



CHERRY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Preschool - 2nd Grade

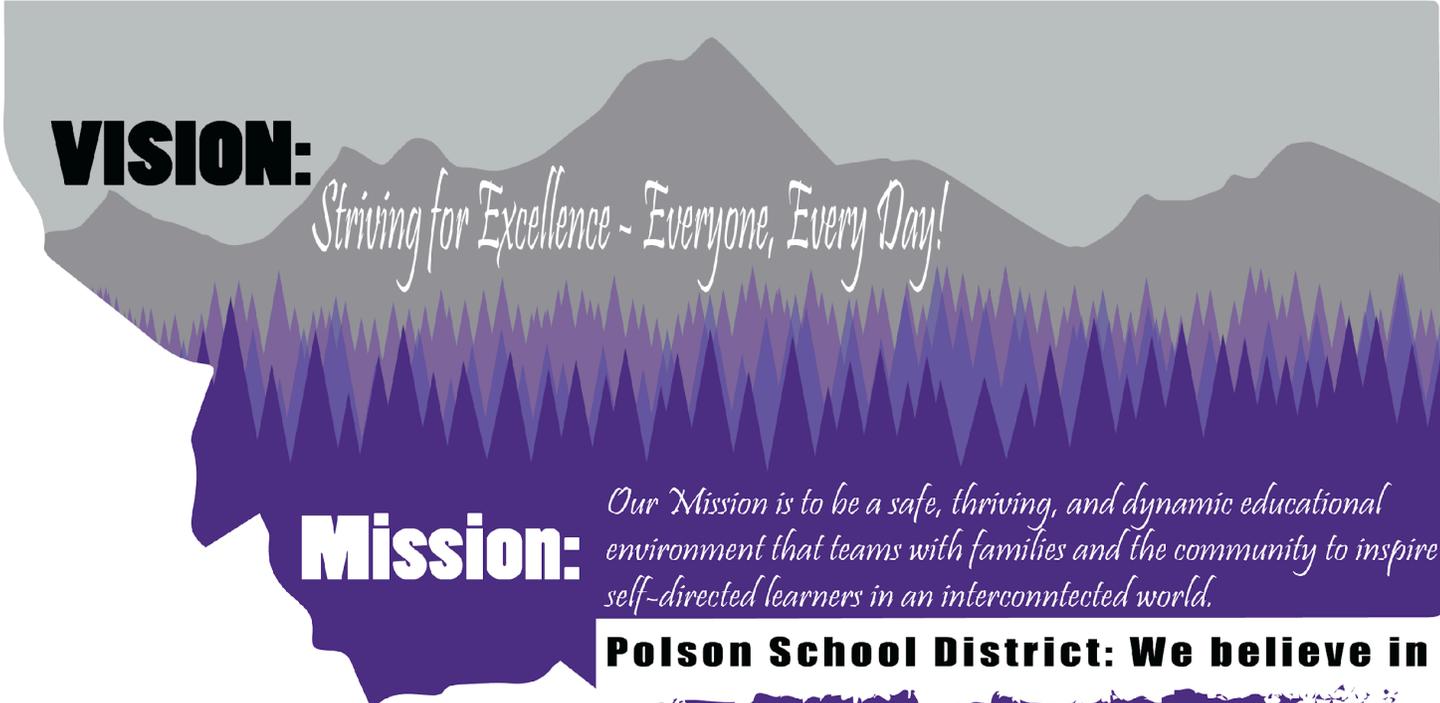
2025-2026
PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK

Visit our website at: <https://www.polson.k12.mt.us/cherry-valley-school/>

Or 

CHERRY VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

107 8th Avenue West
Polson, Montana 59860
(406) 883-6333
Fax 883-6332



VISION:

Striving for Excellence - Everyone, Every Day!

Mission:

Our Mission is to be a safe, thriving, and dynamic educational environment that teams with families and the community to inspire self-directed learners in an interconnected world.

Polson School District: We believe in

P. R. I. D. E.

PARTNERSHIPS - RELATIONSHIPS - INTEGRITY - DIVERSITY - EXCELLENCE

CHERRY VALLEY ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRINCIPAL – Jon Gustafson

Office phone: 883-6333 x502

SECRETARIES – Marcie Motichka and Tawnie Baughman

Office Phone: 883-6333

Office Cell: 270-2574

SCHOOL NURSE

Office Phone: 883-6333 x523

SCHOOL COUNSELOR-Tereza Hanson, M. Ed

School Counseling, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

Office Phone: 883-6333 x525

CHERRY VALLEY STAFF

SPECIAL NEEDS PRESCHOOL-

Bonnie Petersen

L.E.A.P (Literacy Enrichment and Advancement Program)-

Kaitlyn Kenniston

KINDERGARTEN

Molly Billedeaux

Shianne Harris

Sarah Howell

Liz Junell

Sarah Takacs

FIRST GRADE

Erin Adams

Francesca Elia

Tessa Hupka

Dylan Quinn

Makenzie Wegner

SECOND GRADE

Kaitlyn Graham-Karels

Angie Knutson

Kaila Nash

Shyanne Reum

Kylynn Sherry

Megan Stark

SUPPORT SERVICES-

Tobie Stack/Hayley Voegele - Special Education

Patricia Barfoot/Lisa Kenney - Title 1

Scott Boen - Moovin'N Groovin'

Whitney Buchmann - Music

Dale Hannon-Library/Media

Julie Burke-Speech Therapist

Roxanne Taylor-Food Service

Mike Thomas-Head Custodian

CHERRY VALLEY-REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULE

8:20 a.m.- First Bell

8:25 a.m. - Tardy Bell

3:10 p.m. - L.E.A.P and Kindergarten Students Dismissed

3:15 p.m. - 1st and 2nd Grade Students Dismissed

Please call the school office by 8:45 a.m. each day your child is going to be absent or tardy.

FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL 2025-2026

September 9th - L.E.A.P, Kindergarten, and First-Grade Full-Day Staggered Start for students with last name starting with A-K.

- Full day schedule for all second grade students.

September 10th - L.E.A.P, Kindergarten, and First-Grade Full Day Staggered Start for students with last name starting with L-Z

- Full day schedule for all second grade students.

September 11th -All First and Second Graders attend school. L.E.A.P and Kindergarten Staggered Start for students with last name starting with A-K

September 12th -All First and Second Graders attend school. L.E.A.P and Kindergarten Staggered Start for students with last name starting with L-Z

September 16th - All Students begin regular scheduled days.

***Please see the 2025-2026 Staggered Start Schedule on p. 7 of this handbook, or call the Cherry Valley office for details at 883-6333**

It is very important to maintain up-to-date records in your PowerSchool Parent Portal. All required paperwork for registration, bus registration, free/reduced lunch forms, medical forms, and all other important documentation are kept in this portal. If you have not logged into your parent portal or need help logging in for the first time, please contact the office at 883-6333.

AUGUST					POLSON SCHOOL DISTRICT 2025-2026 CALENDAR					JANUARY					
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	
								1	2						
4	5	6	7	8	1st Day of School - September 9	5	6	7	8	9					
11	12	13	14	15		12	13	"14	15	16					
18	19	20	21	22	Last Day of School - June 5	19	20	21	22	*23					
25	26	27	28	29		26	27	28	29	30					
					<i>Teacher Professional Development</i>										
					<i>No Student Days</i>										
SEPTEMBER					FEBRUARY										
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F						
1	2	3	4	5	September 4-8 PSD PD	2	3	4	5	6					
8	9	10	11	12	September 15 - Tribal PIR	9	10	"11	12	13					
15	16	"17	18	19	October 16 & 17 - MFPE	16	17	18	19	20					
22	23	24	25	26	November 21 - PSD PD	23	24	25	26	27					
29	30														
					<i>Classroom Setup Days</i>										
					<i>Contracted Days - Optional</i>										
OCTOBER					MARCH										
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F						
		1	2	3	<i>Teacher Prep Days</i>	2	3	4	5	6					
6	7	"8	9	10	<i>Contracted Days -Required</i>	9	10	"11	12	13					
13	14	15	16	17	<i>Parent Teacher Conferences</i>	16	17	18	19	20					
20	21	22	23	24	November 17 - 20	23	24	25	26	*27					
27	28	29	30	31		30	31								
					<i>Vacation Day - No School</i>										
					September 1 - Labor Day										
NOVEMBER					APRIL										
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F						
3	4	5	6	*7	November 26-28 Thanksgiving			1	2	3					
10	11	"12	13	14	Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 Winter Break	6	7	8	9	10					
17	18	19	20	21	February 16 - Presidents' Day	13	14	"15	16	17					
24	25	26	27	28	Mar 30-April 3 - Spring Break	20	21	22	23	24					
					May 25- Memorial Day	27	28	29	30						
					END OF QUARTER *										
DECEMBER					MAY										
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F						
1	2	3	4	5	1st Quarter - November 7 (41)					1					
8	9	"10	11	12	2nd Quarter - January 23 (41)	4	5	6	7	8					
15	16	17	18	19	3rd Quarter - March 27 (44)	11	12	"13	14	15					
22	23	24	25	26	4th Quarter - June 5 (44)	18	19	20	21	22					
29	30	31			~ Denotes Half Day	25	26	27	28	29					
					"Denotes Vertical Alignment PLC										
					HS GRADUATION- June 6										
Dismissal Times					JUNE										
	Start	End			M	T	W	TH	F						
CV	8:20	3:15			1	2	3	4	*5						
LIND	8:10	3:20			8	9	10	11	12						
HS	8:10	3:20			15	16	17	18	19						
MS	8:25	3:35			22	23	24	25	26						





Beginning a new year of school can be stressful for young children as well as very exciting. To support your child's social and emotional needs as they begin their school adventure, and to allow the staff time to get to know your child in smaller groups, we start the school year with our L.E.A.P, Kindergarten and First-Grade students on a staggered start.

2025-2026 Staggered Start Schedule:

Please, carefully read the schedule below to see when your child is scheduled to be at school.

Mrs. Keniston's LEAP Students: Students in our LEAP program are scheduled to start as follows:
Tuesday, September 9th and Thursday, September 11th: Students with last names starting with A-K:
Morning Students=AM (8:20-11:25) and Afternoon Students=PM (12:10-3:15)

Wednesday, September 10th and Friday, September 12th: Students with last names starting with L-Z:
Morning Students=AM (8:20-11:25) and Afternoon Students=PM (12:10-3:15)

Tuesday, September 16th, marks the normal daily schedule for both LEAP classes.

Kindergarten (K) Students: Students in our Kindergarten program are scheduled to start as follows:
Tuesday, September 9th and Thursday, September 11th: Students with last names starting with A-K: (8:20-3:10)

Wednesday, September 10th and Friday, September 12th: Students with last names starting with L-Z: (8:20-3:10)

Tuesday, September 16th, marks the normal daily schedule for all kindergarten students.

First-Grade (1st) Students:

Students in our First-Grade program are scheduled to start as follows:

Tuesday, September 9th: Students with last names starting with A-K attend full day (8:20-3:15)

Wednesday, September 10th: Students with last names starting with L-Z attend full day (8:20-3:15)

Thursday, September 11th, marks the normal schedule for all 1st-Grade students.

Second-Grade (2nd) Students:

All second grade students will attend on **Tuesday, September 9th (8:20-3:15)**

Tuesday, September 16th: All students begin regular daily school schedule.



ARRIVAL ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

The front doors of the school **DO NOT OPEN until 8:00 a.m.** Please see that your student arrives **no earlier than 7:55 a.m.** as this is when our playground gate is open and school staff will be available for supervision at that time. Students eating breakfast should arrive no later than 8:00 a.m.

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL TO YOUR STUDENTS SCHOOL SUCCESS AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL!

School starts at 8:20 a.m. and is dismissed at 3:15 p.m.

- In the morning, all children can be dropped off at the playground gate. We ask that parents not escort their children onto the playground or into the building. After 8:20, students can be dropped off in the front of the school building.
PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DROP-OFF ZONE AND LEAVE YOUR CAR AS THAT INTERFERES WITH THE SMOOTH AND TIMELY FLOW OF TRAFFIC.
- L.E.A.P and Kindergarten students can be picked up at the rear of the building under the library awning.
- First and second grade students can be picked up at the southwest end and rear of the school building in the staff parking lot.
- Bus students will be dropped off at the back of the school in the mornings and picked up in the front of the school in the afternoon. ***If your child rides a bus, please make sure they are registered with the Bus Garage (883-6358). It is your responsibility to contact the bus garage and register your child in order for them to ride the bus. Please review the District Bus Policy on pages 11-12 of this handbook with your child before they ride the bus the first time.***
- If you need to pick your child up early, please check them out at the main office and ***wait in the lobby area.*** The secretaries will page the teacher to have your child released. ***For security reasons, please do not go to your child's classroom to pick them up from school unless prior arrangements have been made with the school office.***
- If your child is tardy, you will need to come in with them and sign them in.

The safety of our students is our number one priority. *If changes need to be made to your students' regular schedule, the office must be contacted before 2:15 in order to ensure your child is directed accordingly.*

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is critical for a student's successful academic achievement at ALL grade levels. Lost instructional time cannot be replaced. Please contact the main office if your child is sick or will not be attending school that day. If possible, please make sure that your child is here

☺ **EVERY DAY, ON TIME!** ☺

Excessive Absenteeism

Excessive absenteeism can affect a student's academic progress. Ten (10) non-school related absences in a semester is considered excessive and will require a parent conference and possible attendance contract. Parents/Guardian will be notified by phone when their student reaches seven (7) absences and by letter when they reach ten (10) absences. Some absences may be an "Excused Absence (A)" by a parent but will still be counted toward the 10 days. After 10 absences, educators are mandatory reporters for excessive absenteeism.

BREAKFAST, HOT LUNCH, AND MILK PROGRAM

The schools have an automated lunch purchase program. You can put money into their account and we will notify you when they are low on lunch money. Costs are as follows:

Student LUNCH - All student meals are \$3.80 for the 25/26 school year

Student BREAKFAST - All student meals are \$2.50 for the 25/26 school year

For students who bring a lunch, milk is available for \$.75

(Adult meals are \$3.00 for breakfast and \$6.00 for lunch.)

Parents should deposit money into their child's account. Debits will be taken for breakfast and lunch from the same account. We will notify you when your child needs more money deposited. ***PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S ACCOUNT STAYS CURRENT.***

Polson School District Meal Charge Policy-

Note: For the purpose of this policy, parent includes: guardian, caretaker, relative, and any adult responsible for the care of the child.

Full-Pay Students – Elementary and Middle School Students will pay for meals at the district's published standard rate. ***A student will be allowed to charge a maximum negative balance of \$15.00*** to their account after their balance reaches zero. Once a student has reached

the negative \$15.00 balance, he/she will not be allowed to charge a la carte items, however he/she will be offered a designated menu alternate. [Sample: cheese sandwich, veggie sticks, fruit, and milk]. This designated menu alternate will be charged to the student's meal account at the standard rate.

Free Meal Benefit – Free status students will be allowed to receive a free breakfast and lunch each day.

Reduced Meal Benefit - Reduced status students will be allowed to receive a breakfast for \$0.30 and lunch for \$0.40 each day. ***A student will be allowed to charge a maximum of negative \$15.00 balance*** to their account after the balance reaches zero. Once a student has charged the negative \$15.00, he/she will not be allowed to charge a la carte items, however he/she will be offered a designated menu alternate. [Sample: cheese sandwich, veggie sticks, fruit and milk]. This designated menu alternate will be charged to the child's meal account at the reduced rate.

Parents are responsible for meal payment to the food service program. Notices of low or deficit balances will be sent to parents at regular intervals during the school year.

*Free and reduced price meals are available for those who qualify. Applications can be obtained on the district website.

BUILDING SECURITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

For the safety and security of all, visitors and volunteers *must* sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass or badge. If you need to pick your student up early:

1) Please check them out at the main office and *wait in the lobby area*. The secretaries will page the teacher to have your child released.

2) For security reasons, please do not go to your child's classroom to pick them up from school unless prior arrangements have been made with the main office.

3) Please do not stop by playground fences and talk to kids through the fence.

Use of Security Cameras-

The district uses video cameras with audio on District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. Video recordings may become part of a student's educational record. The District will comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention.

Students in violation of Board policies, administrative regulations, building rules, or law shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Visitors in violation of administrative regulations, building rules, or law may be referred to law enforcement agencies.

BUSING/TRANSPORTATION

The safety of our students is our number one priority. **Due to the young age of Cherry Valley students, bus drivers are not permitted to leave a Cherry Valley student alone at a bus stop, or with other students.** A parent or other designated adult must be **visibly present** at the stop before the bus driver will allow a Cherry Valley student to exit the bus. If a parent or other designated adult is **not visibly present** the child will not be allowed to exit the bus and will be returned to Cherry Valley Elementary or to the Bus Garage. The parent will then be responsible for coming to pick up the child. **On the third return to the school, the student will no longer be eligible to ride the bus and other arrangements will need to be made.**

Bus Rules and Discipline Procedures-

These rules and regulations are expected to be followed by all students who ride School District #23 school buses. They have been given and explained to each bus rider. Each rider is responsible for his/her behavior. **Drivers are authorized to take appropriate steps to maintain discipline. Habitual disobedience can result in permanent suspension of riding privileges.** Please review these rules and regulations so you also know what is expected behavior.

1. A student will not be allowed off the bus at any stop other than his/her own without WRITTEN permission from parent or guardian.
2. A student will not be allowed to ride a bus if he/she is not a regular passenger of that bus without written permission from parent or guardian.
3. Students should be at the bus stop at least five minutes before the scheduled arrival of the bus.
4. Students must wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before attempting to approach the bus for boarding.
5. Students should line up in an orderly manner when boarding the bus.
6. Except for ordinary, quiet conversation, classroom conduct is expected while on the bus.
7. Waste paper or other debris will not be thrown on the floor of the bus or out of the windows.
8. Students will not extend their arms or heads out of the bus windows.
9. Students may not reserve seats on the bus. The driver will instruct the students on where he/she wants them to sit.
10. Students must not stand or move about on the bus while the bus is in motion.
11. Use of the radio/audio equipment is at driver's discretion.

12. Students may not use tobacco in any form or eat food such as sunflower seeds and peanuts.
13. Students may exit through the emergency door only in cases of an emergency evacuation drill or a declared emergency.
14. When leaving the school bus—and crossing in front of the bus—students will wait for the driver to give the “all clear” signal before crossing.

Consequences of Violating Rules and Regulations-

1. First Offense – Verbal warning from driver.
2. Second Offense –
 - a. Written warning (Student Conduct Report)
 - b. Assigned seat
 - c. Conference with principal
3. Third Offense –
 - a. Normal option is suspension from the bus for a period of time. When a student is removed from one bus, he or she will not be allowed to ride any other Polson Public School Route bus for the duration of the suspension.
 - b. Other options may be considered.
4. Repeat Offenses-Longer periods of suspension with the possibility of permanent suspension.

Flagrant Offenses –

Immediate suspension without prior warning (could result in permanent suspension from the bus).

Some examples of flagrant offenses are:

1. Fighting
2. Abusive, disrespectful, or insubordinate to the driver or disrespectful to other passengers, chaperones, or bus aides.
3. Possession/or use of matches, cigarettes, lighters or flammables of any kind.
4. Use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
5. Possession of weapons.
6. Any behavior which jeopardizes the safety of the driver or passengers.
7. Vandalism to the bus. The guilty passenger or passengers will be required to pay for damages before they are allowed to ride the bus.
8. Spitting on other students or the bus driver

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE

It is important that the school be notified of any change in your address or phone number during the school year. It is critical that work and emergency numbers are kept updated on your child’s school records in order for the school to contact you in case of an emergency. We must have at least one emergency number for each child enrolled. **Regularly updating your information on your PowerSchool account is very helpful.**

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE POLICY

Because infectious diseases are easily transmitted in schools, we offer the following guidelines for attendance:

Strep throat / Pink eye / Impetigo: With a diagnosis of one of these, your child should be out of school for a minimum of 24 hours after beginning treatment with antibiotics.

Fever: A temperature of 100 degrees or greater means your child is fighting an infection. Please keep him/her out of school until the temperature is less than 99 degrees for one day, and he/she is feeling well.

Vomiting / diarrhea: If your child has vomited or had diarrhea two or more times (during the night or early morning) he/she should stay home for the day.

Head lice: Although head lice are not considered a communicable disease by the CDC, they are highly contagious in a school environment. Children with live head lice need to be treated with a lice shampoo/rinse, and the eggs removed before they can return to school. Repeated cases of head lice will be referred to the Public Health Nurse or Tribal Health Nurse for follow-up.

Chickenpox: Children diagnosed with chickenpox need to be out of school until the skin lesions are dry or crusted (usually six days after the onset of the rash). An immunization is now available to prevent chickenpox.

Respiratory illnesses: If your child has a cold or bronchitis, he/she is welcome to attend as long as he/she feels well enough to participate. However, with a frequent cough or dripping nose, he/she may desire to stay home until those symptoms subside.

DRESS AND CLOTHING

Please see that your child is dressed appropriately for school activities and for being outdoors in cold weather. If the weather is exceptionally cold or wet the children will be kept indoors.

Students may bring a pair of gym shoes to be left at school. They need not be new, but should be clean and will be used for P.E. only. White-soled tennis shoes work best. Girls are encouraged not to wear skirts or dresses on P.E. day.

PLEASE MARK ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS WITH HIS/HER NAME AND CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND REGULARLY FOR LOST ITEMS.

DRUG/WEAPONS FREE SCHOOLS

Our schools are drug and weapon free. Possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by students and/or adults may result in suspension from school, or may be referred to law enforcement agencies. Contact with other social services and/or law enforcement agencies may also occur.

Possession of any potentially dangerous weapon may result in the immediate notification to local law enforcement, immediate suspension, and/or a recommendation to the School Board for expulsion.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

You will be advised of unexpected school closures on radio stations KERR AM 750 and KQ 92 – FM 92. Also, be sure to check district and school websites and Facebook pages for updates on school closures. You may also receive an electronic voice mail on your phone.

HEALTH

If there are concerns regarding your child's health, please contact the School Nurse at 883-6333 x523. If medication is necessary for your child during the school day, please bring it in with your student and give medications directly to the nurse. **Please DO NOT send any medications in your child's backpack, or medicines for them to take at their discretion.** All medicines must be administered by the School Nurse and must be in a labeled container and accompanied by a note with the student's name, dosage, and time of administration.

INSURANCE

Polson School District *does not* carry accident insurance for our students. Any expenses incurred for injuries occurring while a student is on campus or while traveling on field trips are the parent's responsibility. Accident insurance is available to families. Families are encouraged to thoroughly review and consider the insurance information.

INTERNET USE AT SCHOOL

The Polson School District is pleased to offer its students supervised access to the Internet. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting hundreds of thousands of computers and millions of individual users all over the world.

Families should be aware that some material accessible via the Internet might contain items that are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or offensive to some people. In addition, it is possible to purchase certain goods and services via the Internet that could result in unwanted financial obligations for which a student's parent or guardian would be liable.

While the Polson School District's intent is to make Internet access available in order to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other materials as well. The district does maintain a filtering system to block certain sites but this is not a foolproof system. That notwithstanding, the Polson School District believes that the benefits to students of access to the Internet exceed any disadvantages. Ultimately, however, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using media and information sources.

The Polson School District Technology Policy begins on page 23. Please review these policies and sign.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

The last day of school will be Friday, June 5, 2026.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We welcome all parents who wish to volunteer their services to our school. Please contact your child's teacher or the school office. If you plan to volunteer, you must follow board policy #5122, must be background checked through our district office, and board approved. Please contact the district office to schedule an appointment.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE SCHOOL DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Please come to the office to sign your child out for the day. If your child needs to leave the building on a regular basis (music lessons, etc.) please send a note stating days and times your child will be out of the building.

PHONE MESSAGES

PLEASE arrange after school activities with your child **BEFORE** he or she comes to school in the morning. Notify the Cherry Valley Main Office regarding any changes in arrangements for after school *as early in the day as possible, preferably before 2:15 pm.*

PUBLISHING ON THE INTERNET

The Polson School District maintains its own web site and each school is responsible for the content relating to their school. Information contained on the web site includes details about the school itself, staff, lunch menus, newsletters and links to other interesting websites.

There are also individual class pages with photos and examples of student work. We see this as a very important way for students' to publish their work and make it available to a larger audience. When publishing individual student work we would like to use the first name of the student as a credit for their work. If we use a photograph of a particular activity we will not be using names of students.

In accordance with our school districts guidelines we need parent permission to publish names and or photographs of students. Please complete and sign the form attached to the back of the handbook and return to the classroom teacher as soon as possible.

RECESS

The school day is structured to provide for fresh air and exercise. All children are expected to go outside for recess each day. Research has shown that recess is essential for a child's well-being and development. ***In most cases, if your child is too sick for recess, they are too sick to be at school. If your child has been ill and needs to stay in for special circumstances, please send a doctor's note to the teacher.*** If the weather is severe, all children will be kept indoors.

SPECIALISTS

The district employs school psychologists, guidance counselors, speech and language clinicians and professional nurses. They can be contacted by calling the school office.

STUDENT RECORDS

Notification of Rights Under FERPA-

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights with respect to their minor children's educational records. They are:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's educational records.
- (2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.
- (3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- (4) The right to file with the U.S. Department of Education a complaint concerning alleged failures by Polson School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.
- (5) The right to obtain a copy of the Polson School District's students records policy. You can obtain a copy of the policy from the principal's office in each school within the district.

Copies of School District No. 23 Policy on Student Records are on file at each of the school offices, school guidance office, and school libraries. Copies may also be obtained from the District Administration Office.

School District No. 23 designates the following items as a directory information: student home, parent's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, immunization records, dates of attendance, dates of graduation, awards received, school previously attended and photograph. The district may disclose any of those items without prior written consent, unless notified in writing to the contrary prior to September 1st each year.

“TAKE HOME” TUESDAY FOLDERS

Most important school notices will be sent home on Tuesdays in students' Take-Home Tuesday Folder. Please check your child's papers for notices on that day of the week. Cherry Valley's monthly newsletter will be sent home the first Tuesday of the month and will also be published on our website and Facebook pages. Some teachers choose to send these folders home daily, but important information will normally come on Tuesdays.

VACATION AND TEACHER PD DAYS 2025-2026

There will no school held on:

September 15th - Tribal PIR day

October 15th and 16th - MEA

November 21st - PIR

November 26-28th - Thanksgiving

December 22nd - January 2nd - Winter Break

February 16th - Presidents' Day

March 30th - April 3rd - Spring Break

May 25th - Memorial Day

TITLE 1 SERVICES, POLICY AND COMPACT

Cherry Valley Elementary

Title I Parent Involvement Policy

In an effort to foster student success, partnerships between the school and parents are vital. At Cherry Valley Elementary we believe parent/guardian support is crucial in our efforts to provide quality education, to maximize the success of our students and to help them achieve higher academic standards to succeed in school and life.

The purpose of this policy is to inform and educate parents about the Title I program and the responsibilities of the school in regards to parent involvement. It was developed in conjunction with parents, teachers, and administrators of Linderman Elementary.

The Cherry Valley Elementary Title I program will:

- Involve parents in the development of this policy and the school/parent/student compact.
- Inform parents annually about the Title I program and the rights of parents and review these components each year.
- Design parent involvement programs and meetings that are aimed toward increasing parent involvement in student education and learning.
- Offer a number of meetings throughout the school year that are scheduled at reasonable and flexible times to encourage maximum participation.
- Provide timely information about school programs, curriculum and instruction, assessments, and measures of progress.
- Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
- Provide opportunities for parents to offer suggestions and participate in discussions related to the Title I programs and receive timely responses. If dissatisfied with the school's Title I program, parent comments will be taken to the District level.
- Utilize parent involvement funding in a responsible manner based on the needs.
- Inform parents of school activities through multiple methods of communication.

Activities that allow for additional opportunities for parent involvement may include, but aren't limited to:

- Open House
- Monthly Newsletters
- Parent/School Compact
- District Website
- PATT (Parent Group)
- Watch D.O.G.S. program
- Polson Reads Program

Cherry Valley Elementary School-Student-Parent Title 1 Compact

Federal guidelines require that all schools receiving Title I funds develop a School-Parent-Student compact. A compact is an agreement among participants working together for a common goal. Teachers, students, and parents all have the responsibility to contribute to the effort to establish an effective climate for learning for all students. This compact outlines the role of each group in an effort to provide a high-quality education for our students.

As a student I will:

- Attend school regularly and arrive to all classes on time
- Complete homework assignments on time and to the best of my ability
- Always do my best to produce quality work
- Participate in school-related activities
- Set aside time at home to read each day
- Show respect for fellow students, teachers, and school property
- Follow classroom, school, and bus rules

As a parent, I will:

- Ensure that my child attends school regularly and arrives on time
- Ensure that my child completes his/her homework on time
- Provide a place in the home where my child can read, study, and complete assignments
- Discuss my child's progress with his/her teacher on a regular basis
- Support the school and encourage my child to be respectful of teachers and fellow students
- Encourage my child to read at home daily
- Volunteer at school whenever possible

As teachers, we will:

- Help each child meet his/her fullest potential in a safe learning environment
- Make efficient use of learning time by coming prepared to teach with meaningful activities
- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive environment where learning is encouraged and celebrated
- Adapt instruction to meet the individual needs of all learners
- Encourage students to read for enjoyment, as well as for information
- Supply students and parents with clear and frequent evaluations of progress and achievement
- Promote an environment where parents feel welcome in our school and are encouraged to volunteer and participate in classroom activities
- Encourage parents to contact teachers to discuss their child's progress academically and socially
- Hold parent-teacher conferences to discuss individual student achievement and share ways to support learning at home

TOYS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS AT SCHOOL

Children may bring **playground-type toys** to school, but are responsible for them. The school will not be responsible for items that are lost, broken, or taken by other students. Toys need to meet these criteria:

They should encourage cooperative play.

They must be safe.

They must be non-violent.

PLEASE, leave expensive electronic toys at home.

All other toys should be kept at home. Please note that some teachers' policies may differ for their classroom.

TRAUMA INFORMED SCHOOL MODEL OF SUPPORT

Due to the increasing emotional, physical and mental health needs of our young students at Cherry Valley Elementary, the staff, counselors and administration have developed the following plan of support. This is a plan which will be consistently reviewed and refined by the Student Support Team.

TIER 1 STUDENT SUPPORTS- All Students

Master Schedule Strong Start-

The staff worked together to develop a new Master Schedule which allows for a "strong start" to the day. During this 30 minute time slot we will be running a Second Chance Breakfast for late comers, Check In/Check Outs with our neediest students and whole class Character Strong strategies for self-regulation, social/emotional awareness and conflict resolution.

Character Strong

Teachers and counselors will use the Character Strong curriculum to teach other social and emotional skills and concepts.

Cherry Valley Behavioral Framework: This school-wide behavior support plan. Please see the Cherry Valley Behavioral Framework on page 28.

TIER 2 STUDENT SUPPORTS- Identified Students Needing Support

Parents, teachers and the Social Support Team will meet in order to create an individualized student behavior plan.

At Cherry Valley School, the school counselor, working in collaboration with the Student Assistance Team, will utilize assessments and observation tools to identify students who exhibit delays in social-emotional development or signs of trauma-related behaviors. Once identified, appropriate interventions will be implemented and progress will be regularly monitored.

Examples of interventions include: one-on-one social-emotional learning (SEL) sessions, friendship groups, individualized behavior plans, check-in/check-out systems, restorative behavior strategies, and 504 support plans.

Check In/Check Out

During the “strong start” we will be running breakfast clubs during our normal breakfast time of 8:00-8:25. Students needing Tier 2 support will eat breakfast with an adult and “check in” for the day. The assigned adult will individually check in with students to make sure they are clean, have eaten a healthy breakfast, have needed material for the day, and set behavior goals for the day (as needed) etc. These same adults will “Check Out” with students at the end of the day to provide consistent, positive support.

Behavior Contracts:

The counselor, teacher, parents and student will meet to develop a behavior contract including short-term behavior goals, strategies, rewards and consequences.

TIER 3 SUPPORTS-

In addition to Tier 1 and 2 supports, students needing Tier 3 supports will be referred for local therapist services. Those services will integrate with the students individualized behavior plan and may also include group and family counseling opportunities as well as referrals to other community support services.

Wrap-Around Meetings to align services and support:

Parents, teacher, counselor/s and other support staff will meet to brainstorm/align all supports and services.

Protection from Harassment, Threats, and Violence:

The District has zero tolerance for harassment, threats, or acts of violence against staff. Any student engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, in accordance with District policy and applicable laws. Law enforcement will be involved when appropriate.

Employees are encouraged to report any threatening or unsafe situations to administration immediately. The District will ensure that all reports are investigated thoroughly and that appropriate safety measures are put in place.

District Technology Policy

The District makes Internet access and interconnected computer systems and equipment available to District students. Students are required to comply with policy 3612, and Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) 3612p. Students under 18 and their parents are both required to sign the Student Internet Access And Equipment Use Conduct Agreement (3612F) before being authorized to access district electronic information, services, equipment, and networks.

The District provides equipment and electronic networks, including access to the Internet, as part of its instructional program and to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. The district provides instruction on the safe and responsible use of technology via a Digital Citizenship curriculum.

The District expects all students to take responsibility for the appropriate and lawful use of equipment, network, and internet access, including good behavior online. The District may withdraw student access to its equipment, network, and to the Internet when any misuse occurs. District teachers and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise the use of equipment, network, and Internet access; however, student cooperation is vital in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access.

Access to the District's equipment and electronic networks must be for the purpose of education or research and consistent with the educational objectives of the District. The use of the District's equipment and electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of those privileges. Students are responsible for their actions and activities involving the equipment and network. Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette.

All district equipment with access to the internet has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene; (2) pornographic; or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and determined by the Superintendent or designee.

School Technology Policies:

Any student who engages in unsafe or inappropriate behavior while using a district provided device or internet will be required to have a conference with the teacher or designee and guardians before they are allowed to access district provided technology.

Polson School District Acceptable Use Policy (3612P)

District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, Equipment, and Networks

All use of equipment and electronic networks shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or proscribed behaviors by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

Terms and Conditions

1. **Acceptable Use** – Access to the District's equipment and electronic networks must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research and consistent with the educational objectives of the District; or (b) for legitimate business use.
2. **Privileges** – The use of the District's equipment and electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in cancellation of those privileges. The system administrator (and/or principal) will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. That decision is final.
3. **Unacceptable Use** – The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the equipment and network. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:
 - a. Using the equipment and network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any federal or state law;
 - b. Unauthorized downloading of software, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or devirused;
 - c. Downloading copyrighted material for other than personal use;
 - d. Using the equipment or network for private financial or commercial gain;
 - e. .Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
 - f. Hacking or gaining unauthorized access to files, resources, or entities;
 - g. Invading the privacy of individuals, which includes the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information of a personal nature about anyone;
 - h. Using another user's account or password;
 - i. Posting material authored or created by another, without his/her consent;
 - j. .Posting anonymous messages;
 - k. Using the equipment or network for commercial or private advertising;
 - l. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing, or illegal material; and
 - m. Using the equipment or network while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
4. **Network Etiquette** – The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
 - c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
 - d. Recognize that electronic mail (e-mail) is not private. People who operate the system have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
 - e. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
 - f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the network to be private property.
5. **No Warranties** – The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

6. Indemnification – The user agrees to indemnify the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District, relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.
7. Security – Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify the system administrator or building principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep your account and password confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the network.
8. Vandalism – Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges, and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment, data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes but is not limited to uploading or creation of computer viruses.
9. Telephone Charges – The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/ or equipment or line costs.
10. Copyright Web Publishing Rules – Students shall comply with District Policy 2312 and staff guidance when utilizing material subject to copyright.

Internet Safety

1. Internet access is limited to only those “acceptable uses,” as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is almost assured if users will not engage in “unacceptable uses,” as detailed in these procedures, and will otherwise follow these procedures.
2. Staff members shall supervise students while students are using District Internet access, to ensure that the students abide by the Terms and Conditions for Internet access, as contained in these procedures.
3. Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene; (2) pornographic; or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and determined by the Superintendent or designee.
4. The district shall provide age-appropriate instruction to students regarding appropriate online behavior. Such instruction shall include, but not be limited to: positive interactions with others online, including on social networking sites and in chat rooms; proper online social etiquette; protection from online predators and personal safety; and how to recognize and respond to cyberbullying and other threats.
5. The system administrator and principal shall monitor student Internet access.

STUDENT INTERNET ACCESS AND EQUIPMENT USE CONDUCT AGREEMENT (3612F)

Student Section

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms of the Polson School District's policy regarding District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, Equipment, and Networks (Policy No. 3612). Should I commit any violation or in any way misuse my access to the District's equipment, computer network, and/or the Internet, I understand and agree that my access privilege may be revoked and school disciplinary action may be taken against me including payment of costs associated with damaged equipment.

Student/Users Name (Print)	
Student/Users Signature	
Date:	

Parent or Legal Guardian. (If applicant is under 18 years of age, a parent/legal guardian must also read and sign this agreement.) As the parent or legal guardian of the above-named student, I have read, understand, and agree that my child shall comply with the terms of the District's policy regarding District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, Equipment, and Networks for the student's access to the District's equipment computer network and/or the Internet. I understand that access is being provided to the students for educational purposes only. However, I also understand that it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all offensive and controversial materials and understand my child's responsibility for abiding by the policy. I am signing this Agreement and agree to accept full responsibility for supervision of my child's use of his/her equipment and access account if and when such access is not in the school setting. I hereby give my child permission to use the building-approved account to access the District's computer network and the Internet. I understand any negligence arising out of my student's use of equipment or networks shall be attributed to me as comparative negligence within the meaning of Section 27-1-702, MCA. I further accept that any costs to repair or replace damages to equipment or networks in accordance Section 20-5-202, MCA

Parent/Legal Guardian (Print):	
Parent/Legal Guardian Signature	
Date:	

This Agreement is valid for the 2025-2026 school year only.

Cherry Valley Student Handbook/Behavior Pathway Acknowledgement

- ✓ I have reviewed the Student/Parent Handbook with my student in an effort to promote a better understanding of Cherry Valley Elementary rules and expectations.
- ✓ I acknowledge receiving and/or being provided the Student/Parent Handbook and Cherry Valley pathway on student behavior.
- ✓ I have read these materials and understand all rules, responsibilities and expectations.
- ✓ I understand that the Student/Parent Handbook and School District policies may be amended during the year and that such changes are available on the Cherry Valley website or in the school office.
- ✓ I understand that my failure to return the acknowledgement question form will not relieve myself or my student from being responsible for knowing and complying with the School and District rules, policies, and procedures.

****Access to behavior pathway is available on Cherry Valley website****

***Please keep this acknowledgment for your records. No signature is required if you agree to all of the above and attached policies and procedures. If you should have any questions or concerns please fill out the acknowledgement question form below and return it to your child's teacher, so that a school official can contact you as soon as possible.**

Thank you

-Cherry Valley Staff

I have questions about the Cherry Valley student handbook policies and procedures. I would like to be contacted by a school official as soon as possible to discuss these questions.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Student: _____ Teacher: _____

Best # to Contact me at: _____

Cherry Valley Behavior Pathway

Elementary (K-1)

	1 st Infraction (Warning/Teachable moment)	2 nd Infraction	3 rd Infraction (Major Infraction)	4 th Infraction (Major Infraction)
<p>Minor Infraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disrespect ▪ Defiance ▪ Disruption ▪ Physical Contact ▪ Inappropriate Language ▪ Property Misuse ▪ Theft, Lying, Cheating ▪ Other <p>*Please note that 3 or more of these minor infractions (chronic minor) turns into a major infraction.</p> <p>*Refer to the Cherry Valley Office Referral definition for individual definitions.</p> <p>Major Infraction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overt defiance/disrespect ▪ Physical Aggression ▪ Disruption ▪ Abusive/Threatening Language ▪ Harassment ▪ Bullying ▪ Theft, Lying, Cheating ▪ Fighting ▪ Property Damage/Vandalism ▪ Other <p>*The first major infraction will result in level 3 or 4 actions.</p>	<p>Administrative/Teacher Action (K-1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR Report/Document behavior • Restrict activity (recess walker) • Meet w/Teacher or Principal to discuss appropriate behavior. <p>Repair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student needs to verbally apologize to person(s) who they displayed disrespect towards. <p>Possible Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Provide structured choices o Use of the regulation/"calm down" area 	<p>Administrative/Teacher Action (K-1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR Report/Document behavior • Restrict activity (recess walker/loss of recess) • Student's teacher will contact guardian(s) about behavior. • Meet w/Principal to discuss appropriate behavior. • Complete "Think Sheet" that needs to be signed and returned by student's guardians. <p>Repair:</p> <p>Student will need a verbal/written apology to person(s) who they displayed disrespect towards.</p> <p>Possible Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meet with Counselor o Identify contributing functional and environmental factors o Provide structured choices o Use of the regulation/"calm down" area 	<p>Administrative/Teacher Action (K-1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR Report/Document behavior • Restrict activity • Meet w/Principal to discuss appropriate behavior. • Phone call home to inform guardians of behavior. • Complete "Think Sheet" that needs to be signed and returned by student's guardians. • Meeting with guardian is required to discuss behavior. • Possible recommendation for suspension. <p>Repair:</p> <p>Student will need a verbal/written apology to person(s) who they displayed disrespect towards.</p> <p>Possible Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Meet with Counselor o SSIS Assessment completed by teacher, student, guardian. o Behavioral TAT o Develop an individualized behavior pathway/Contract. o AM/PM Check-Ins/Outs o Use of the regulation/"calm down" area <p>*3 or more minor infractions (chronic minor) turns into a major infraction.</p>	<p>Administrative/Teacher Action (K-1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR Report/Document behavior • Restrict activity • Meet w/Principal to discuss appropriate behavior. • Phone call home to inform guardians of behavior. • Complete "Think Sheet" that needs to be signed and returned by student's guardians. • Follow pathway of individualized plan. • Contact School Resource Officer to discuss behavior with student. • Possible recommendation for suspension. • Possible recommendation for alternative school day. • Possible recommendation for expulsion. <p>Repair:</p> <p>Student will need a verbal/written apology to person(s) who they displayed disrespect towards.</p> <p>Possible Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Provide intervention: counselor o Guardian attends school o Provide parent with community resources/referrals. o Use of the regulation/"calm down" area

Cherry Valley Elementary Behavior Definitions

Minor Infraction	Definition
Disrespect:	Verbal or non-verbal displays of rudeness or discourtesy. For example, inappropriate gestures, arguing, mocking, yelling, and rolling eyes.
Defiance:	Continuous blatant refusal to comply with directions. For Example, talking back or refusal to sit when repeatedly requested.
Disruption:	Inappropriate disruption, distracting sounds or behavior.
Physical Contact:	Non-serious, but inappropriate physical contact. Shoving a person out of frustration or competitiveness, kissing, hugging, tripping, and pushing.
Inappropriate Language:	Inappropriate language not directed at others. Saying "this is stupid," "this sucks," swearing ect.
Property Misuse:	Use of school property that could be unsafe or inappropriate. Throwing rocks or pinecones, etc.
Theft, Lying, Cheating:	Student delivers message that is untrue and/or deliberately violates rules. Student is involved by being in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property.

* 3 or more minor infractions (chronic minor) turns into a major infraction

Major Infraction	Definition
Overt Defiance/Disrespect:	Continual refusal to follow requests or directions. Talking back, arguing, socially rude interactions, ignoring authority, leaving school grounds.
Physical Aggression:	Inappropriate serious physical contact including anger that may result in injury. Intent to hurt another: hitting, punching, scratching, spitting, kicking, biting, ect.
Disruption:	Student engages in behavior causing an interruption in a class or activity. Sustained loud talking, yelling, or screaming; noise with materials; horseplay or roughhousing; and/or sustained out-of-seat behavior.
Abusive/Threatening Language:	Inappropriate language directed at others. Verbal or gestural messages that include threats, intimidations, pictures or written notes with the intent to harm or upset another.
Harassment:	Disrespectful behavior (verbal or gestural) toward another student which is intended to disturb or upset including negative comments based on age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, disabilities, sexual orientation or other personal matters.
Bullying:	Harassment that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.
Theft, Lying, Cheating:	Student is involved by being in possession of, having passed on, or being responsible for removing someone else's property; student delivers message that is untrue and/or deliberately violates rules.
Fighting:	Inappropriate serious physical contact, including anger between two or more students that may result in injury.
Property Damage/ Vandalism:	Deliberately destroying school property or property of another.

