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Dear Parents,

I am happy to welcome you and your family to Hoover Elementary School. Our experienced staff of teachers is dedicated to providing every child with the best educational opportunity possible. Many special services supplement our regular school program and it is our aim to create an environment that allows your child to achieve to his/her fullest potential.

We realize the importance of developing in each child an attitude of self-respect and self-worth. We try to provide a variety of opportunities for pupils to form meaningful and responsible relationships.

Parents, we feel, are our partners in the important job of educating the children of the West Branch community. We welcome your suggestions and solicit your membership in the P.T.O. Please feel free to contact me at school, 643-7211.

Jess Burger
Elementary Principal

Hoover Elementary Faculty and Staff

2011-2012

Kindergarten	Patricia Harpole, Sarah Hetrick, Connie Hamilton
1st Grade	Jan O'Neil, Karie Souhrada, Mary Buol,
2nd Grade	Marilyn Culver, Sue White, Mandi Smith
3rd Grade	Randy Sexton, Angie Miller, Kari Spilman, Donna Davis
4th Grade	Wendy Stevens, Christa Diemer, Liz Clefisch
5th Grade	Dana Arp, Kelly Lucas, Amanda Tisinger
Preschool	Joan Donovan
Title I Reading	Jan Cretin
Learning Strategies	Erin Hallquist
Reading & Math	
Special Education	Sara Kinney, Miranda Palmer & Grace Varnum
General Music	Mary Gates
Art	Karen Rushton and Helen Lindhorst
Physical Education	Jeff Arp
Guidance Counselor - K-4th grade	Janice Phelps
Guidance Counselor - 5th grade	Marc Juergens
Talented & Gifted	Jacqui Hart
Media Specialist	Jennifer Olson
Associates	Mary Beth Hackbarth, Beth Ahrens, Barb Elloitt,
	Deb Cooper, Calista Hospodarsky, Michelle Trimble,
	Anne Hahn, Barb Wargo, Heather Syring
Nurse	Traci Fryauf
Custodians	Jean Reynolds , Margaret Jensen and Marcia McDonald
Transportation Dir.	Joe Lande
Maintenance Dir.	Chad Fiderlein
Secretary	Connie Laughlin
Principal	Jess Burger
*Psychologist/Consultant	Mary Beth Ross
*Speech Therapist	Maggie McConnell
*Regional Facilitator	Keith Stamp *Grant Wood AEA Personnel

General School Operational Guidelines

1. Youngsters living in West Branch and who attend Hoover should not arrive at school until after 8:10 a.m.
2. Parents who pick up their children at 3:20 p.m. are asked to wait in the alcove of North Hoover or outside the building to get them. Should it be necessary for a child to wait to be picked up, parents must write a note to their child's teacher explaining the reason.
3. Students are expected to have their day planned and the necessary materials with them so that parents do not have to be notified during the school day. If a parent calls with a message for a child, the office staff will convey the message to the student or connect the parent to the classroom phone.
4. Maintaining a safe and healthy environment is a main goal.

The Staff Members' Responsibilities

1. Model the behavior we want our students to exhibit.
2. Teach lessons and conduct class meetings that focus on social skills and conflict resolution.
3. Use effective strategies to guide students in learning both academic and social skills.
4. Communicate with parents about the strengths and needs of their children.
5. Participate in effective record keeping pertaining to student performance and behavior.

The Districts Long-Range Goals Are:

1. All K-12 students will improve in reading comprehension as they prepare for success beyond high school.
2. All K-12 students will improve in math as they prepare for success beyond high school.
3. All K-12 students will improve in science as they prepare for success beyond high school.
4. Technology will be continually updated and integrated to meet the academic needs of all learners.
5. All students will feel welcomed, safe and connected in our school environment.

Ways Parents' Can Help

1. Model the behavior you want to see your child(ren) exhibit.
2. Assist your child(ren) in getting to school on time and prepared mentally and physically to learn and allow others to learn.
3. Discuss the Operational Guidelines and Student Responsibilities with your child(ren) and review them periodically.
4. Talk with your child(ren) every day about how their day went at school.
5. If concerns or problems arise, contact school personnel and be willing to talk and help solve the problem.
6. Attend parent meetings and/or other events that support your child(ren)'s educational experience.

The Students' Responsibilities

1. Come to school each day on time and prepared physically and mentally to learn and allow others to learn.
2. Show respect at all times through words and actions to those in authority.
3. Show respect to fellow students by avoiding name calling, verbal insults, fighting and invasion of their personal space.
4. Obey reasonable requests quickly and without arguing.
5. Follow the safety rules on the playground and in the school building.
6. Leave toys and other items that do not contribute to learning at home.
7. Participate in and practice the lessons on getting along with others and solving problems peacefully.
8. Meet with parents, teachers and/or the principal to make a plan for better behavior whenever necessary.

Guidelines

Attendance

Absences

Daily attendance is very important. Students are expected to be in school unless they are ill or have other unavoidable circumstances. Only through attendance and class participation do students achieve the full benefits of the education program. Learning lost due to an absence is difficult to replace.

In the event that your child will be absent, parents are asked to please call the elementary office (643-7211) between 8:00 and 8:30 AM on the day of the absence. If the office does not know why your child is absent, a call will be made to a parent at home or work. These efforts are intended to ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

Parents are encouraged to make medical/dental appointments outside of school hours. In the event that this is not possible, we ask that a parent come to the office to sign their child out and then sign in upon returning to school. Students will be counted absent if they miss more than one-half school day for any reason and will be responsible for all work missed due to absences. Students missing school due to illness should not attend school activities (sport events, concerts, etc.) on the evening of the absence.

Student Absences - Excused

Absences are only excused if done so by a parent. Examples of excused absences may include illness, medical appointments, funerals, or family emergencies. It is recommended that a physician verify any medically related absence over five (5) days. Other unavoidable absences of multiple days should be discussed with the building principal prior to the occurrence. The principal reserves the right to request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence.

Student Absences - Unexcused

Truancy is the failure to attend school for the minimum number of days established by the State of Iowa. Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse. Parents of students in danger of being truant will be notified and may be required to meet with school personnel to develop an attendance plan for the child. Students experiencing truancy issues are subject to disciplinary action if improvement is not demonstrated. If necessary, the county attorney will be contacted.

Bus Transportation

Bus District Behavior Guidelines

Transportation Director: - Bus Barn (643-5325)

Please review the rules with your child. Approximately 70% of our students ride the school buses so bus safety is an important factor.

Boarding the bus:

At the bus stop - stay as far off the road as you can.

Don't wait in the street. Stay away from the edge of the road.

Wait until the bus comes to a full stop.

There should be absolutely no crowding or pushing before boarding and/or exiting. Children could be pushed into or under the bus.

When exiting and/or boarding the bus at West Branch, students should cross at the stop signs in front of Hoover North.

There may be times when it is necessary to evacuate the bus because of dangerous weather conditions (tornado, severe storm). When this happens, bus students are to follow the instructions of their bus driver.

While on the bus:

Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times.

Assist in keeping the bus safe and clean at all times.

Remember loud talking and laughing may divert the driver's attention.

Treat bus equipment as valuable furniture in your home.

Damage to seats, etc., may be paid for by the offender.

Never tamper with the bus or any of its equipment.

Do not leave books, lunches, coats or other objects in the aisles.

Remain in the bus in case of road emergency, unless directed to do otherwise by the bus driver.

Do not throw anything out of the window.

Always remain in your seat while the bus is in motion.

Always be courteous to fellow pupils, and to the bus driver.

Keep absolutely quiet when approaching a railroad crossing stop.

The driver is responsible for controlling the bus riders. Students must obey him/her promptly and respectfully.

Squirt guns, water balloons, etc., are not allowed.

Leaving the bus:

Remain seated until the bus comes to a full stop.

Line up on the way out. Go in order. No crowding or pushing.

Watch your step. Leave orderly.

Move away from unloading zone quickly.

After leaving the bus:

Cross the road at least 10 feet in front of the bus but only after checking to make sure no traffic is approaching and after receiving a signal from the driver.

Help look after the safety and comfort of small children.

Be alert to the danger signal from the driver. (Note: prearranged signal)

If any of these guidelines are not adhered to, the following discipline will result:

1. One (1) written warning will be sent to the parents.
2. Upon committing a second offense, the student will be taken off the bus for three (3) days.
3. Upon committing a third offense, the student will be removed from the bus for a minimum of one (1) week and will be requested to attend a hearing with the Superintendent.
4. If removal from the bus would result in the student not attending school, an alternate consequence will be assigned by the principal; however, bus behavior must improve in order to maintain the privilege of riding.
5. For students with behavioral disabilities, an individual plan will be developed.
6. It is expected that prior to written warnings, or in addition to, drivers will have administered bus discipline such as assigned seats.

The following offenses will result in immediate removal from the bus and may result in a hearing with the superintendent and Board of Education Transportation Committee:

1. Possession of dangerous object
2. Possession of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs

West Branch Community School buses are equipped with video cameras. Footage from video cameras may be used to review student behavior on the buses.

Bus Transportation Information

Parents, please call the bus barn (643-5325) by 6:45 a.m. if your child will not be riding the bus to school in the morning. This will prevent unnecessary stopping and waiting. Also, if your child will be riding on a bus other than his/her regular bus, please send a note requesting this change. We must have parent permission to allow a child to ride home with another student. Please send two copies - one for the bus driver and one for the classroom teacher. The bus driver may refuse to transport a student without a note. A note must also be sent if a non-bus student wishes to ride home with a bus student.

Fees

School Fees

A book rental fee of \$45.00 for grades K-5th is charged to each student in order to help defray some of the expenses. Also, a fine may be assessed for any extreme abuse or loss of schoolbooks.

Hot Lunch Prices: single student meal (Grades K-5)...\$2.10

Single adult meal...\$3.10

Breakfast.... \$1.50

Extra milk...\$0.40

Kindergarten milk...\$35.00/semester or \$70.00/year

School Insurance: Covers the student 24 hours per day until school starts next year. Includes coverage while at home, at school, weekends, and summer vacation....\$89

School Time Coverage protects the student while:

- attending regular school sessions
- participating or attending school-sponsored & supervised extra- curricular activities
- traveling directly to and from school for regular school sessions, and while traveling to and from school-sponsored and supervised activities in school provided transportation
- DOES NOT cover participation in interscholastic sports for students in seventh grade or above. Coverage ends the first day of school next year.

If you take your child to a doctor or dentist as a result of a school related accident, please notify the elementary office at once. This notification is necessary so that proper papers can be made out so that you will receive the proper insurance adjustment.

Fee Waiver

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price meals, the Family Investment Program (FIB), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), transportation assistance under open enrollment or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should complete

a Fee Waiver Application at registration or contact a building level secretary for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually. The application is required for all student fees including activity participation fees.

Health

Accident/Emergency Information

We should have (in addition to your own phone number) a phone number of a friend or relative who will be home and whom we can contact in case of an emergency (such as an accident, illness, early dismissal, etc.) in the event you cannot be reached.

In the event school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, we will send your child where indicated on the Emergency Information Card you completed at registration.

Parents and students are asked NOT to phone the school during storm conditions except in cases of emergency.

Excuses

Should your child need to be excused from physical education, please provide a note stating the reason and when activity may resume.

If you wish your child to stay inside during recess, we must receive a note as well. However, a child who does not feel well enough to go outside is probably not feeling well enough to be at school.

Health Information

Our school employs the services of a registered nurse. Besides looking after the health of our school population, the nurse oversees the following programs:

- *Preschool physical exams
- *Vision & hearing tests
- *Scoliosis screening
- *Tuberculosis screening
- *Immunization records

In the event your child becomes ill or injured at school you will be notified at once. Please be sure that the school has a telephone number to reach you at both work and home. If neither parent can be reached, the school will contact the emergency number listed on your student registration card.

If your child has a communicable disease, we would appreciate it if you would notify the school nurse in order that we will be aware that others have been exposed. Also, you will be able to arrange for your child's studies to be continued during the convalescent period.

Human Development Curriculum

Parents can request human growth and development curriculum materials to review prior to their use in the classroom. After review if there is still concern, the parent needs to contact the principal.

Immunizations

Iowa law requires that children enrolled in school must be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, measles, and rubella (German measles). Immunization certificates are available from the school nurse or your family physician. Parents should also ask their doctor or health care provider about the times their child should receive booster shots during the school years. All incoming kindergarten children must have the chicken pox vaccine or have had the virus to enroll. In addition, proof of a lead screening for each student entering kindergarten will be confirmed with the Department of Public Health.

Insurance

Parents are eligible to apply for low- or no-cost health insurance for their children through the state's Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa (HAWK-I) program.

Medication

If your child requires medication to be given during the school day, please include written instructions from the doctor and parent indicating what the medication is, the amount to be given, when it is to be given, and over what time period. State law mandates that no school personnel, including the school nurse, may administer medication without these written instructions signed by both the doctor and parent. Students are required to bring the labeled medication to the nurse's office right away in the morning. It can be helpful to have the pharmacy fill one bottle specifically to be kept at school so students don't have to carry the medicine back and forth. Please use the attached form on the appendices section of this handbook when your child will need to take any medication at school.

Nutrition

Breakfast

Children may eat breakfast before school from 7:55 to 8:15. When children arrive they should go immediately to the All-Purpose Room. The cost of breakfast for students is \$1.50.

Candy and Pop

No candy or gum is allowed at school, on the playground or on buses. Students will not be allowed to purchase pop from the pop machines. Pop is not allowed in school lunches.

Free/Reduced Lunch

Students may qualify for assistance in meal prices. Please call the school office for a form to determine if your family qualifies.

Lunch

Students may bring their own sack lunch or enjoy the school's hot lunch. Hot lunch prices are \$2.10 per student, \$3.10 for adult.

All lunch money is to be given to the school secretary who keeps track of student accounts.

Upon enrolling each student is issued a lunch card, which is kept by the classroom teacher. Before entering the lunchroom, students will give their card to the secretary who will scan their lunch account. When a student's account results in a negative balance, a note will be sent home to notify you.

Office Assistance

Cancellations

Cancellations and early dismissals will be announced on the following television and radio stations: Radio - KCRG AM, KXIC 80 AM, KRNA 93 FM, WMT 600 AM, KCJJ 1560 AM,, 296.5 FM, KCCK 88 FM, KCRG. Television: Channel 2 KGAN, Channel 7 KWWL, and Channel 9 KCRG.

Voice Link is also a convenient way to find out this information. The number is: 643-8239

Please do not call the school office or bus barn to see if school is cancelled or dismissing early.

Change of Address

Please let us know if a change of address, name, telephone number, work number, or change of emergency contact person changes anytime during the year.

Friday Folders

We want to let you know how your child has been spending his or her school day and we want to hear from you as well. Each Friday, your child will be bringing home a Friday Folder. In it you'll find our bi-monthly newsletter, school papers, and important notices. Please review the contents with your child, then sign the cover, and send it back to school. Feel free to include any messages when you return your folder.

Going Out of Town

If parents or guardians will be out of town for an extended period of time, the teachers and office would appreciate knowing this information.

Leaving School

Students will not be allowed to leave the school during school hours unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Should someone other than a parent or legal guardian be accompanying your child, please notify the school office. All students must sign out at the office when leaving early or arriving late for school.

Lost & Found

The Lost & Found is located in the upper level by the elevator. Children are encouraged to check it often. It is helpful to mark all articles of clothing with your child's name. Also, valuables and money should be left at home as the school is not responsible for theft or damage to personal property.

School Records

Parents or guardians of minor students have the right to access information about their children in school record keeping systems by contacting the building principal. Minor students have the same right, however, the building principal may request that their parents or guardians accompany them when accessing information.

The following persons, agencies and organizations may have restricted access to students' records without prior written consent of the parent or student over the age of 18 years. Any other access to student records shall be only upon written consent or upon court order or legal issued subpoena.

- A. School officials, teachers and AEA personnel with a legitimate educational interest
- B. Officials of other schools in which the student proposes to enroll
- C. Representatives of state and local government when auditing and evaluating Federal education programs
- D. Officials connected with a student's educational financial aid applications
- E. Governmental officials to whom information is to be reported under state law adopted prior to November 19, 1974
- F. Organizations, which process and evaluate standardized tests
- G. Accrediting organization for accrediting purposes
- H. Parents of dependent children, regardless of child's age
- I. Appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency

The principal or person in charge of each attendance center may release the following types of information to the public, where appropriate, keeping in mind the privacy of the student and the student's family; name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous school or institution attended by the student and other similar

information. To prevent the public release of such information, a parent must file a written objection with the aforementioned person responsible for maintaining student records.

Student data may be released to official education and other government agencies for uses in surveys, questionnaires and study proposal only if the names and all identifying markings are removed to prevent identification of individuals.

Parents, or students 18 years of age or older, shall have an opportunity to review the contents of the student's school records upon request in order to provide the opportunity for the correction or deletion of inaccurate, misleading or otherwise inappropriate data contained in the records.

Any person wishing to challenge the content of a student's records shall make written application to the appropriate building principal. Within 10 days, or at a time mutually agreed to, an informal meeting shall be held to discuss the facts and merits of the challenge. The building principal shall render a written decision about the challenge as soon as possible, but in no case more than five school days after the meeting.

Should the person challenging the records be dissatisfied with the decision of the building principal, he/she may request a meeting with the superintendent of schools within 10 days after receipt of the principal's decision. This meeting will be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon time. The superintendent and the person challenging the record will review all facts of the case. The superintendent shall sustain, modify or overrule the decisions of the principal, in writing, within five school days after the meeting.

Transfer of Educational Records

The school will forward a student's educational records on request by the receiving school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. It is no longer necessary for the sending school to have a request that has been authorized by the parents or guardian in writing.

Visitors

Parents are always welcome to visit school. This is a great way for you to see our school program, become better acquainted with your child's teacher and meet the other students. We ask that in all cases possible, you notify your child's classroom teacher prior to planned visits. Once in the building, please stop by the office to let us know you're here, and indicate if you'll be staying for lunch. During the school year we also plan a special day for students to invite grandparents or "grand friends" to spend part of the day at school.

Organizations

Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO)

The Parent-Teacher Organization sponsors programs and projects. Membership includes parents of children in grades K-5 along with teachers in the district. Meetings are held several times during the school year and will be announced in our school newsletter and the West Branch Times.

Preschool Information

Preschool

The Hoover Preschool is a half-day program that provides learning opportunities for children who are at least four years old by September 15 of the current school year. Language and social development are the primary goals of the program. This program is partially funded by both a Shared Visions grant and State of Iowa Voluntary Preschool grant. These funds allow children to attend free of charge. Hours for the morning session are 8:25-11:25 and the afternoon is from 12:25-3:25.

Policy & Rules

Abuse Investigation Procedures

It is the policy of the West Branch Community School District that school employees shall not commit acts of physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, toward students. Any school employee who commits such acts is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including discharge.

It is the policy of the West Branch Community Schools District to respond promptly to allegations of abuse by school employees by investigating or arranging for full investigation of any allegation, and to do so in a reasonably prudent manner. The processing of a complaint or allegation will be handled confidentially to the maximum extent possible. All employees are required to assist in the investigation when requested to provide information, and to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting and investigating process.

The West Branch Community School District has appointed a level-one investigator and alternate investigators and has arranged for a trained, experienced professional to serve as the level-two investigator. The investigators are:

Level-One Investigator – Craig Artist – 643-7213

Alternate Level-One Investigators –
Jess Burger – 643-7211
Sara Oswald – 643-5324
Michelle Lukavsky – 643-7216

Level-Two Investigator –West Branch Police Chief – 643-2222

Bicycles

Children in grades 3-5 are permitted to ride bicycles. Children in kindergarten through second grade are discouraged for safety reasons, from riding bicycles to school. It is recommended that parents provide a lock for their child's bicycle.

Birthday Treats/Invitations

Children may bring a small treat to share with the class on his/her special day. Students with summer birthdays may bring a treat on their half-birthdays or any other time. As part of our district wellness policy, we encourage parents to consider sending fruits, vegetables, or other nutritious snacks to school. Starting healthy eating habits early can benefit students for a lifetime.

Parents are asked to please be sensitive to children's feelings and not send party invitations or presents to school unless all students are to be invited.

Cell Phones

Cell phones should not be used during school hours and are not allowed in classrooms, bathrooms, locker rooms, recess/playground or hallways during school hours. Phones should be silenced (even in lockers) during the school day so as not to interrupt instruction. Cell phones should not be used at school to take pictures or record video without permission of a teacher or administrator.

Clothing

To maintain a proper learning environment, clothing should be neat, clean and appropriate. Students may not wear clothing promoting tobacco or alcohol or judged to be in bad taste. Any concerns will be handled on an individual basis.

Athletic shoes are needed to participate in physical education. In wet, muddy or snowy weather, children are asked to wear proper shoes, boots, hats, gloves/mittens, and jackets for these conditions.

Sandals and flip flops on the stairs and playground can be the cause of serious injuries.

Students are welcome to wear hats to school, but they must be removed at all times when the students are in the building.

Damaging School Property

The student may be responsible for repairing or paying for the repair of all school property or employee property damaged willfully or through neglect. When damage is extensive enough in the judgment of the elementary school principal or superintendent charges will be filed with local law enforcement.

Discipline

Students learn best in an atmosphere where they feel comfortable and know they are safe. To create a school with this environment requires all of us to treat each other with respect. Students are expected to be courteous to other students and to adults. Aggressive behavior, inappropriate language, disrespectful actions and words are not tolerated.

As children grow and develop they are held more and more accountable for their actions. Therefore, the consequences differ at grade levels. But, at all grade levels we want to work with parents to encourage responsible actions by students. Parents and their child will be notified on the first and second offense of aggressive behavior, inappropriate language and/or disrespectful actions. Parents will be asked to come to a meeting on the third offense. The child will be asked to attend a session where appropriate behaviors will be discussed, modeled and practiced. Students are expected to respect school property also. Students may be asked to pay for damage to school property that was caused other than accidentally. Students may also be asked to pay for books unnecessarily damaged or lost.

Drills: Fire, Tornado and Other Emergencies

Pupils and teachers have been instructed as to the safest places in the building for protection from tornadoes. Periodic tests are conducted so that students will know what is expected in fire, tornados, or other emergencies.

A tornado alarm is sounded with intermittent rings for a short period of time. The usual fire alarm is a continuous ring. Our school follows the prescribed fire drill and tornado drill regulations. A minimum of two fire drills and two tornado drills are held each semester.

Each building has a comprehensive crisis management plan for circumstances of unusual origin (weather, fire, acts of violence). These crisis plans are periodically reviewed and updated.

Plans are specific to each building. Taking into account the building's location and floor plan, evacuation procedures are developed to protect students and staff from harm. Detailed crisis plans are not publicized to ensure the probability of success.

A district-level Crisis Communication Plan that is the same for each school is in place. If a crisis situation occurs, tune in to the stations listed in "Cancellations". This is our source of immediate communication to parents. We will communicate details of the situation and give continuous updates to keep you informed. Our Bear Connect phone notification system may also be used. Telephone calls to the school building slow down the notification and communication with emergency personnel by school officials. If necessary, we will set up a telephone hotline and broadcast the number to you.

Equal Education Opportunity Policy

It is the policy of the West Branch Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed, color, sex, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, or disability in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and P.L. 94-142.

It is also the policy of this district that the curriculum content and instructional materials utilized reflect the cultural and racial diversity present in the United States and the variety of careers, roles and life styles open to women as well as men in our society. One of the objectives of the total curriculum and teaching strategies is to reduce stereotyping and to eliminate bias on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion and physical disability. The curriculum should foster respect and appreciation for the cultural diversity found in our

country and awareness of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of each individual as a member of multicultural, nonsexist society.

Responsibility for this policy rests with the Superintendent as the Educational Equity Coordinator and Title IX Compliance Officer for the district. He is responsible to promote and encourage progress in meeting school policy 602.1. Students, parents of the students, and employees of the district have the right to file formal complaint alleging noncompliance with the policy. All complaints should follow the guidelines established in the grievance procedure outlined in Board policy 602.A. All questions and complaints shall be referred to the Superintendent in the central office. The Superintendent's phone number is 643-7213.

Fifth Grade Academic Awards

In May there is a Presidential Academic Award night for 5th grade students. Only the 5th grade students that have achieved the level of excellence prescribed by the U.S. Secretary of Education are eligible to receive the award. At the beginning of the school year the 5th grade teachers discuss this award with the students and send the parents the criteria as well. The teachers remind students about the criteria periodically.

Field Trips

Field trips shall be carefully planned to supplement the instruction by using resources that cannot be brought into the classroom.

A permission form is to be signed by parent/guardian prior to an educational trip. Parents will have the opportunity to sign once a year for all local trips (at registration). All educational trips begin and end on school property. A copy of the permission slip used for out of district field trips is in the appendices of this handbook.

Harassment and Bullying Policy

Harassment, bullying and abuse are violations of school district policies, rules and regulations and, in some cases, may also be a violation of criminal or other laws. The school district has the authority to report students violating this rule to law enforcement officials. This policy is in effect while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated buses, vehicles or chartered buses; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

Harassment prohibited by the district includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure, which may result in discipline, up to, and including, suspension and expulsion.

Sexual harassment may include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Harassment or bullying on the basis of age, race, creed, color, religion, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status or familial status includes conduct of a verbal or physical nature that is designed to embarrass, distress, agitate, disturb or trouble persons when:

- places the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or property;
- has a substantially detrimental effect on the student’s physical or mental health;
- has the effect of substantially interfering with the student’s academic performance;
- or
- has the effect of substantially interfering with the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Harassment as set forth above may include, but is not limited to the following:

- verbal, physical or written harassment, or abuse;
- repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- implied or explicit threats concerning one’s grades, achievement, etc.;
- demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student.

The district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of harassment. The building principal will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging harassment.

Retaliation against a student because the student has filed a harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding is also prohibited. A student who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Concerns can be reported to the:

Elementary Office
Jess Burger, Principal
148 N. Oliphant St.
W. Branch, IA 52358
(319)643-7211

Middle School Office
Sara Oswald, Principal
225 N. Maple
W. Branch, IA 52358
(319)643-5324

High School Office
Michelle Lukavsky, Principal
900 W. Main St.
W. Branch, IA 52358
(319)643-7216

See appendix for harassment complaint form and appropriate steps.

Intervention Process

Our school uses Instructional Decision Making (IDM) for intervention. This process is designed to provide supplemental and intensive support for students performing below proficiency in the areas of math, reading and language arts. The procedures that are used in the process can be found in the elementary office.

Kindergarten

To enroll in kindergarten, a student must have reached the age of five on or before September 15 in the current school year.

Lockers

Student lockers are the property of the school district. Students shall use the lockers assigned to them by the school district for storing their school materials and personal belongings necessary for attendance at school. It shall be the responsibility of students to keep their assigned lockers clean and undamaged.

To ensure students are properly maintaining their assigned lockers, the principal of the building may periodically inspect all or a random selection of lockers. Either students or another individual will be present during the inspection of their lockers. Student lockers may also be searched, at any time and without advance notice, in compliance with board policy regulating search and seizure.

No Child Left Behind

In January 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Specifically, NCLB requires increased accountability, greater choice for parents, especially in low-performing schools, and greater flexibility for states and local schools in the use of federal dollars.

Under NCLB, parents have a right to know the professional qualifications of their children's teacher(s). It is the right of a parent to ask for the following information about each of their children's classroom teachers:

Whether the State of Iowa has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subject he/she teaches.

Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional status for which the State of Iowa licensing criteria have been waived.

The teacher's college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of those degrees.

If a parent would like to receive information regarding their child's teacher, they may contact Central Office.

Olweus

Olweus is a bullying prevention program the West Branch Community School has adopted. The program includes a weekly classroom "CUB time" where students learn how to prevent bullying behavior and how to respond when it occurs. As part of this program, incidences

of bullying are documented and consequences are issued according to the building adopted protocol. Please see related document in the appendix.

Out of School Suspension

Out of school suspension may be imposed when other means of correction have failed or when keeping the student in school would be detrimental to the general welfare of the school and its students.

Out of school suspension is imposed only after a contact with parents of the child in which the need for suspension has been discussed. All out of school suspensions shall be reported to the superintendent.

On the basis of the Board of Education policy, out of school suspension may be made for the following reasons:

- Carrying or using weapons
- Willfully defacing or damaging school property
- Profanity or vulgarity
- Commission of serious acts of defiance against a teacher, either in actions or words
- Willful disobedience
- Harming of other children
- Use of tobacco
- Excessive absences and tardies
- Possession or use of alcohol or illegal drugs on school premises or at school activities

Pets

If you and your child would like to have a special pet or animal visit the school, we require prior approval and scheduling with the classroom teacher. Animals must be kept in a proper cage or retainer or restrained in such a way that they cannot harm anyone. Pets may not be transported to and from school on the bus.

Playground

Our playground has wonderful equipment, which is supervised for recess times. We welcome any parent volunteer to help supervise. The school playground is not supervised after school is dismissed. Students are asked to go home and return only with parent permission. A copy of the playground rules is in the appendices of this handbook.

Promotion and Retention

As soon as the teacher considers retaining a child he/she will set up a meeting with all the parties involved in making the decision. The teacher should have given notification to the parties early in the second semester.

Reporting Periods

There are four reporting periods to inform you of your child's progress. A report card will be sent home the second and fourth quarter. Teacher conferences are held at the end of the first and third quarter.

Room Parents

Parents may volunteer to be their child's room parents. This individual assigns treats to be brought for classroom holiday parties, arranges for parents to help on field trips if needed, and may serve on a phone committee if it is necessary to contact all parents quickly.

School Activities

Elementary students are encouraged to attend the many high school sporting events, plays, and concerts. However, proper behavior will be expected as they are there to watch the event and not to play with their friends.

Toys

Students are asked to leave their valuable items at home. The school cannot assume responsibility for personal property that is lost, stolen, or damaged. Expensive toys and electronic equipment are not appropriate to bring to school. Sharing such items is difficult as is protecting them from damage. The school reserves the right to confiscate any items that may be distracting from the learning environment. Skateboards, roller blades, hard balls and any type of weapon (even play ones) are too dangerous for a school setting where many children are playing.

Weapons

Parents have a right to expect that the school and the activities to which they send their children are safe. Schools and patrons cannot be safe if a student brings, possesses or uses an instrument as a dangerous weapon. Thus, any student who brings, possesses, buys, sells, uses or threatens to use a dangerous weapon shall be guilty of misconduct and subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Dangerous weapons therefore include, but are not limited to: clubs, nunchakus, brass knuckles, knives, butterfly knives, stun guns, BB guns, bow and arrows, toy guns or look-alike guns used or displayed as real guns, unloaded guns and bullets.

Parents/guardians of a student found to bring or possess an unauthorized dangerous weapon or any instrument used as a weapon on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons shall be reported to the police, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

Any student who brings a firearm to school or who possess a firearm shall be expelled for not less than twelve months. The superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. The above is part of Board Policy 502.9. For additional information please read the entire policy.

Schedule

8:10 a.m. School open to students
8:20 a.m. Classes begin
8:25 a.m. Morning preschool begins
11:25 a.m. Morning preschool ends
11:20 - 11:40 5th grade lunch
11:15 - 11:35 4th grade lunch
11:35 - 11:55 3rd grade lunch
11:10 - 11:35 2nd grade lunch
11:25 - 11:50 1st grade lunch
11:00 - 11:25 Kindergarten lunch
12:00 p.m. 5th grade classes resume
11:55 a.m. 4th grade classes resume
12:15 p.m. 3rd grade classes resume
11:35 a.m. 2nd grade classes resume
12:10 p.m. 1st grade classes resume
11:45 a.m. Kindergarten classes resume
12:25 p.m. Afternoon preschool begins
3:15 p.m. Dismissal for K students
3:20 p.m. Dismissal for 1-5 students
3:25 p.m. Afternoon preschool ends

Special Needs Students

At Hoover Elementary we view all children as learners with individual needs and abilities. Some children require services outside of the regular curriculum and those are provided on an “as-needed” basis. These programs are provided by the Title I and Reading/Math support teachers, guidance counselor, special education teachers, school psychologist, speech and language pathologist, school social worker, school nurse, and the principal. Parents are always notified when any special programming is suggested for their child and are an important part of all decision making.

Playground Rules:

- Adults and students respect the decisions made by all supervising personnel on the playground.
- Students stay within the playground areas at all times.
- Students remain outside unless given permission by an adult to enter the building.
- Students use equipment as it was designed to be used (i.e. slide on the slide in a sitting position, jump ropes are to be used only for jumping, climbing equipment should be climbed on-not on top of).
- Students participate in games and activities without pushing, pulling, or tackling others.
- Tackle football is not allowed.
- Riding on backs is not allowed.
- Students will not throw sand, sticks or snow.
- Only appropriate language is acceptable at school.
- Skateboards and skates are not allowed on the playground or at school from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
- Food is to be eaten only in the lunchroom.
- Leftover lunches and lunch boxes may be placed in the hopper when outside.
- Games involving balls should be played a safe distance from the building.
- Four square is the only game, involving balls, to be played near the buildings.
- Students are expected to stay out of the mud.
- After warning a student twice about disruptive behavior on the playground, supervisor on duty will report the child's name to the student's teacher. Teachers will follow their established classroom consequence when an associate reports a student to them.
- Students are expected to play in snow according to winter rules.

WINTER RULES

1. When the ground is covered with snow, students are required to wear snow boots if going off of the cement.
2. When the ground is covered with snow, students are required to wear snow boots if the students play in the snow or sled.
3. Students are allowed to sled on hills only if supervised by school personnel.
4. Appropriate winter gear is necessary to have fun in the cold.
5. No throwing snow or ice.
6. No sliding on ice.

Six Pillars of Character Counts

When we teach our child that his or her character counts, we mean that personal success and happiness will depend on who they are on the inside, not what he or she has or how he or she looks. Tell him or her that people of character know the difference between right and wrong because they guide their thoughts and actions by six basic rules of living known as the Six Pillars of Character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. Explain the meaning of these words. Use examples from your own life, history and the news.

TRUSTWORTHINESS: Be honest. Don't deceive, cheat or steal. Be reliable and do what you say you'll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal and stand by your family, friends and country.

RESPECT: Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule. Be tolerant of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

RESPONSIBILITY: Do what you are supposed to do. Persevere, keep on trying! Always do your best. Use self control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act; consider the consequences. Be accountable for your choices.

FAIRNESS: Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded; listen to others. Don't take advantage of others. Don't blame others carelessly.

CARING: Be kind. Be compassionate and show you care. Express gratitude. Forgive others. Help people in need.

CITIZENSHIP: Do your share to make your school and community better. Cooperate. Stay informed; vote. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment.

*Insert Harassment Steps, Complaint Form, and Olweus consequences form