

Homer Junior High School

Handbook for Students and Parents 2017-2018



Homer Junior High School
P. O. Box 500, 58 Clinton Street
Homer, New York 13077-0500
School Phone: 749-1230
www.homercentral.org

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Homer Junior High School

Handbook for Students and Parents

Welcome

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to a new school year at Homer Junior High School! I look forward to working with you as we strive to make this a productive and memorable year for all.

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint you with some of the procedures that we use at the school to ensure student success. P.O.S.T. teachers will review the handbook with the students, but it is also important for you as parents to do the same.

I strongly believe in the need for teamwork, between school and home, if we are going to be successful in providing children with the best program possible. As parents, you need to ensure that your child comes to school ready to learn. Your attitude towards learning and school will have a significant impact on your child's success in school. As teachers, we need to nurture what you have begun, and complement that with quality, consistent instruction.

As students, it is important to keep in mind that what you learn today serves as the foundation for your educational attainment in later years. The fulfillment of your dreams begins today, and with the help of our dedicated staff, the sky is the limit.

There are many positive experiences available to your child here at Homer Junior High School. With your understanding, cooperation, and hard work, we can create the kind of community that will ensure that those experiences are attained. The staff and I look forward to this opportunity.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have concerning the material included in the handbook.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Turck, Principal
E-mail...tturck@homercentral.org

Mission Statement

The Homer Central School District is committed to excellence for all students. Our mission is to graduate responsible and productive citizens who embrace life-long learning. We work together as a team of dedicated, effective, and well-supported professionals to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Vision Statement

PRIDE:

Partnerships, Respect, Integrity, Diversity and Excellence – is the foundation for the Homer Central School District

Partnerships promote collaboration among students, staff, families and the community to support student learning.

Respect grows through mutual kindness, compassion for others, and the development of strong moral character in a student-centered environment.

Integrity guides our actions so that they are honest, open and fair.

Diversity enriches our opportunities to create multiple pathways for learning and to foster independent intellectual growth.

Excellence through rigorous learning experiences, empowers students to become critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and responsible citizens.

Behavior Code

We are all in this together. We are all one team.

All members of a **team** want:

- ⇒ to feel safe.
- ⇒ to be treated fairly and with respect.
- ⇒ to be successful.

We are all in this together. We are all one team.

For our **team** to **succeed**, we must:

- ⇒ treat each other fairly and with respect.
- ⇒ accept responsibility for our actions and attitudes.
- ⇒ do our jobs to the best of our abilities.

Directory

Homer Junior High

Main Office (Mrs. Emily Olsenwik).....749-1230
Fax.....749-1238
Principal (Mr. Thomas Turck).....749-1230
Counseling Office (Ms. Peggy Strauf)....749-1135
School Counselors (Miss Stacy Bell).....749-1136
(Miss Jessica Woods).....749-1137
Psychologist (Miss Melissa Brown).....749-1135
Social Worker (Mr. John O'Callaghan)...749-1103
Nurse (Mrs. Melody Scanlon).....749-1131

Homer Central School Board of Education

Mrs. Sonia Apker
President

Mr. Luke Morenus
Vice President

Mr. Keith Fagerheim

Mr. Michael Kilmer

Mr. Joaquin Lira

Mrs. Julie McChesney

Mr. David Quinlan

Mr. Levi Sutton

Mr. Martin Sweeney

Contact information is available on the district website.

Central Administration and Support Services

Athletic Office 749-1213
Mr. Michael Carboine
Director of Athletics and Physical Education

Building & Grounds 749-1234
Mr. Scott Cavellier
Assistant Director of Facilities

Cafeteria Office 749-1216
Mr. Rob Kennedy
School Lunch Director

Office of Evaluation and Instruction 749-1206
Mr. Ted Love
Director of Instruction

District Office 749-7241
Ms. Nancy Ruscio, Superintendent
Mr. Michael Falls, Assistant Superintendent for Management

Special Education Office 749-1226
Mr. Chris Moore
Director of Special Education

Transportation Office 749-1221
Mr. Jeffrey Delia
Transportation Supervisor

Office of Technology 749-5033
Mr. Joe Homza
Director of Technology

Homer Junior High School

Faculty And Staff

Administration

Mr. Thomas M. Turck Principal

Office Staff

Miss Bell School Counselor
 Miss Woods School Counselor
 Miss Brown Psychologist
 Mr. O'Callaghan School Social Worker
 Mrs. Scanlon Nurse
 Mrs. Olsenwik Main Office Secretary
 Ms. Strauf Counseling Office Sec.

Team 6A

Mrs. Owens
 Mrs. Nye
 Mrs. McGee
 Mrs. Mastroe

Team 6B

Mrs. Thide
 Mrs. Exelby
 Mrs. Dugan
 Ms. Ryan

Team 7A

Mr. Brodeur English
 Mr. Aagaard Social Studies
 Mrs. Law Math
 Mr. George Science

Team 7B

Mrs. Feldman English
 Mrs. Shurtleff Social Studies
 Mr. Herwood Math
 Mrs. Besler Science

Team 8A

Mrs. Kannus English
 Mrs. Greenfield Social Studies
 Mrs. Porter Math
 Mr. Lener Science

Team 8B

Mr. Biernacki English
 Mrs. Butts Social Studies
 Mrs. Barnard Math
 Mr. Douglass Science

Special Areas

Ms. DeCarlo AIS Math
 Mrs. Gray AIS 8
 Mrs. Cavellier Applied Skills
 Mrs. Flood Art
 Ms. Spanbauer Art
 Mr. Bowers Health 8
 Mrs. Priest Health 8
 Mrs. Bachmann Home and Career Skills 6
 Mr. Wakeman Home and Career Skills 8
 Mr. Seymour Instrumental Music
 Mr. Cook Learning Resource Center
 Ms. Renner Physical Education
 Mrs. Barrett Physical Education
 Mrs. Grassie Reading
 Miss Ward Special Education 6A
 Mrs. Heyer Special Education 6B
 Miss Barnoski Special Education 7A
 Mrs. Patriarco Special Education 7B
 Mrs. Collins Special Education 8A
 Ms. Tracy Special Education 8B
 Mrs. Cochran Special Education 12:1:1
 Mr. Gross Speech
 TBA Technological Ed. Gr. 7
 Mr. Melvin Technological Ed. Gr. 8
 Mrs. Fuller Vocal Music
 Mrs. Solan World Language
 Mr. Williams World Language

Teaching Assistants/Aides

Mrs. Casolare
 Mrs. Dallaire
 Mrs. Day
 Mrs. Ellerson
 Mrs. Farkas
 Mrs. Marsh
 Mrs. Kutz
 Mrs. MacNeill
 Ms. Mulcahy
 Mrs. Rodriguez

Daily Information

P.O.S.T. (partnering of students and teachers)

It is important that students arrive at school on time and are present for P.O.S.T. Daily announcements are made, materials are distributed and important topics are discussed during P.O.S.T. time. Students are released to go to P.O.S.T. at 7:45 a.m. and must be in P.O.S.T. by 7:50 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Students have a constitutional right not to participate in the pledge of allegiance. Students are expected to display respect during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. As long as the student is not infringing upon the rights of others and is not being disruptive, the student should not be treated differently from those students that choose to participate. Student should be allowed to remain quietly seated and should not be criticized, sent to the hallway, ordered to stand, threatened or punished due to not standing. The students' parents should not be contacted regarding their participation or nonparticipation in the pledge. The Constitutional right belongs to the student.

Daily Class Schedule

P.O.S.T.	7:50 - 8:00
Period 1	8:03 - 8:43
Period 2	8:46 - 9:26
Period 3	9:29 - 10:09
Period 4	10:12 - 10:52
Period 5	10:55 - 11:25 6A/8th Gr. Lunch 10:55 - 11:35 6B/7th Gr. Class
Period 6	11:28 - 12:08 6A/8th Gr. Class 11:38 - 12:08 6B/7th Gr. Lunch
Period 7	12:11 - 12:51
Period 8	12:54 - 1:34
Period 9	1:37 - 2:17
Period 10	2:20 - 2:56 After school activities and extra help time

10th Period (2:20-2:56 p.m.)

First dismissal at 2:17 p.m. is for students who have met all of their responsibilities for the day and have no appointments with teachers. Students may be required to remain in school until 2:56 p.m. if asked by a teacher or administrator. Every teacher is available during 10th

period to provide extra help. Athletes are required to stay 10th period before practices and early games.

Students failing 2 or more classes on a report card or progress report will be required to stay for mandatory 10th period Monday–Thursday until the next 5-week grade report is issued. Mandatory 10th status will be re-evaluated for every 5-week grading period.

The LATE bus is available if your child is a rider.

It's the responsibility of the student to inform parents when he/she is staying 10th period.

Teams

We have an A and B team in grade levels 6-8. Each group is equivalent, with equal numbers of males, females and abilities. The Junior High does not honor requests for specific teams or teachers.

Subjects

6th grade:

40 week courses: English, Math, Social Studies, Science and Skills Block

20 week courses: Applied Skills, Home and Careers/Health, Math Lab/Current Events, Writing Lab/Grammar

10 week courses: Art, Music, PE

7th Grade:

40 week courses: English, Math, Social Studies, Science, World Language and Skills Block

20 week courses: Art, Technology, all music classes, PE

8th Grade:

40 week courses: English, Math, Social Studies, Science and World Language

20 week courses: Health, Home and Careers, Technology, PE

Electives for 8th: Band, Chorale, Ceramics, Studio in Art I

High School Credit Courses for 8th grade with Teacher Recommendation:

- Regents Algebra—earn 1 high school credit
- Regents Earth Science—earn 1 high school credit
- Studio in Art I—earn 1 high school credit

*These courses may **NOT** be dropped after **19 weeks**.

Daily Information Cont.

Recommended Supplies

All students are supplied with an assignment book in September. Individual team supply lists are posted on the junior high's webpage and mailed with the student schedules in August. There may be specific requirements given by teachers at the start of school or the beginning of a semester course.

Visitor Sign in and Parent/Guardian Pick-up of Students

Any person entering the building during school hours must report to the junior high office to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. To ensure the safety of students and staff all doors to the building are locked and **any person who enters the building will be asked for a valid photo identification. Any person who will be picking up students will also be asked for valid photo identification before a student is released.** Please plan to come into the building with photo identification to avoid delays.

Tardy to Class

Students are expected to arrive to class on time. There is 3 minutes allotted between periods and if a student is going to be late, he/she needs a pass from their previous teacher in order to be admitted into the next class. A student who develops a pattern of tardiness will be subject to lunch and 3-5 detentions.

Tardy To School

If you arrive to school after 7:50 a.m. report directly to the main office. Sign in with your excuse, get a pass and go to class. A student who develops a pattern of tardiness to school runs the risk of academic failure and will be subject to the following actions found in the attendance policy/protocol:

Junior High Attendance Policy/Protocol

1. Each day, a robo-call will be used to notify families of a student absence. This call goes out by 9:45 a.m. for grades 6-8.
2. If a student falls below the 90% attendance threshold at any time, the student is spoken to and a letter is sent to the family detailing next steps if it does not improve.

3. If a student falls below the 85% attendance threshold, a parent meeting or home visit is conducted; with a consideration of DSS preventative services or Cortland County Coordinated Children's Services Initiative (CCSI) referral.
4. A student who remains at or below the 85% attendance threshold for more than five weeks results in a Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) diversion referral.

We have developed positive recognitions to encourage regular school attendance. They include perfect attendance breakfasts, certificates, and monthly team drawings.

Leaving School During The Day

- A. Bring a written excuse from a parent/guardian and present it to the main office before school starts. You will be given a permission slip to leave your class at dismissal time.
- B. Show the permission slip to your teacher when it is time to leave.
- C. Get your coat, etc., and sign out in the main office.
- D. If you come back during the day, sign in at the main office and have the secretary give you a pass to class.

Absent from School

GENERAL RULE: Attend classes daily because making up work is difficult.

- A. Call the main office at 749-1230 to report your child absent. You may even leave a message at this number in the evening or before school hours.
- B. STUDENTS are responsible for getting assignments, tests and projects made up. Check the Homework Hotline at www.homercentral.org
- C. **Please utilize the homework hotline when you are absent. If you need to have worksheets and books collected, call the counseling office (749-1135) by 8 a.m. on the second day of absence and arrangements can be made.** The work can be picked up in the main office after 3:00 p.m.
- D. Bring a written excuse from a parent/guardian your first day back. Give it to the main office secretary.

Daily Information Cont.

Student Dress Code

All students are expected to dress appropriately and maintain personal cleanliness. Homer Central School staff should exemplify and reinforce appropriate attire. Your dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall be safe and appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. Examples of clothing, which is inappropriate include, but is not limited to:

- Tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps (shoulder straps less than 1" wide), garments with low necklines that reveal cleavage, any see-through garments, clothing failing to cover mid-riff.
- No shorts or skirts that do not extend at least to a point located mid-thigh and minimally beyond one's fingertips when arms are held to their side.
- Ensure that undergarments are completely covered.
- No pajama-like clothing.
- Footwear must be worn at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- No unauthorized hats, visors or other head coverings will be allowed in the building.
- No items that are suggestive, vulgar, obscene, libelous, or that denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- No items that promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
- Personal communications and electronic devices such as iPods or cellular phones are not to be used during regular school hours.
- Backpacks, purses, or other bags must be kept in lockers at all times.

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, and if necessary replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including out-of-school suspension.

Rewards

Rewards will be given for **impressively positive** behavior. Students will receive a "Positive Act" slip and be entered into a monthly prize drawing.

Consequences

There will be a **consequence** for a behavior that makes someone feel **unsafe**, is **disrespectful** to others or property, or is **disruptive** to the learning process. Teachers will inform you that you're receiving a demerit. A lunch detention occurs whenever a demerit is given. Lunch detention will take place the **day after** the incident.

Any student who receives three demerits in a 20-week period will receive a 3-5 p.m. detention. Students removed from the classroom for any disruptive behavior will automatically be scheduled for a 3-5 p.m. detention. After school detentions are typically only held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Locks and Lockers

Students are issued both hallway and gymnasium dressing room locks and lockers. The combination should never be given to anyone else. Only school issued locks may be used and all others will be cut off. The cost of a replacement lock is \$5.00.

The locker should always be locked. The school is not responsible for articles lost from lockers. If for any reason, the lock/locker does not work properly, it should be reported immediately to the counseling office (hallway locker) or the P.E. teacher (dressing room locker). For your protection the locker should be kept neat and in good order. Lockers are not to be defaced in any manner.

The student lockers, locks, combinations and/or keys are owned by the school. Students are provided lockers to store school-related materials and personal clothing. Students should have no expectation of privacy for anything contained in the lockers. Lockers are locked only to maintain privacy between students and to maintain ownership of property. The school maintains the right to access the lockers at any time. This will include periodic searches using K-9 teams.

General Information

Cell Phone Policy

Students who bring cell phones to school must turn them off and store them in their locker during school hours. Any cell phone seen during the day will be taken and given to Mr. Turck. For the first offense, he will give the phone back to the student at the end of the day. Any additional offenses will require that the phone be picked up by a parent from Mr. Turck's office.

Technology Use

Our goal in providing technology access for students is to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, communication, and collaborative work. Upon registration, Homer students are given a computer account which gives them independent access to many software applications and the Internet.

Students are expected to be aware of the ethics and the responsible use of the Internet, and are expected to adhere to the rules of the District Acceptable Use Policy. Disciplinary consequences will apply in the following cases including and not limited to:

- Misusing computer/electronic communications devices, including any unauthorized or inappropriate use of computers, software, or Internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; evading the District's content filter; using an outside wireless network or proxy server; or any other violation of the District Acceptable Use Policy.
- Unauthorized use of personal electronic devices/equipment (i.e.– cell phones-taking pictures of other students/staff, texting, etc.)
- Unauthorized use of personal computer, laptop, tablet or e-reader and/or other computerized information

Prior to logging onto the network, students (and staff) see this message "This computer is provided for educational use for the Homer Central School District community. All data on district systems is the property of Homer Central Schools and may be monitored in any manner. THERE IS NO RIGHT OF PRIVACY IN THIS SYSTEM. Use of this system by any user constitutes consent to this policy." By logging onto the network, all users are subject to these guidelines.

Fire/Emergency Drills

We are required by law to conduct fire and other emergency drills during the school year. Some of these drills involve the evacuation of all students, instructional and non-instructional personnel from the building. Your P.O.S.T. teachers and classroom teachers are familiar with the route to take in evacuating the building. Students are expected to move quickly, quietly and in an orderly manner. Drills of this kind are carried out so that we know what to do if an emergency occurs.

Dances

Dances are held throughout the year and are open only to students currently attending Homer Junior High. Students must be present at school the day of the dance in order to attend.

Bicycles, Scooters and Skateboards

Any student riding a bicycle, scooter or skateboard to school must follow all traffic safety/crossing guard rules. The student must park and lock the bicycle/scooter in the designated area on school property. The school will not assume responsibility for these items left at school during the day. Students should not ride these on school property during heavy student travel time. (i.e.– morning arrival and afternoon dismissal)

School Resource Officers

We have two school resource officers in our district. Officers Ed Lake and Dave VanOrden are in our school as a resource for students to help and protect them. There are many ways to find the resource officers to talk to them.

1. You can walk up to them and talk to them when you see them in school.
2. You can ask one of the adults in your school to find them for you.
3. You can email them:
Officer Lake... elake@homercentral.org
Officer VanOrden... dvanorden@homercentral.org

General Information Cont.

Lunch Procedures

1. All students will eat during their regularly scheduled lunch period.
2. Homer Junior High School has a closed campus lunch policy. All students must remain in the school during the lunch periods unless he or she is picked up and returned by one of his/her parents.
3. All students in grades 6-8 are to be in one of the approved areas (cafeteria lines, cafeteria, or lunch recess area) under the supervision of a teacher.
4. Pupils will not be allowed to be in the hallways or use lockers during the lunch periods. Classes are in session throughout the building.
5. Students may use only the bathrooms near Technology Education during the lunch period and must get permission from a lunch room staff person before leaving.
6. Seating in the lunch room is based on the discretion of the lunch room monitors and principal. It is based upon capacity, need, safety and student behavior.

Lunch Prices

The school participates in federally-funded school breakfast and lunch programs, and shall provide free or reduced price food services to qualified district students.

Paid lunch	\$1.80	Reduced lunch	\$0.25
Paid breakfast	\$1.15	Reduced breakfast	\$0.25

Charging Meals

- 1) Students may charge up to nine (\$9) dollars K-8, and will not be permitted to exceed this limit until the outstanding charges are paid in full;
- 2) If a student's prepaid meal card or account has been exhausted, he or she will be given a grace period where no more than nine (\$9) dollars K-8 may be charged, to allow time for the meal card or account to be replenished.
- 3) The only item(s) permitted to be charged are a complete meal or milk. A la carte items such as snacks or ice cream may not be charged;

- 4) The District's point-of-sale system will track all charges and payments;
- 5) If a student comes to school without a lunch, and has exceeded the maximum reimbursable-meal limit, the District may provide a reimbursable meal (that is available to all students) so that he or she does not go hungry that day;
- 6) As appropriate, District administration may contact Social Services to report a student's consistent failure to arrive at school with a meal.

Unpaid meal charges will be addressed directly with the student's parent or guardian who is responsible for providing funds for meal purchases; discreet notifications of low, exhausted, or deficit balances will be sent at appropriate intervals during the school year. The notification may include a repayment schedule, but will not charge any interest or fees related to meals charged during the grace period. District administration will further consider the benefits of attempted collections and the costs that would be expended in collection attempts.

Communication

How Do Parents Know What's Happening at the Junior High?

Official District website: www.homercentral.org

Homework On The Web: To access your child's nightly homework:

- Go to www.homercentral.org
- Click Homer Junior High
- Click Homework
- Select your team

Schooltool on-line grades access:

- Go to <http://homer.schooltool.cnyric.org/SchoolToolWeb> to access grades.
- For "Username", type in the email address the school has on file and click on the **Login** button (ignore "Password" for now).
- The words "New User or Forgot Password" will appear on the screen in blue. Click on these words.
- You will be prompted to retype the email address that you used above.
- Click the **Submit** button which causes an email message to be sent to you containing your new password.
- Log into your personal email account as you would normally and look for an email message from "Schooltool" that will contain your password.
- The password will have a lot of letters, numbers, and symbols. Also note that some letters are upper-case and some are lower-case which is important. You may change your password once you log in again.

*****This information is also on the district website. Just click on the Schooltool icon.**

Junior High Update: Each 5 weeks, a newsletter is sent home with Progress Reports and Report Cards.

Trojan Messenger: Highlights of student and staff activities are highlighted on the district's webpage. Check out the great photographs and news articles!

Site-based Team: The committee's purpose is to help represent our community members in establishing educational goals, recommending policy, implementing and assessing activities to enable students to achieve standards of excellence. All meetings are open to parents. The announcement for these monthly meetings will appear on the junior high website and in the Junior High Update. More information may be obtained by contacting the junior high principal at 749-1230.

SCA: The Homer Junior High SCA is a group of parents, teachers, and administrators whose purpose is to maintain a positive school/parent connection to assist children in meeting with success in school and beyond. Meetings are open to all parents and the discussion of issues relate specifically to the junior high. The announcement for these monthly meetings will appear on the junior high website and in the Junior High Update. More information may be obtained by contacting the junior high principal at 749-1230.

District/Calendar: The school district calendar is mailed to everyone in August. Almost all dates for the coming year's activities are listed in the calendar.

Emergency School Closings

When schools are closed because of weather conditions or other emergencies, announcements will be made on area radio and television stations. The district notifies families by using our School Messenger system and posting in on the district website.

Radio: WKRT (920 AM), WHEN (620 AM), WSYR (570 AM), WHCU (870 AM), WSEN (92.1FM), WSKG (91.1 FM), WXHC (101.5 FM), WTKO (1470 AM), WNTQ (93.1 FM)

Television: WIXT (Channel 9), WSTM (Channel 3), WTVH (Channel 5), News Channel 10

On certain occasions, emergency conditions such as impending storms, etc., may necessitate dismissal of students before regular school closing time. In such an event, notification will be made in the same manner.

Homework and Counseling Office

Homework

Homework is one element of our instructional program. Assignments are designed to reinforce classroom instruction, provide practice for new skills and to introduce upcoming concepts.

Homework comprises a maximum of 10% of a child's grade. A student in sixth grade should expect a maximum of 60 minutes of homework per night; a maximum of 70 minutes in grade seven; and a maximum of 80 minutes in grade eight. Lengthy projects, traditionally done at home, will be completed in the classroom setting during the school day.

It is the teacher's discretion as to whether they accept late assignments and/or take off late points for assignments not handed in on time.

Please notify Mr. Turck if you feel that this policy is not being followed.

Parents can assist their children with homework by:

- Provide a study area free of distractions and with good lighting
- Let your child do his/her own work, but provide assistance when asked
- Help your child study for upcoming exams by quizzing them on the material
- Set aside a designated time each night to do homework
- Praise your student for working diligently
- Give them short breaks if they have a lot of homework
- Help your child organize their materials
- Check to see if your child is using their assignment book
- Have your child keep all of their homework in a designated spot such as a Homework Folder
- **Check the Homework Hotline to ensure that your child has completed all assignments.**
- **Regularly check academic progress on School Tool.**

School Counseling Office

From Your School Counselors

Welcome to the Junior High! We hope your time here will be enjoyable. Junior high offers many new opportunities, and serves as a bridge between elementary and high school. Please feel free to visit us in the counseling office if you are having a problem, need someone to talk to, or just simply have a question.

How can the School Counseling Office help?

Beyond working on student schedules, the counseling office offers help in dealing with academic, personal and social issues. We discuss such things as problem solving, conflict resolution, or organizational strategies that will enable students to become more successful academically. We have two school counselors, a social worker, school psychologist and secretary to assist you.

Your Cumulative School Record

A cumulative school record is kept for each student in the counseling office. Your school record is a vital piece of information used by employers, colleges, and the military services. The development of an excellent record should be the goal of every student with emphasis on your grades, attendance, citizenship, participation in extra-curricular activities, and school/community service.

Awards and Honors

Students are recognized in many ways for their special gifts, talents and achievements. Individual clubs and athletic teams may recognize individuals for accomplishments and participation. The honor roll and merit list are published in the *Cortland Standard* after each marking period. An awards assembly is held for each grade during the last week of school.

Grading Policy

Grades that are 65% or better are considered to be passing. **We look at the final averages in each course, not the overall average at the bottom of the report card.** If a student is failing more than one course for the year, he/she may be in danger of failing the grade. Parents may set up teacher conferences by contacting the counseling office at any point during the school year.

Course Averages

Course averages are figured by either averaging the 10-week marking period grades together OR by using this formula if a final examination is given that counts 10% (this includes Regents level courses).

1. **Add up the four ten-week grades** Example: (80, 80, 90, 90) = 340
***If it's a half year course, add up the two ten-week grades but count each one twice.** Example: 80, 90 for ten week grades (80, 80, 90, 90) = 340
2. **Multiply the sum from step 1 by .225**
Example: (340 x .225 = 76.5)
3. **Compute 10% of the final exam (move the decimal point one place to the left)**
Example: 86 = 8.6
4. **Add the result of step 2 and step 3**
Example: 76.5 + 8.6 = 85.1 = a grade of 85.

World Language grade 8: Each marking period is worth 20%. The final exam is also worth 20% of the final average.

Calculation of G.P.A. (Grade point average/overall average)

The **honor roll** list includes students who have an 89.5 or above average and do not have any incompletes on their report cards. This list is published in the Cortland Standard.

The **merit list** includes students who have an 84.5 to 89.4 average and do not have any incompletes on their report card. This list is also published in the Cortland Standard.

Report cards are issued every ten weeks. Courses that meet daily are weighted twice as much as semester courses and those that meet every other day (i.e. physical education, health, band, chorus, music, home and careers, art, technology). For example:

ELA	87 X 1
Social Studies	85 X 1
Math	90 X 1
Science	87 X 1
World Language	95 X 1
P.E.	90 X 0.5
Health	93 X 0.5
Total	535.5 divided by 6= 89.25 avg.

Progress reports are issued at the middle of each marking period. They serve as a record of the progress to date in each subject.

Placement

A pupil will be promoted to the next grade by maintaining a passing average of 65% in all subjects and completing the requirements of each course including final examinations. If a student fails 2 credits then he/she will be required to attend summer school and pass the required courses before being promoted to the next grade. If a student fails more than 3 credits, he/she will be retained. Students with handicapping conditions will be evaluated by the Committee for Special Education. Full year courses equal 1 credit and a 20-week course equals 0.5 credit.

Summer School

The district will determine the availability of summer school during budget time. If a student is required to attend summer school, he/she must PASS the major subjects that were failed in order to be promoted. You can only take a maximum of TWO subjects in summer school. BOCES offers summer school at a designated local high school. Classes are offered if enough students are enrolled to cover the expenses. Transportation to summer school is the parents' responsibility.

Health and Safety

Accountability

New York State Law makes your principal and teachers responsible for you in place of your parent (“in loco parentis”) during the time when school is in session. Your teacher, the nurse and/or the principal must know where you are. If your parent gives you permission to leave school property during the day, it must be cleared through the main office and you must sign out in the main office.

School Health Requirements

Per state law, the following immunizations are mandated for school attendance. **Failure to comply will result in exclusion from school.**

- DTP
- Tdap booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis)
- Polio (IPV/OPV)
- MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Meningococcal (MenACWY)

There is an immunization clinic available at the County Office Building that accepts most insurance plans and is free if income eligible. You must make an appointment by calling 753-5203.

Please contact your medical provider or visit our website for further information regarding this state law.

Physical Examinations

Physical examinations are mandated by state law. They are required for all 7th graders. If they are not done by their primary care doctor, an examination will be given in school.

Medications

If it is necessary for your child to take medicine during school hours then it must be in an original container and accompanied by a signed note from the parent and doctor. The note should include the child’s full name, permission for the nurse to administer the medication, diagnosis, amount of each dose, route and the time(s) it is to be given. Students are not permitted to bring in medication

unless proper authorization has been obtained from the nurse’s office. Medication permission forms may be obtained from the health office.

Injuries at School

Students sometimes suffer injuries in the school or on the school grounds. Report all injuries immediately to the teacher and to the nurse no matter how slight and minor. Minor cuts and abrasions will be treated as first aid in the school nurse’s office. More serious injuries which cannot be fully cared for by the school will be referred to the family physician or school physician.

In an emergency the school will be responsible if a parent is not available for obtaining medical care for the student at the time of injury. However, if students have to return to a doctor’s office or hospital for additional treatment, x-rays, etc., it is the responsibility of the parents to see that the students are transported to the doctor’s office or place of treatment.

NOTE : GLASSES AND ARTIFICIAL DENTURES ARE NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE. INJURIES SUSTAINED BY A STUDENT DUE TO “HORSE-PLAY” OR A FIGHT WITH ANOTHER STUDENT ARE NOT COVERED BY SCHOOL INSURANCE.

Emergency Contact Information

A copy of the emergency contact information on file is mailed home in August with student schedules. Families are asked to update the information and return it on the first day of school. It is very important to call the main office to update your contact information if it changes during the school year. In the event of an accident, every effort would be made to contact the parents. Emergency treatment may be started in the event a parent could not be reached.

Emergency Management Plan

A detailed Emergency Management Plan is on file in the school office and deals with specific emergencies. This plan is updated annually and provides for training of all staff.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular Activities

- Color-Guard
- Drama Club
- Jazz Band
- Radio Guild
- Science Club
- Ski Club
- Student Council
- Swing Choir
- Ukulele Club

Participation in clubs and activities is a privilege. Students failing two or more subjects will not be allowed to participate in clubs or attend activity-based field trips. Clubs may vary each year depending on student interest.

Athletic Teams for Grades 7-8

Girls

Fall

Cross-Country
Field Hockey
Soccer

Winter

Basketball
Volleyball
Ice Hockey (with Cortland)

Spring

Lacrosse
Track
Softball

Boys

Fall

Cross-Country
Football
Soccer

Winter

Basketball
Wrestling

Spring

Lacrosse
Track
Baseball

Interscholastic Sports Career – This includes all interscholastic sports in grades 7 – 12. A student's violation record shall start clean when they enter the 7th and 9th grade years.

Risk of Injury - Participation in athletic activities creates risk of injury. Injuries can range from minor to very serious, including paralysis or even death. Contact sports normally carry the highest risk of serious injury. Homer Central School is committed to providing facilities, equipment and coaching/supervision that will make this participation as injury-free as possible.

Transportation to Practices: Many of our athletic activities do not have practice facilities at the junior high school. Athletes have to travel to another school or community site to practice. The school does not transport athletes to all practices. It is the athlete and/or parents' responsibility to get the student to his/her practice. This may involve the athlete walking, running, driving, or riding with another student, coach or a parent. Parents

must be aware of how this transportation is taking place.

Conduct:

- Every student is expected to exemplify good citizenship both in school and in the community. A student who doesn't will be removed from participation in athletics for a period of time, depending upon the severity of the offense. Any student who is suspended from school may not participate in athletics for those days that they are suspended. This includes in-school suspension.
- Athletes must attend school and arrive in time for P.O.S.T. attendance in order to participate in athletics on that day. Extenuating circumstances should be brought to the attention of the coach and Athletic Director.
- If a junior high student is dismissed from school due to an illness, then he/she may not participate in athletics on the same day.
- Athletes will travel to and from contests via school approved transportation. Athletes may be released after the contest (a) directly to their parents or (b) with written permission from their parents approved by the building principal or the athletic director.
- Athletes will be required to pay for lost equipment and for equipment damaged through misuse. Lack of payment or failure to return uniforms/equipment will jeopardize the student's playing status.
- Any athlete found guilty of stealing (money, sports equipment, clothing, etc.), or vandalism will be expelled from the activity and prosecuted if warranted.
- Individual coaches may establish rules pertaining to their particular sport. Athletes will be informed of these rules in writing and are required to abide by them. Athletes may be suspended from participation for violation of these rules. All rules are approved by the Athletic Director.
- A student is considered a team member when they are included on a squad list, have a physical exam and have participated in an organized team practice. No athlete will quit a team without first talking with his/her coach and explaining the reason for leaving the team. Any athlete who violates this requirement will be unable to participate or try-out for another team until he/she talks with the coach.
- All athletes involved in athletic programs shall not use or possess tobacco in any form, alcohol or other intoxicants, illegal drugs, or performance-enhancing drugs. Violations of this rule will be dealt with according to the extra curricular code of behavior for students located on the following page.

Extra-curricular Codes

Code of Conduct for all extra-curricular activities

Consequences for substance abuse violations:

- 1st offense 30 calendar day suspension
- 2nd offense 60 calendar day suspension
- 3rd offense 1 year suspension

In the case of any activity that begins before the start of the school year, the student will be subject to this code of behavior beginning with the first day of the activity.

These suspensions will exclude the student from participating in practices, games, rehearsals, performances or meetings. The suspension begins on the date of notification from an administrator.

Appeal Procedure: Should a student and/or parent desire, decisions made by a school administrator may be appealed to the superintendent of schools. Appeals may then continue to the Board of Education and then to the Commission of Education or the court system.

Co-Curricular Academic Eligibility

The mission of the Homer Central School District is high academic standards for students. Interscholastic athletics/co-curricular activities are an integral part of the education program at Homer. Our students must realize that the academic and athletic/co-curricular programs both strive to achieve this mission. The following Academic Eligibility Policy is established to insure that the District's mission is being met.

- 1) Academic eligibility rules apply during the respective activity/sport season.
- 2) Eligibility will be based on the work of the student for the five-week period prior to participation and reviewed at each five-week report for any student with a failing grade. Eligibility lists will be prepared as soon as reports are issued.

Eligibility for the first five weeks of the school year will be based on the marks received the preceding June. In the event a student attends summer school to make up a deficiency, the summer school mark may be substituted for the June grade.

3) Eligibility shall be determined from grades in all subjects in which the student is enrolled. Dropping a class to allow athletic/co-curricular activity eligibility is not acceptable.

4) A student failing more than two classes will be ineligible to try out for or continue participation in activities. Students placed on ineligibility status will have their status reviewed using the next five-week report. Students will be placed at the appropriate eligibility level using the new grade report.

5) A student failing two courses will be placed on probationary status for two weeks. The probation period starts at the date of notification. Students will have this probationary period to bring their failing grades to a passing level by attending a minimum of two extra help classes each week in that subject in order to stay eligible. Effort and progress must be demonstrated. While on probation students will be ineligible for contests. Game/activity attendance will be at the discretion of the coach or advisor.

Grades will be reviewed at the end of the two-week period. If the student, at the end of the two-week period, has not brought at least one of the failing grades up to a passing level, they will remain ineligible for further participation for the remainder of the five-week grading period. They will then be placed at the appropriate level using the new grade report.

6) It is the student's responsibility to re-establish their eligibility. Athletic/activity contest participation can be reestablished by having no more than one failing grade.

Transportation

Bus Schedule For Junior High

6:15-7:30 a.m. — Students will be picked up at designated points and transported to school.

2:17 p.m. — First dismissal

2:56 p.m. — Late buses will follow four routes that will take all students within the legally required distance of their homes. If you are required to stay until 2:56 p.m. and have a conflict, see your teacher or Mr. Turck.

The safety and comfort of all students requires that the following regulations be obeyed. These regulations are contained in the New York State Transportation Law.

Boarding the bus

Students should be ready when the bus arrives and wait until bus stops completely to board. At the end of the school day students should report immediately to the bus at dismissal.

Riding the bus

Students must follow all aspects of the Code of Conduct while riding the school bus. Specifically, students must: remain in assigned seat until bus stops at their destination; refrain from quarreling, fighting, rough play, swearing, or shouting; refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, or using alcohol on the bus; not extend any body part through the bus window; not have physical contact with the driver; students may only bring objects on the bus that can be held on the student's lap, without bothering other students in the seat; objects must not hang over the seat into the aisle or be taller than the seat; any large or special school projects should be transported by parents. No animals of any kind shall be transported by a school bus.

Exiting the bus

WALK 10 feet beyond bumper when crossing in front of the bus; STOP in line with the driver and wait for signal to cross; CHECK both ways for traffic; CROSS directly across and keep checking both ways for traffic. Students must be 15 feet away from the bus before it can move.

Bus passes

Students being transported to an address other than their own, must have a note signed by parent or guardian and school official.

Bus Discipline Policy

Drivers have authority to reprimand students who are causing an unsafe situation inside or outside of the bus. Behavior problems on the buses will be handled in the following manner:

1. The bus driver should make an attempt to correct any discipline problems by asking the student to behave, and, if necessary, assign seats to certain students.
2. After two or three verbal warnings have been given to the student by the bus driver for discipline problems, the driver should submit an explanation of what the problem was to the transportation office who will document it with a SchoolTool referral.
 - The administrator will investigate the incident and assign appropriate disciplinary consequences.
 - After the next offense the student is again written up. The administrator will investigate the incident, assign appropriate disciplinary consequences and contact the parents/guardians.
 - After the second referral a student may be suspend from riding the bus. If the student is suspended, a conference may be held with the parents.

Late Buses

Late buses are provided Monday through Friday to give students the opportunity to stay after school for extra help or to participate in extra-curricular activities. Students must have a signed bus pass from a teacher/staff member with their full name and address to be allowed on the bus.

Athletic Bus Rules

All school district bus rules are in effect. Any undesirable behavior will result in loss of privilege to ride and further disciplinary action.

- The bus will depart from the school at the time scheduled, IT WILL NOT WAIT.
- There must be a chaperone on each bus.
- On the return trip, the bus will wait 15 minutes for tardy riders, during which time the bus driver will make a reasonable effort to locate the missing person(s). After 15 minutes, the bus will depart.

Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

With every right comes a responsibility.

Students are expected to know and obey the school rules that are listed generally here and more specifically below.

- A. RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.
- B. MEET ALL YOUR ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES.
- C. SOMETHING IS WRONG IF: IT HURTS SOMEBODY ELSE, IT HURTS YOU, OR IT DAMAGES OR DESTROYS PROPERTY.

It is the Student's Right

It is the Student's Responsibility

- | | |
|---|---|
| ⇒ To attend school in the District in which one's parent or legal guardian resides. | ⇒ To attend school daily, regularly and on time, perform assignments, and strive to do the highest quality work possible and be granted the opportunity to receive a good education. |
| ⇒ To expect that school will be a safe, orderly and purposeful place for all students to gain an education and to be treated fairly. | ⇒ To be aware of all rules and expectations regulating student's behavior and conduct oneself in accordance with these guidelines |
| ⇒ To be respected as an individual. | ⇒ To respect one another, and to treat others in the manner that one would want to be treated. |
| ⇒ To express one's opinions verbally or in writing. | ⇒ To express opinions and ideas in a respectful manner so as not to offend, slander, or restrict the rights and privileges of others. |
| ⇒ To dress in such a way as to express one's personality. | ⇒ To dress appropriately in accordance with the dress code, so as not to endanger physical health, safety, limit participation in school activities or be unduly distracting. |
| ⇒ To be afforded equal and appropriate educational opportunities. | ⇒ To be aware of available educational programs in order to use and develop one's capabilities to their maximum. |
| ⇒ To take part in all school activities on an equal basis regardless of race, color, creed, religion, religious practice, sex, sexual orientation, gender, national origin, ethnic group, political affiliation, age, marital status, or disability. | ⇒ To work to the best of one's ability in all academic and extracurricular activities, as well as being fair and supportive of others. |
| ⇒ To have a right to privacy as well as the right to access and use District's facilities in a manner consistent with their gender identity. | ⇒ To use the bathrooms and changing facilities of the gender with which they identify. The District also provides private spaces in the form of gender neutral facilities in single stall bathrooms for changing for any student desiring privacy or for any other permissible reason. |
| ⇒ To be protected from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic religion, or religious practice, sex, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event, function or activity. | ⇒ To respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act. To conduct themselves in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination. To report and encourage others, to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment or discrimination. |

— Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, cont. —

Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, HCS staff and for the care of HCS facilities and equipment.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility and consequences for their own behavior. The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on HCS property or engaged in a school-sponsored function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from HCS programs when they:

- A. Engage in conduct that is disorderly. Examples of disorderly conduct include:
 - 1. Running in hallways.
 - 2. Making unreasonable noise.
 - 3. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar or abusive.
 - 4. Obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
 - 5. Engaging in any willful act which disrupts the normal operation of the HCS community.
 - 6. Trespassing. Students are not permitted in any HCS building, other than the one they regularly attend, without permission from the administrator in charge of the building.
- B. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include:
 - 1. Refusal to comply with the directions of school staff or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
 - 2. Leaving HCS property without permission.
 - 3. Skipping detention.
- C. Engage in conduct that is disruptive. Examples of disruptive conduct include:
 - 1. Failing to comply with the directions of any HCS staff.
 - 2. Being late for school or class.
 - 3. Being unprepared for class.
 - 4. Public displays of affection.
- D. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include:
 - 1. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, biting, spitting, and scratching) upon a member of the school staff, another student or any other person on HCS property.
 - 2. Possessing a weapon as defined on page 19 of this document.
 - 3. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
 - 4. Threatening to use a weapon through any means of communication.

- 5. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of any staff member or any person on HCS property, including graffiti or arson.
- 6. Intentionally damaging or destroying school district property.
- E. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include:
 - 1. Lying to HCS staff.
 - 2. Stealing the property of other students, HCS staff or any other person on school property.
 - 3. Acts of bullying or of harassment including sexual harassment as defined in the HCS Policy Manual (#7621)
 - 4. Selling, displaying or possessing obscene material.
 - 5. Using tobacco in any form.
 - 6. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either. “Illegal substances” include but not limited to inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alike drugs, and any substances commonly referred to as “designer drugs” or implements designed for use of any of the foregoing.
 - 7. Inappropriately using or sharing prescription and over-the-counter drugs. All medications (prescription or over-the-counter) must be kept and dispensed in the nurse’s office.
- F. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Students waiting for buses when not on school property are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the HCS code of conduct.
- G. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Plagiarism.
 - 2. Cheating.
 - 3. Altering a grade, or other student record, on paper or in electronic form.

Reporting Violations of the Code of Conduct

Any student observing a student possessing a weapon, alcohol or illegal substance on HCS property or at a HCS function shall report this information immediately to a HCS staff member. The failure of any student to promptly report such information shall constitute a violation of this code. Any weapons, alcohol or illegal substances found shall be confiscated, followed by notification of the parent of the student involved and the appropriate disciplinary action taken, up to and including long term suspension and referral for prosecution. The Building Principal, or program supervisor must notify the

—Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, cont.—

appropriate local law enforcement agency of those code violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the Principal learns of the violation. The notification may be made by telephone, followed by a letter mailed the same day as the telephone call is made. The notification must identify the student(s) and explain the conduct that violated the code of conduct and constituted a crime.

Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. Homer Central School (HCS) staff who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent so as to be the most effective in changing student behavior. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school staff authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The nature of the offense and the circumstances which led to the offense.
2. The student's age.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents, teachers and/or others, as appropriate
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive. This means that a student's subsequent violations will usually merit a stiffer penalty than the first violation.

If the conduct of a student is related to a disability or suspected disability, the student shall be referred to the Committee on Special Education and discipline, if warranted, shall be administered consistent with the separate requirements of this code of conduct for disciplining students with a disability. A student identified as having a disability shall not be disciplined for behavior related to his/her disability.

A. PENALTIES

Students who are found to have violated the HCS code of conduct may be subject to the following penalties, either alone or in combination with one another. The school staff identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

1. Verbal warning—Any member of the HCS staff

2. Written notification to parent—Any member of the HCS teaching, administrative or coaching staff
3. Referral to Principal's office—All building staff
4. Detention—Teachers, Administrators
5. Suspension from transportation—Administrators
6. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities—Administrators
7. Suspension of other privileges—Administrators
8. In-school suspension—Administrators
9. Removal from classroom—Teachers, Administrators
10. Short-term (five days or less) suspension from school—Administrators
11. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school—Superintendent, Board of Education
12. Permanent suspension from school—Superintendent, Board of Education.

B. PROCEDURES

The amount of due process a student is entitled to before a penalty is imposed will depend on the type of penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the HCS staff authorized to impose the penalty must let the student know what misconduct the student is alleged to have committed, and must investigate the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the HCS staff imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

Students who are to be given penalties other than a verbal warning, written warning, written notification to their parents or detention are entitled to additional rights before the penalty is imposed. These additional rights are explained below.

• Suspension from extracurricular and athletic activities and other privileges

A student subjected to a suspension from extracurricular activities or other privileges is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law § 3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the HCS administrator imposing the suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

• In-school Suspension

The Board recognizes that the school must balance the need of students to attend school and the need for order in the classroom to establish an environment conducive to learning. As such, the Board authorizes Administrators to place students who would otherwise be suspended from school as the result of a code of conduct violation in "in-school suspension."

— Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, cont. —

“In-school suspension” is the temporary removal of students from the classroom and their placement in another area of the school building designated for such a suspension where students will receive substantially equivalent, alternative education.

A student assigned to an in-school suspension is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law § 3214. However, the student and the student’s parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the district administrator imposing the in-school suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

• Suspension from School

Suspension from school is a severe penalty, which may be imposed only upon students who are insubordinate, disorderly, violent or disruptive, or whose conduct otherwise endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

The Board retains its authority to suspend students, but places primary responsibility for the suspension of students with the Superintendent, Program Directors, and the Building Principals.

Any staff member may recommend to the Superintendent or the Principal that a student be suspended. All staff members must immediately report and refer a violent student to the Principal or the Superintendent for a violation of the code of conduct. All recommendations and referrals shall be made in writing unless the conditions underlying the recommendation or referral warrant immediate attention. In such cases a written report is to be prepared as soon as possible by the staff member recommending the suspension.

The Superintendent or Principal, upon receiving a recommendation or referral for suspension or when processing a case for suspension, shall gather the facts relevant to the matter and record them for subsequent presentation, if necessary.

Student Searches and Interrogations

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on HCS property and at HCS functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school administrator authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. Students are not entitled to any sort of Miranda-type warning before being questioned by HCS administrators, nor are Administrators required to contact a student’s parent before questioning the student. However, administrators will tell all students why they are being questioned.

In addition, the Board of Education authorizes HCS nurses, Principals, program directors, and teachers to conduct searches

of students and their belongings if the authorized HCS administrator has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the student violated the law or the district code of conduct. An authorized HCS administrator may conduct a search of a student’s belongings that is minimally intrusive, such as touching the outside of a book bag, without reasonable suspicion, so long as the HCS administrator has a legitimate reason for the very limited search.

Visitors to the School

The Building Principal is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds. For these reasons, the following rules apply to visitors to HCS property:

1. Anyone who is not a regular staff member or student of a school or program will be considered a “visitor.”
2. All visitors to the HCS facility must report to the main office upon arrival at the school and have a valid photo identification. Each person will be issued a visitor’s identification badge, which must be worn at all times while in the school or on school grounds. The visitor must return the identification badge to the main office before leaving the building.
3. Visitors attending HCS functions that are open to the public, such as parent-teacher organization meetings or public gatherings, are not required to register with the main office.
4. Parents or citizens who wish to observe a classroom while school is in session are required to arrange such visits in advance with the classroom teacher(s), so that class disruption is kept to a minimum.
5. Teachers will not take class time to discuss individual matters with visitors.
6. Any unauthorized person on school property will be reported to the Principal or Program Director. Unauthorized persons will be asked to leave. The police may be called if the situation so warrants.
7. All visitors shall abide by the rules for public conduct on HCS property contained in this Code of Conduct.

Public Conduct on School Property

The HCS district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on HCS property and at HCS functions.

This code isn’t intended to limit freedom of speech or peaceful assembly. Homer Central School (HCS) recognizes that free inquiry and free expression are indispensable to the objectives of the district. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

—Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, cont.—

A. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

No person, either alone or with others, shall:

1. Intentionally injure any person or threaten to do so.
2. Intentionally damage or remove district property.
3. Disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, HCS programs or other HCS activities.
4. Distribute or wear materials on HCS grounds or at HCS functions that are obscene, advocate illegal action, appear libelous, obstruct the rights of others, or are disruptive to the educational programs.
5. Intimidate, harass, or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, nationality, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability.
6. Enter any portion of the HCS premises without authorization or remain in any building or facility after it is normally closed.
7. Obstruct the free movement of any person in any place to which this code applies.
8. Violate the traffic laws, parking regulations or other restrictions on vehicles.
9. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or being under the influence of either.
10. "Weapon" means a firearm as defined in 18 USC § 921 for purposes of the Gun Free Schools Act. It also means any other gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, brass knuckles, sling shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutters, cane sword, electronic dart gun, Kung Fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, or other device, instrument, material or substance that can cause serious physical injury or death when used as a weapon.
11. Loiter on or about HCS property.
12. Gamble on HCS property or at HCS functions.
13. Refuse to comply with any lawful order of identifiable HCS district administrators performing their duties.
14. Willfully incite others to commit any of the acts prohibited by this code.
15. Violate any federal or state statute, local ordinance or Board of Education policy while on HCS property or while at a HCS function.

Harassment

Harassment in any form will not be tolerated.

Bias Harassment. The act of threatening bodily harm or by repeatedly tormenting another person based on the victim's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender (including gender identity and expression). Bias harassment may take the form of

comments, jokes, name-calling, innuendoes, offensive conversations, perpetuating rumors or gossip, offensive gestures, noises, blocking a victim's path, assault, or any other behavior that is designed to show disrespect to an individual based on the categories listed above.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual behavior that makes a person feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Examples of sexual harassment are:

Verbal (Unwanted and Unwelcome):

- Comments about body parts or rating someone's body
- Sexual suggestions or threats
- Spreading sexual rumors or stories
- Sexual jokes
- Conversations that are too personal
- Insulting comments about sexual orientation

Visual (Unwanted and Unwelcome):

- Staring or pointing at a person's body in a way that is too personal
- Displaying obscene sexual material or placing it in someone's locker or computer
- Writing a person's name along with sexual remarks, suggestions, or drawings in public places
- Making obscene gestures

PRIVACY: The Homer Central School District respects every student's right to privacy as well as their right to access and use the District's facilities in a manner consistent with their gender identity. While the District will make arrangements for students to use the bathrooms and changing facilities of the gender with which they identify, the District also provides private spaces in the form of gender neutral facilities in single stall bathrooms for changing for any student desiring privacy or for any other permissible reason.

Physical (Unwanted and Unwelcome):

- Grabbing or touching in a sexual way
- Tearing or pulling at a person's clothing
- Purposely bumping or brushing against someone
- Kissing or holding a person against his or her will
- Preventing someone from moving freely

People sometimes confuse sexual harassment with flirting. If you are unsure about the effect of your behavior on another, ask yourself the following questions:

- Am I making the person uncomfortable?
- Would I do the same things in front of a parent, a teacher, or others I respect?

—Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, cont.—

General Harassment is the systematic persecution by annoyances, threats, or demands. It can be unrelenting pursuing or demanding; persistent nagging or teasing; or deliberate persecution by taunting, bullying, or insulting others. Harassment results in a person feeling uncomfortable or unsafe and can cause worry, mental distress, or irritation on the part on the part of the victim. Examples of general harassment are:

Verbal

- Name calling
- Spreading rumors
- Jokes or comments that make fun or ridicule others
- Threatening to harm someone.

Visual

- Writing a persons name with degrading remarks or drawings
- Make obscene or threatening gestures
- Writing threatening notes to the victim or others threatening physical or emotional harm

Physical

- Purposely brushing or bumping against someone
- Preventing someone from moving freely
- Grabbing someone
- Hitting, tripping, or any unwarranted physical contact

If you are being harassed, talk to an adult you trust, preferably a school official.

If you witness harassment, you can be of assistance by openly expressing your concern to an adult.

Bullying

Bullying, real or perceived, is understood to be the creation of a hostile environment that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's:

1) educational performance, opportunities or benefits;

or

2) mental, physical or emotional well-being. Bullying may be subtle or easy to identify.

Verbal bullying: which includes but is not limited to

- Name calling, insulting remarks,
- Verbal teasing, frightening phone calls,
- Violent threats, extortion, taunting,
- Gossip, spreading rumors, racist slurs, anonymous notes, etc.

Physical bullying: which includes but is not limited to

- Poking, slapping, hitting,
- Tripping or causing a fall,
- Choking, kicking, punching, biting, pinching, scratching, spitting,
- Twisting arms or legs,
- Damaging clothes and personal property, taking personal belongings without permission, or threatening gestures.

Social bullying: which includes but is not limited to

- Excluding someone from a group, isolating, shunning,
- Spreading rumors or gossiping,
- Arranging public humiliation,
- Undermining relationships, teasing

September 2017

Dear Junior High Parents and Guardians,

At various times during the school year, pictures may be taken of our students. The audio, photos and videos may be taken by the classroom teacher, the newspaper, for the Trojan Messenger, or a student teacher for his or her portfolio. These audios, photos and videos might be used on bulletin boards, on our district website, in newsletters or in the local newspapers. The videos are typically used for a student teacher's requirement for certification by New York State. We recognize that some parents might not want their child to be in audio, photos or videos. Please note that this does not include the school pictures that are taken annually and have a class composite with them.

Please return the below slip to the Junior High office if you do not want your child to appear in audio, photos or videos as mentioned. We will then take steps to avoid such situations while still allowing your child to participate in their classroom activities.



REQUEST FOR CHILD TO NOT APPEAR IN SCHOOL AUDIO/PHOTOS/VIDEOS

Child's Name _____

Child's Grade _____

_____ I **DO NOT** want my child to appear in any audio/photos/videos taken at school.

Parent's Signature

Date

September 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Homer Junior High Student Handbook is a statement of the behavioral guidelines and school policies that are in place at Homer Central School for grades 6-8. Our school staff share with you the responsibility to assist your child in developing the proper attitude and skills to make good decisions and become a self-disciplined citizen. Freedom comes with responsibility and respect for the rights of others.

Please indicate below that you and your child have read and discussed this handbook. It is strongly recommended that you keep it at home as a reference throughout the school year. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please contact the main office at 749-1230.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Turck
Principal



Please sign and return to your child's P.O.S.T. teacher.

Child's Name _____

I have read and discussed the Student Handbook with my child. We will keep it available at home as a reference for questions throughout the year.

Parent's Signature

Date