administration prior to the event. Guests are required to follow all Oakmont rules. The administration reserves the right to disapprove any guest.
3. Any student leaving before the end of the dance is required to sign out.
4. Having signed out, the student must leave the dance, and school property. Students who have left the dance are not allowed to return.
5. Middle School students are prohibited from attending High School Dances and the reverse applies as well.
6. Guest passes will not be granted for guests over the age of twenty (20). Administration may waive this rule for students who are 20 years old or older.

### **Lost and Found**

The school will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items under any circumstances: lockers and desks are provided as a convenience and are used at the student's own risk. However, lost or stolen items should be reported to the main office immediately. Items found around the school building are brought to a "lost and found" area in the office. Students may check for lost items in this area; articles not claimed will be disposed of periodically.