

## WHS Student Handbook 20-21 Changes since first reading

Change #	Page#	Description	Rationale
1	p.52	Physical Education Policy Delete: Participation in interscholastic sports or another approved after school activity may be an option of fulfilling this requirement if approved by the principal or his/her designee.	We do not approve waivers for PE unless they are due to medical reasons.
2	p. 63	Attendance Requirements: Add: Students who have been diagnosed with a chronic illness should provide a doctor's note every year. Any absence related to the illness will be excused provided an updated doctor's note is on file. The appropriate dean should be contacted by the parent/guardian.	Absences due to chronic illnesses have always been considered excused.
3	p. 65	Calling in an Absence Add to the first bullet: After the fourth unexcused absence in a quarter, a doctor's note must be provided to excuse further absences.	Students are allowed four unexcused absences per term. Medical notes are only needed after the fourth absence.
5	p. 68	Code of Conduct Old text: The use of personal listening devices/video devices, telephones, pagers, still or video cameras....  New Text: Delete telephones and pagers	There is already a section regarding phones and pagers are obsolete.
4	p. 68	Code of Conduct: Add: Obstructing an Investigation	This has become more of an issue.
6	P. 83	Student Government Vacancies Add 8-12	8th graders also have class officers

## WHS Student Handbook 20-21 Summary of Changes

Change #	Page#	Description	Rationale
1	throughout	Added guardian	Accurately describes the custodial situation of our students.
2	throughout	Grades 8-12 and 9-12	Parts of the handbook are applicable to grades 8-12 and some are only applicable for grades 9-12
3	P 47	Building Security Adding: All guests for grades 9 - 12 must sign in at the security desk....all guests for Grade 8 must sign in at the Security Desk located inside door 13	8th grade will have a separate security entrance
4	p.50	Counseling Services Department: Remove four year from “developing a four year course plan with career focus” under guidance	Aligns with 8th graders
5	p.52	Junior/Senior Privilege: Old Text Junior/Senior Privilege applies to juniors/seniors who have a study hall either first or last block of the day  New Text: Junior/Senior Privilege applies to juniors/seniors who have a study hall either the beginning or end of the day.  Add: Schedules will not be changed to accomodate junior/senior privilege.	Allows more flexibility to grant privilege to students who may have 2 blocks in a row free. (example student who has 6th and 7th class off could start their job early.)  Do not want students to drop classes in order to get jr/sr privilege.
6	p.53	Working Papers: Add link to the website	Easy access to information

7	p.55	Change Class of 2020 to Class of 2021	update
8	p.57	<u>MCAS Requirements</u> New Text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet or exceed the Proficient scaled score of 472 on the English Language Arts and 485 on the Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests, and a scaled score of 220 for the STE MCAS test or;</li> <li>• Meet or exceed the Needs Improvement scaled score of 455 on the English Language Arts and 469 on the Mathematics grade 10 MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP) as well as receive a and a scaled score of 220 for the STE MCAS test</li> </ul>	Updated the scores for the MCAS exam
9	p.58	Community Service: Add link to website	Easy access to information
10	p.60	Add 8th grade homework policy	Aligns with what has been past practice for 8th grade students.
11	p.61	Dates for ELA, Math and Science MCAS for 8th graders	Needed to add 8th graders to the testing schedule
12	p.62	<u>Mid-Year/Final Exams Regulations</u> Add: 8th graders will have half days but will not take exams.	Align with past practice for 8th graders.
13	p.63-64	<u>Attendance Requirements</u> Add: We strongly discourage vacations or trips abroad when school is in session. These absences will not be considered excused absences.  Add 8th grade policy regarding attendance	Align with wording in other handbooks  Aligns with past practice for 8th

			graders.
14	p.64	<p><u>Unexcused Absences from Class (Class Cut)</u></p> <p>Old Text: First offense, office detention and a zero will be given for the cut class. There will be no opportunity to make up work missed. Second offense, a full day ISS will be assigned and a conference will be held involving the student, parent/guardian, and counseling services team. A zero will be assigned for the class cut and no opportunity will be given to make up the work missed.</p> <p>New Text: <i>First offense</i>-Teacher will assign consequences and will communicate home. <i>Second offense</i>-Referral to the dean and an office detention will be assigned. <i>Third offense</i>- Referral to the dean as well as a parent/guardian conference and office detention assigned <i>Fourth or more offense</i>-Assigned ISS For all class cuts there will be no opportunity to make up work and the student will receive a 0 for any work missed.</p>	<p>More parent/guardian communication.</p> <p>ISS now given after 4th class cut instead of the 2nd class cut.</p>
15	p.64	<p><u>Late for Class</u></p> <p>Bold the statement: Students who miss one half of a class period due to unexcused tardiness will be marked absent unexcused for the class period.</p>	Make this more prominent.
16	p.65	<p><u>Calling in an Absence</u></p> <p>Add: Additional considerations for an excused absence will require prior approval of the principal</p>	Allow for approval for excused absences by administration that are not listed

17	p.65	<p><u>Dismissal from School</u> Add: Notes submitted to the gold office for grades 9-12 and to the maroon office for grade 8.</p> <p>Notes from the parent/guardian are not considered an excused absence.</p> <p>Students that are dismissed after 1:15 pm will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities (including athletics) unless the dismissal is excused by the athletic director, principal, and/or dean.</p>	<p>Clarifying where notes should be sent.</p> <p>Clear up confusion</p> <p>In an effort to improve dismissals from school, putting a policy in place that is similar to many surrounding districts and in the Bay State League (Braintree, Wellesley, Needham, Newton North, Milton, Hingham, Silver Lake, etc)</p>
18	p.65	<p><u>Tardiness</u> Old text: Students not in their assigned seats at the tardy bell are considered late</p> <p>New text: Being on time is a life lesson we at Weymouth High School are trying to instill in our students. Students not in their homeroom at the tardy bell (typically at 7:30 unless there is a late start) are considered late. Students who enter the building (unexcused) after homeroom, will be required to dispose of any beverages purchased at an outside establishment. If a student refuses, school consequences will be issued.</p> <p>Students must arrive by 8:30 am in order to participate that day in extracurricular activities (including athletics) unless the</p>	<p>Clarifying when students are considered tardy.</p> <p>In an effort to improve tardiness to school, putting the policy in place regarding outside beverages and extracurriculars in the handbook.</p> <p>Tardy policy for extracurriculars is in line with many surrounding towns and the Bay State</p>

		<p>tardiness is excused by the athletic director, principal and/or dean.</p> <p>Addition of when proper documentation needs to be provided for excused tardiness (within 5 school days of the absence)</p> <p>Old Text: Pre-approved college interviews or visitations.</p> <p>New Text: Pre-approved college interviews or visitations and/or other post secondary options</p> <p>Old Text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 5th tardy: Warning sent to parent</li> <li>• On 10th tardy: Assignment of Office Detention with notification to parent</li> <li>• On 15th tardy: Assignment to full day ISS and notification to parents</li> <li>• Further tardiness will warrant further disciplinary action</li> </ul> <p>New Text:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 5th tardy: Warning sent to parent/guardian.</li> <li>• On 10th tardy: Assignment of office detention with notification to</li> </ul>	<p>League (Braintree, Wellesley, Needham, Newton North, Milton, Hingham, Silver Lake, etc)</p> <p>Clarifying policy</p> <p>Allowing for excused tardies for anything that may be a pathway after high school, not just college.</p> <p>No longer will be having students miss an entire day of class when tardy to school.</p>
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		parent/guardian. • On 15th tardy: Assignment of office detention with notification to parent/guardian • Further tardiness will warrant further disciplinary action	
19	p.67	<u>Code of Conduct</u> Add: Refusing a search (see District Search and Seizure Policy).	Enforces school safety
20	p.69	<u>Cheating/Plagiarism</u> Old Text <u>2<sup>nd</sup> offense</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student will be assigned a zero for the assignment.</li> <li>• The teacher will notify the parent and send a referral to the Dean.</li> <li>• All extra-curricular activity advisors will be notified, as well as the National Honor Society.</li> <li>• One full day of ISS will be served, where the student will write a reflection on the incident.</li> <li>• If the 2<sup>nd</sup> offense takes place in the same class as the 1<sup>st</sup>, the student will be reduced 5 points from that term grade.</li> </ul> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> offense:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student will be assigned a zero for the assignment.</li> <li>• The teacher will notify the parent and send a referral to the Dean.</li> <li>• All extra-curricular activity advisors will be notified, as well as the National Honor Society.</li> <li>• One full day of ISS will be served, where the student will write a reflection on the incident.</li> <li>• If the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense takes place in the same class as the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the student will be reduced 10 points from</li> </ul>	Did not feel that a day of ISS is a valid consequence for cheating/plagiarism.  Deleted deducting points from the term grade. Students would be penalized twice (a 0 for the assignment and points from their grade) for the same offense.

		<p>that term grade.</p> <p>New Text:</p> <p><b><u>2<sup>nd</sup> offense and further offenses:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The student will be assigned a zero for the assignment.</li> <li>• The teacher will notify the parent/guardian and send a referral to the Dean.</li> <li>• All extra-curricular activity advisors will be notified, as well as the National Honor Society.</li> <li>• Detention will be assigned.</li> </ul> <p>Delete 3rd offense</p>	
21	p. 71	<p><u>Procedure at School-Sponsored Dances and Proms:</u></p> <p><u>Add:</u></p> <p><u>9-12</u></p> <p>Dances such as homecoming, freshman/sophomore semi, junior and senior prom and other dances will be for students in grades 9-12.</p> <p><u>Procedure at School-Sponsored Events (except Dances and Proms)</u></p> <p><u>Add:</u></p> <p>Grades 8-12</p>	<p>8th graders will not be able to attend dances that historically are for grades 8-12.</p> <p>8th graders will fall under this procedure for any school sponsored event such as games.</p>
22	p.79	<p><u>Telephone/electronic equipment:</u></p> <p><u>Add:</u></p> <p>(Grade 8)</p> <p>The use of personal listening devices/video devices, telephones, pages, still or video cameras (unless used for approved school activities), or other electronic devices is prohibited during the school day. If a student chooses to bring an electronic device to school (i.e. cell phone, iPod or texting device), it is to be silenced during the school day, unless for</p>	<p>Align with past practice for 8th graders.</p>



		specific instructional purposes as designated by the supervising teacher. Failure to follow this policy will result in confiscation of the electronic devices and possible further disciplinary actions.	
23	p.84-85	Added Bell Schedules	Parents/guardians and students have access to our bell schedule as well as half day schedule