

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK 2016 – 2017

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School

600 Harlan Avenue
Johnstown, PA



ALMA MATER

When twilight shades invite
Mem'ries to call our own
Then it is that our thoughts
Turn to that friend
Others fade from my sight
Years have passed by
Pal of mine Ferndale High
I'll ne'er forget.

Through these short high school years
We've known both joys and fears
You shared with me my joys
Lightened my grief
Each year knits close the tie
Of friendships met
Pal of mine Ferndale High
I'll ne'er forget

Now though our paths divide
Our hearts are still as one
Old joys bring rapture still
Enchant our thoughts
If we ne'er meet again
In years to come
Pal of mine Ferndale High
I'll ne'er forget.

SCHOOL COLORS – BLACK AND GOLD

SCHOOL MASCOT – YELLOW JACKET

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August 1, 2016

Dear Students, Parents, and Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School. We hope you had a great summer, and that you are ready to embrace the challenges ahead. Beginning a new school year is always exciting, and we look forward to working with you as you work towards academic excellence.

The Student-Parent Handbook is a guiding document, developed to assist you as you progress through grades seven through twelve. While an all-inclusive list would be too exhaustive, this document contains the majority of the procedures that are utilized at Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School. Please make sure you read through this handbook to become familiar with school procedures, as they are designed to support every student in their journey to success.

Students undoubtedly have many goals in life, and we are honored and privileged to provide opportunities that will allow students to flourish in the expectations of an evolving country and world. The intellectual borders between countries are becoming less defined. Acquiring an excellent education has never been more important, and all students have an incredible opportunity to earn academic excellence at Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School. Accomplishments in high school often have a profound impact on future aspirations, so now is the time to take control of your own destiny.

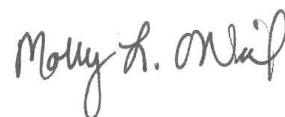
In addition to making the most of your academic offerings, please make sure to read about all of the many extra-curricular offerings at Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School. You owe it yourself to get involved, be a member of a team or an organization, and to develop your talents. Co-curricular activities are available for you and can be a vital component on your journey to self-discovery, so please take advantage of them. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact an administrator, teacher, or staff member at the high school.

After reviewing this handbook, please sign and return the acknowledgement page and have your student return it to the school. The Student-Parent Handbook and Code of Student Conduct are distributed to all students at the beginning of the school year. Upon the receipt of the signature page, Internet Agreement Form, Medical Forms and the Student Emergency Card, your child will be issued a school locker for use throughout the school year. If you have any questions, please call us (814) 288-5757.

Be a part of our school and make this the best year ever. Go Yellow Jackets!



Travis D. Robison
Principal



Molly L. O'Neil
Assistant Principal

SCHOOL DIRECTORY
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Wayne Meekins, President
Sandra Chobany, Vice President
Melissa Garman, Secretary
Jason Moschgat, Treasurer

Susan Boyle Joshua Hyland Richard Pavic Stephen Thompson Patricia Wilson

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TO ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES...

We welcome you to the Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School and the Ferndale Area School District. As a citizen of this school, you are expected to follow the regulations that are established for the welfare of the entire school community. Following our procedures gives all students the opportunity to earn respect as citizens of our school community.

Be proud of your school. Take good care of it and feel free to make suggestions for improving it. As a school citizen, you are expected to act and conduct yourself properly. You will learn necessary and useful skills for the future. As a student you may find some things unfamiliar at first, but you will soon become accustomed to our school.

Pride In Our Schools: Conduct and Courtesy

School spirit means loyalty to all functions of the school. A loyal student supports his/her school and does his/her utmost to keep his/her scholastic and activity standards at the highest possible level. School pride is divided into four focus areas:

- Honor Others:** Our school is an environment of mutual respect, toward teachers, fellow students, administrators, guests, and the officials of school athletic activities.
- Integrity Of Self:** It is important to always tell the truth, even when the news is not good. Do the right thing!
- Vision:** Build excitement and support for our school, through planning accomplishments, and legacy. Stand out in the crowd with your *positive* energy and support for others!
- Excellence:** Demonstrate your best effort in everything you do!

Ferndale Area Positive Behavior Initiative System (PBIS)

Mission Statement: The mission of Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School PBIS team is to create a safe and positive learning community in which all students are educated and empowered to reach their full social, emotional, and academic potential. Through the PBIS initiative, students will **BEE Ready, BEE Responsible, and BEE Respectful.**

2016-2017 Regular Bell Schedule

Lunch A

7:30	Teachers Report	
7:32 - 7:37	Students released from auditorium and cafeteria	
7:37 - 8:07	Homeroom Period	30 minutes
8:10 - 8:50	Period 1	40
8:53 - 9:33	Period 2	40
9:36 - 10:16	Period 3	40
10:19 - 10:59	Period 4	40
11:02 - 11:32	Lunch A	30
11:35 - 12:15	Period 5A	40
12:18 - 12:58	Period 6AB	40
1:01 - 1:41	Period 7	40
1:44 - 2:24	Period 8	40

**GJCTC students board their bus at approximately 11:30 AM daily.*

2016-2017 Regular Bell Schedule

Lunch B

7:30	Teachers Report	
7:32 - 7:37	Students released from auditorium and cafeteria	
7:37 - 8:07	Homeroom Period	30 minutes
8:10 - 8:50	Period 1	40
8:53 - 9:33	Period 2	40
9:36 - 10:16	Period 3	40
10:19 - 10:59	Period 4	40
11:02 - 11:42	Period 5BC	40
11:45 - 12:15	Lunch B	30
12:18 - 12:58	Period 6AB	40
1:01 - 1:41	Period 7	40
1:44 - 2:24	Period 8	40

2016-2017 Regular Bell Schedule

Lunch C

7:30	Teachers Report	
7:32 - 7:37	Students released from auditorium and cafeteria	
7:37 - 8:07	Homeroom Period	30 minutes
8:10 - 8:50	Period 1	40
8:53 - 9:33	Period 2	40
9:36 - 10:16	Period 3	40
10:19 - 10:59	Period 4	40
11:02 - 11:42	Period 5BC	40
11:45 - 12:25	Period 6C	40
12:28 - 12:58	Lunch C	30
1:01 - 1:41	Period 7	40
1:44 - 2:24	Period 8	40

**2016-2017 2-Hour Delay Bell Schedule
Lunch A**

9:30	Teachers Report	
9:31 - 9:36	Homeroom Period	5 minutes
9:38 -10:08	Period 1	30
10:10 - 10:40	Period 2	30
10:42 - 11:12	Period 3	30
11:14 - 11:44	Period 4	30
11:46 - 12:16	Lunch A	30
12:18 - 12:48	Period 5A	30
12:50 - 1:20	Period 6AB	30
1:22 - 1:52	Period 7	30
1:54 - 2:24	Period 8	30

**2016-2017 2-Hour Delay Bell Schedule
Lunch B**

9:30	Teachers Report	
9:31 - 9:36	Homeroom Period	5 minutes
9:38 -10:08	Period 1	30
10:10 - 10:40	Period 2	30
10:42 - 11:12	Period 3	30
11:14 - 11:44	Period 4	30
11:46 - 12:16	Period 5BC	30
12:18 - 12:48	Lunch B	30
12:50 - 1:20	Period 6AB	30
1:22 - 1:52	Period 7	30
1:54 - 2:24	Period 8	30

**2016-2017 2-Hour Delay Bell Schedule
Lunch C**

9:30	Teachers Report	
9:31 - 9:36	Homeroom Period	5 minutes
9:38 -10:08	Period 1	30
10:10 - 10:40	Period 2	30
10:42 - 11:12	Period 3	30
11:14 - 11:44	Period 4	30
11:46 - 12:16	Period 5BC	30
12:18 - 12:48	Period 6C	30
12:50 - 1:20	Lunch C	30
1:22 - 1:52	Period 7	30
1:54 - 2:24	Period 8	30

**2016-2017 2-Hour Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Lunch A**

7:30	Teachers Report	
7:30 - 7:32	Students released from auditorium and cafeteria	
7:33 - 7:36	Homeroom Period	3 minutes
7:38 - 8:08	Period 1	30
8:10 - 8:40	Period 2	30
8:42 - 9:12	Period 3	30
9:14 - 9:44	Period 4	30
9:46 - 10:16	Lunch A	30
10:18 -10:48	Period 5A GJCTC Students report to the Library	30
10:50- 11:20	Period 6AB GJCTC Students report to the Library	30
11:22 - 11:52	Period 7 GJCTC Students report to the Library	30
11:54 - 12:24	Period 8 GJCTC Students report to the Library	30

**2016-2017 2-Hour Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Lunch B**

7:30	Teachers Report	
7:30 - 7:32	Students released from auditorium and cafeteria	
7:33 - 7:36	Homeroom Period	3 minutes
7:38 - 8:08	Period 1	30
8:10 - 8:40	Period 2	30
8:42 - 9:12	Period 3	30
9:14 - 9:44	Period 4	30
9:46 - 10:16	Period 5BC	30
10:18 -10:48	Lunch B	30
10:50- 11:20	Period 6AB	30
11:22 - 11:52	Period 7	30
11:54 - 12:24	Period 8	30

**2016-2017 2-Hour Early Dismissal Bell Schedule
Lunch C**

7:30	Teachers Report	
7:30 - 7:32	Students released from auditorium and cafeteria	
7:33 - 7:36	Homeroom Period	3 minutes
7:38 - 8:08	Period 1	30
8:10 - 8:40	Period 2	30
8:42 - 9:12	Period 3	30
9:14 - 9:44	Period 4	30
9:46 - 10:16	Period 5BC	30
10:18 -10:48	Period 6C	30
10:50- 11:20	Lunch C	30
11:22 - 11:52	Period 7	30
11:54 - 12:24	Period 8	30

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School General Information

Attendance

Student attendance in school is required by state law (Chapter 11, Sect. 11.13) and is monitored daily by the administration. If a student is to be absent from school, parents are asked to contact the Main Office before 7:35 A.M. to report the reason for the absence. Otherwise, the school, to verify the absence, may call parents. If a parent cannot be reached, one of the persons listed on the Emergency Card may be contacted.

For Grade 12, students may not exceed twenty-five (25) days absent during their graduating year in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. For more information, see Policy 204 Attendance.

1. **Excused Absences:** Absence from school due to personal illness, serious illness, or death in the family, emergency medical/dental attention, field trips, and absences pre-approved by the administration are excused absences. Students with excused absences are permitted to make up work and receive credit for missed work and tests equal to the number of days that are missed during an excused absence.
2. **Unexcused/Unlawful Absences:** Any absence from school that does not meet the criteria of an excused absence is considered an unexcused/unlawful absence. Students receiving an unexcused/unlawful absence will receive no credit on any work missed during the unexcused/unlawful absence. When a student has accumulated three (3) unlawful absences, citations may be filed with the District Magistrate and/or the Juvenile Probation Office, and will continue to be filed if truancy continues (in accordance with PA School Code Chapter 11, Sect. 11.24)
3. Upon returning to school from an absence, all students are required to submit a written excuse to the attendance/office immediately. The note should be dated, signed by the parent (or Doctor) and include a specific reason(s) for the absence. Failure to bring in an excuse within 3 days of the absence will result in the absence being coded as unexcused/unlawful.
4. Students not admitted to school within 15 minutes of the start of the school day (7:52 am) may not participate in any after-school activities or events unless a physician's excuse is provided, indicating an appointment.
5. If a student is absent for several days (3 or more), parents may request and pick up assignments in the office. When the absence is planned and pre-approved by administration, arrangements for assignments are to be made prior to the absence. Parents and students are urged to check the student's eBackpack on their iPads and/or individual teacher web pages (from the district website at www.fasdk12.org) for missed work when absent.
6. The School District strongly discourages family vacations or vacations for students during the school year. Where such trips cannot be avoided, parents are required to fill out a Vacation Form in the high school office at least one week in advance. Upon receipt by the administration, the absence will be coded as

excused or unexcused based on the student's total number of absences. Students are to make arrangements for assignments and tests/quizzes prior to leaving. Duration and frequency must not interfere with the student's education. Any family trips for which prior approval is not obtained will be considered unexcused/unlawful and if in excess of three days, a warning notice may be sent. Approved student absences for vacations may not exceed five (5) school days within any school year. NOTE: Vacations are counted toward total number of absences (see #8 below).

7. Routine medical/dental appointments should be scheduled outside of the school day. If such appointments occur during school hours, please obtain a note from the doctor/dentist office, with the appointment date and time, so the absence may be properly coded. Student absences for driving tests, photo sessions, and hairdressing appointments will be coded as unexcused/unlawful.
8. Students will have access to classroom work, assignments, and tests missed during unexcused absences; however, credit for such will not be given.
9. Repeated absences, tardiness, and early dismissals from school would seem to indicate a medical condition requiring medical care and attention. Therefore, once a student has accumulated ten (10) combined absences, tardiness, and/or early dismissals, a doctor's note will be required for all future absences, tardies, and/or early dismissals from school; otherwise, the absences, tardiness, and/or early dismissals will be considered unexcused/unlawful. Parents will be informed by mail when this becomes necessary. It is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent to provide the school with a note from the doctor.
10. All absences, tardiness to school, and early dismissals, both excused and unexcused, are noted on the student's official school records.
11. Students arriving after 7:37 a.m. will be considered tardy until 9:25 a.m. (excused or unexcused). Students arriving after 9:33 a.m. (after period 2) will be considered half-day absent (excused or unexcused). Appropriate discipline will be imposed upon unexcused absences and/or tardies.
12. Students leaving early from school for any reason must have written parental permission; verbal permission will not be honored.
13. Students absent for any part of the school day are not permitted to attend after school or school sponsored events unless a doctor or agency excuse is received and administration gives permission prior to the event.

Accidents

Students must report any accidents that may occur, not only in school, but on their way to and from school, to the teacher, nurse, or administrator as soon as possible.

Activity Buses

Activity buses will be provided to those students involved in co-curricular activities (i.e. sports, clubs, tutoring). Beginning the first week of school, an activity bus is scheduled every day. Times and days may vary; students should check school announcements for specific details.

Affection

Visible and open displays of affection between students **will not be permitted:**

1. On the school premises during and immediately before or after school hours.
2. On the school premises at any time when a school-sponsored group is using the school.
3. Off school premises at any school activity, function or event.

Examples of visible or open displays of affection that will not be permitted include but are not limited to, kissing, petting, holding hands, caressing, embracing, hugging and/or any other bodily contact that represents a visible or open display of affection.

Athletic Equipment Obligation

It is the responsibility of each student to properly care for and return all athletic uniforms and equipment. All equipment is to be returned to the head coach of the sport in which the student-athlete participated within two (2) weeks of the season's completion. Failure on the student's part to return equipment or satisfy other athletic obligations will prohibit the student's participation in any other sport season. If the student-athlete is a senior, participation in the commencement ceremony will be jeopardized until obligation is fulfilled. In addition, the student-athlete will be ineligible for an athletic letter until all obligations are satisfied.

Arrival / Departure

1. Upon arrival to school, students must report to the Auditorium/Cafeteria
2. Any student wishing to eat breakfast should report to the Cafeteria
3. Students must remain in the Auditorium or Cafeteria until the dismissal at 7:32am
4. All students, parents, teachers, and visitors must enter at the main entrance.
5. All students are expected to be in the building no later than 7:32 a.m.
6. Parents are required to sign their child out of school at the time of an early dismissal.
7. Written parental permission is required for any student to drive when leaving for an early dismissal.

Authority of Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff are authorized to reprimand or correct misbehaving students at any time or any place during the school day and at any school function and/or activity. The School Code and Criminal Code of Pennsylvania give Faculty and Staff the same authority as parents while students are involved in school and school activities.

Book Bags and Purses

Students will be permitted to carry **drawstring backpacks only** to and from their classes. The purpose of students carrying these bags is to prevent the student from being tardy to class because an item has been left in their locker (i.e. books, notebooks, pencil, etc). All bags will be stored under the student's desk/chair in class and will NOT be in the walkway possibly causing a tripping hazard. These bags are also permitted to be used to carry a student's gym clothes.

When reasonable suspicion has been determined by administration, a search of the student's backpack can be conducted. Refer to Student Searches for procedure.

Book bags, backpacks, purses and other large carrying containers are not permitted to be carried to classes. Students may bring them to school, but must keep them in their lockers until the end of the school day.

Bullying/Cyberbullying (excerpts from Policy 249)

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students. Bullying, as defined in district policy, includes cyberbullying.

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Material interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Material disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Cafeteria

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School operates a closed lunch period. No students are permitted to leave the building during lunch. For more information, reference Policies 808 Food Services and 808.1 Lunch Accounts.

1. The price for lunch at the Ferndale Area High School is \$1.65 per meal. Breakfast is served daily at the price of \$0.80 Milk is \$0.45. Those who are eligible for the free meals receive one lunch and one breakfast per day at no cost. Anyone eligible for reduced meals receives one lunch per day at \$0.40, and one breakfast at \$0.30. Cafeteria balances can be checked through either parent or student online portals in PowerSchool. Students are urged to pay by the week or longer by putting money in their account. In figuring the amount of money needed, please remember that students may buy additional food at ala-carte prices. Cash or checks will be accepted. However, if cash is sent, please make sure the student's name and/or PIN number accompanies the payment.
2. Guidelines and forms for free and reduced lunches will be distributed to each student the first day of the school year. If the family income fulfills the requirements for free or reduced lunches the forms should be completed and returned to the high school office. Free and Reduced Meal Applications are also available on the district website by clicking on the "Food Service" link.
3. The lunch period is part of the regular schedule for the day. Students must report on time to the cafeteria during their lunch period. Students will remain in the cafeteria until the lunch period has ended. Students must secure permission from cafeteria monitors in order to leave the cafeteria prior to the end of the lunch period.
4. Rules and regulations of conduct are enforced by Cafeteria Monitors.

Cell Phones, Pagers, Communication Devices or Electronic Equipment

Students are not permitted to carry and/or use cell phones, pagers, communication devices, or electronic equipment (MP3 players, cameras, iPods, laser pointers, etc.) during school. Such items are to remain off at all times and kept in a locked locker. Anyone carrying or using these items during any class, homeroom, activity period, or at any time throughout the school day will have the device confiscated and will face disciplinary action of a mandatory Saturday detention for the first offense. Devices will be returned to the student at the end of the day on the first offense. For second and subsequent offenses, the device will not be returned to the student, but rather, a parent/guardian must come to the school to remove it from the building. For more information, see Policy 237 Personal Electronic Devices.

Change of Important Information

A parent or guardian should immediately notify the school in writing of any changes in address, home or work telephone number(s), emergency contact, or bus stop.

Cheating/Plagiarism

Cheating in any form will not be condoned at Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School. Plagiarism is considered a form of cheating. Assistance to provide proper citations and instruction on the avoidance of plagiarism will be addressed by individual teachers.

For a first offense within a school year, a student will receive a 0% for the work on which the cheating occurred, possibly causing failure of the entire grading period based upon the achievement level of other grades. For a second offense within a school year, cheating will result in withdrawal from the class with failure (WF).

Note: Cheating on a final examination will result in a failing grade being recorded for the entire course.

Child Abuse and Sex Abuse

Under the Child Protective Service Act of 1975, all school district personnel (administrators, teachers, nurses, etc.) are **MANDATED BY LAW** to report suspected child abuse. Reports of suspected abuse will be made immediately by telephone and a written report will follow within 48 hours. Concerned citizens may also make a report of suspected child abuse if he/she has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is an abused child by calling Childline at 1-800-932-0313. All reports made are strictly confidential and you may remain anonymous. Parents may use the line directly without notifying the school especially in cases of pre-school children.

Co-Curricular Activities

It is a **privilege** to participate in co-curricular activities, such as, but not limited to, interscholastic sports, the school band, cheerleading, chorus, forensics, intramurals, school clubs, field trips, etc. Since student participation in those activities represents the school, students are expected to follow school rules. Students must not be failing two (2) or more classes, must not have any outstanding discipline obligations, such as detention or suspension, and attendance requirements of not being more than fifteen (15) days late to school or unexcused days for an educational, medical, or prior-

approved reason from the administration. Unacceptable student behavior may result in students being removed from the team/squad/club and may result in disciplinary action. Suspensions (in school and out of school) prevent students from participating in practices/competitions those days.

Commencement Requirements

Students **MUST** have completed all academic requirements, including taking required final exams for graduation, served all assigned suspensions/detentions, have a cafeteria balance of zero, satisfied all outstanding obligations (returned all library books, fundraising monies, etc.), return of iPad, case, and charger, have no more than 25 days absent during the school year and no more than 15 days tardy to school during the senior year, to participate in the commencement exercises with his/her class. Students will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony unless dressed appropriately.

1. Young men should wear dress pants, a collared shirt and dress shoes. Jeans, sneakers and flip-flops are not permitted.
2. Young women should wear a dress or skirt/top combination and dress shoes. Jeans, sneakers and flip-flops are not permitted.

Confidentiality of Student Records

A permanent record file containing grades, biographical data, health records and standardized test scores is kept in the high school office for each student. These records are considered confidential information and will not be released to any agency outside the school, with the exception of another public school district, without written permission from the student or his/her parents (if the student is under the age of 18).

If a parent or guardian wishes to examine their child's records at any time, they may do so by contacting the high school office. Convenient arrangements will be made for the parent or guardian to meet with the counselor to explain the contents of the individual file.

The parent, or eligible student, has the right to refuse to permit the release of directory-type information to military recruiters, newspapers, and outside agencies which is personally identifiable; i.e., student name and address, honor roll, athletic rosters, homeroom rolls, etc. If the parent or eligible student wishes to exercise this right, the school administration shall be informed in writing by September 14, 2016.

The Ferndale Area High School shall be responsible for assuring that confidentiality policies and procedures are precisely enforced and administered. Upon the request of the parents, information no longer relevant to and necessary for the provision of educational services to the student must be destroyed by the School District and Intermediate Unit; however, a separate written record of student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level complete, and year completed must be maintained for at least 100 years beyond the date the student attains age 21.

For more information, reference Policy 207 Confidential Communication of Students and Policy 216 Student Records.

Controlled Substances/Paraphernalia (excerpts from Policy 227)

The Board prohibits students from using, possessing, distributing, and being under the influence of any controlled substances during school hours, at any time while on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, and during the time spent traveling to and from school and school-sponsored activities.

If, based on the student's behavior, medical symptoms, vital signs or other observable factors, a building principal has reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of a controlled substance, and the student denies such, the student's parent/guardian will be notified, and the student will be required to submit to drug/alcohol testing. The testing may include, but is not limited to the analysis of blood, urine, saliva, or the administration of a Breathalyzer test. The student will report directly to the designated testing facility.

Course Failures

Students in grades 7 & 8 are generally enrolled in five core content areas (Math, English, Science, Social Studies, and Reading). Students in grades 9-12 are generally enrolled in four core content areas (Math, English, Science, and Social Studies). Failure of 2 or more core subjects may result in retention in the grade. Students who opt out of summer school or who do not pass courses through summer school will be scheduled for course recovery during the following school year. Course recovery classes may replace the student's electives.

Curriculum – Graduation Requirements

Traditional Students (Class of 2017, 25 credits)

4.0 credits in English
7.0 credits in Math and Science with no more than 4.0 credits in either area **(all students must take a math course in their junior year)
4.0 credits in Social Studies
2.0 credits in World Language
2.5 credits in Health and Physical Education (2.0 credits in PE and 0.5 credit in Health)
1.0 credit in Computer Technology
0.5 credit in Personal Finance
0.5 credit in Independent Living
0.5 credit in Public Speaking
3.0 credits in Electives (student selects additional courses from among those approved for credit toward graduation by the school district, including approved career and technology center courses)

Greater Johnstown Career & Technology Students (Class of 2017, 25 credits)

4.0 credits in English
3.0 credits in Math (all students must take a math course in their junior year)
3.0 credits in Science
3.0 credits in Social Studies
1.0 credit in Health and Physical Education (0.5 credit in each)
0.5 credit in Personal Finance
0.5 credit in Independent Living
0.5 credit in Public Speaking
9.5 credits in Electives (student selects additional courses from among those approved for credit toward graduation by the school district, including approved Career and Technology Center courses)

Keystone Exam Proficiency

Students will demonstrate proficiency on each of the Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone exams. Students may take any exam more than once, up to and including the annual Spring Keystone exam window administered in May of the Grade 11 year.

Graduation Project

Based on new ESSA legislation, graduation projects are no longer required for graduation. All FAHS students must successfully complete all graduation requirements listed on page 16 of the student handbook. Students entering their 10th grade year will be assigned a faculty mentor to guide them through graduation requirements and post-secondary choices.

Community Service

Students will complete ten (10) hours of community service each year. The following total service requirements are listed for respective graduating classes as follows:

Class of 2017	30 Hours by May 1 of Graduating Year
Class of 2018 and after	40 Hours by May 1 of Graduating Year

Community service hours can be completed throughout the school year and throughout the summer time.

Debts/Unpaid Bills/Obligations

Students are responsible to pay for all damage to materials and equipment prior to the close of school. Any materials purchased for various classes must be paid in full. Failure to comply may result in formal action being taken. Students and/or parents may be referred to the Magisterial Judge for collection. Students will not be permitted to participate in the Prom, field trips and/or graduation ceremony until all debts are cleared.

Delinquent Lunch Account

All students are required to have enough money in their school lunch accounts to pay for the meals they eat and extras they may purchase. Occasionally, student lunch accounts will be overdrawn. When that happens, a letter will be sent home reminding the parent/guardian to send in additional money for the lunch account. Until money is received, students will not be permitted to purchase any extras; however, they will receive a regular lunch.

If a student account continues to be overdrawn, significantly more stringent consequences will be enacted, including additional letters sent home, an alternate lunch being served, no extras, principal involvement and contact, and eventual removal from all student activities including athletics, other extra-curriculars, field trips, fun days, assemblies, etc. The services of a collection agency may also be contracted to obtain money due to the district cafeteria.

Discipline and Behavioral Intervention

Inappropriate student behavior is that which interferes with the learning environment, safety of others, and the orderly functioning of the school. Any employee has the right to correct and/or write a referral on any student who is not exhibiting proper behavior in school.

Students should be aware that substitute teachers and instructional aides have the same responsibility for control, or referral to administration, as regular teaching faculty members. The same level of respect and cooperation is expected toward substitute teachers and instructional aides as is expected toward the regular classroom teacher. Discipline referrals made by substitute teachers or instructional aides will carry the same disciplinary consequences as those made by the regular teaching staff.

All of the potential violations apply to any time that school is in session and pertain to incidents occurring in school or on school grounds. Additionally, the same rules apply at any activity after school or away from school under the sponsorship of the school district.

Detention

1. After school detention is held Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All settings are managed by a Detention Monitor and students must take work and may be required to summarize in writing what they did while in detention. No talking or sleeping is permitted.
2. Students must fulfill discipline action before participation or attendance at events or practices. A student assigned detention may report to practice/game after detention is served at the discretion of the coach or their parents.
3. Students receiving detention are assigned the next scheduled detention session and are expected to report on the assigned date. Additional discipline will be assigned to a student that does not report on the assigned date. Failure to serve an assigned detention will result in additional discipline until the original detention is served.

Suspension

1. Students who have in-school or out-of-school suspension are not permitted to participate in or attend school-sponsored activities either at the school or away from the school during the period of suspension. For more information, refer to Policy 233 Suspension and Expulsion.
2. When students are suspended, class assignments must be made up as directed by the teachers.
3. Being on school property without permission while on out-of-school suspension will result in additional suspension time assigned to the offending student.
4. Upon return from an out-of-school suspension an informal meeting may be set up with an administrator. Both the student and his/her parent/guardian may be required to attend the meeting before the student is re-admitted to class.

MENU OF CONSEQUENCES (in order of progression, left to right) Discipline responses to certain or repeated offenses do not need to follow the progression; some consequences may be skipped due to the severity or the repetition of discipline infractions enacted by student.

A-Verbal or Written Warning B- Notify Principal C-One-Hour Detention
D-Three-Hour Detention E-Saturday Detention F-In-School Suspension
G-Out-of-School Suspension H-Alternative Education Referral I-Expulsion Referral

MENU OF OFFENSES (Mandatory Minimum Discipline Response)

1. Cheating/Plagiarism **(A/B)**
2. Defiance of authority **(A/B/C)**
3. Disruption on school buses or at a school activity **(A/B/C)**
4. Dress Code Violation **(E, must spend remainder of the day in the Behavior Intervention Room if appropriate clothing cannot or will not be worn)**
5. Engaging in any conduct or activity contrary to, or in violation of, the Pennsylvania Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act including without limitation the possession, sale, or use of drugs, narcotics, or alcohol on school property or at school- sponsored functions.* **(F/G/H/I See School Code-)**
6. Engaging in any conduct or activity contrary to, or in violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, ordinance of any municipality within the school district, or published regulations of the school district.* **(F/G/H/I & See School Code-)**
7. Failure to comply with assigned disciplinary consequence **(D/E/F/G)**
8. Failure to comply with a reasonable request.**(A/B)**
9. Fighting* **(G/H/I & See School Code-)**
10. Failure to report to assigned classes or study halls as scheduled. **(A/B/C)**
11. Hazing **(E/F/G)**
12. Insubordination and/or incorrigibility **(C)**
13. Participating in a food fight or throwing food in the cafeteria, on the deck, or in any other location on school grounds* **(E/F/G/H)**
14. Jeopardizing the health or safety of school personnel or members of the student body* **(E/F/G/H & See Code-)**
15. Performing an act of violence against school personnel or members of the student body* **(E/F/G/H & See Code-)**
16. Possession of cell phone **(B/E)**
17. Possession of a dangerous weapon* **(G/H/I & See School Code-)**
18. Possession, use or sale of tobacco* **(B/F/G & See School Code-)**
19. Possession of items prohibited on school property* **(F/G/H & See School Code-)**
20. Profanity directed at a school employee **(D/E)**
21. Public display of affection **(B/C/D)**
22. Serious or persistent disruption of classes **(D/E)**
23. Truancy **(C/D)** / Tardy to Class **(C)**
24. Theft* **(F/G/H & See School Code-)**
25. Threat of physical harm **(D/E)**
26. Leaving class / or school property during school hours without authorization**(D/E)**
27. Unauthorized possession and/or use of school property **(F/G/H & See Code-)**

- 28. Unlawful Harassment/Sexual Harassment* **(F/G/H & See Code-)**
- 29. Use of obscene or vulgar language; profanity **(C/D)**
- 30. Use of technology for purposes other than work without teacher permission **(C/D)**
- 31. Vandalism/Destruction of school property* **(F/G/H Fine & See Code-)**
- 32. Violation of the rights of others **(F/G/H)**
- 33. Expression Violation conversely affecting others **(A/B/C)**
- 34. Other **(Discretion of the Administration)**

Consequences are subject to the discretion of the school administrator handling the infraction. Offenses marked with an asterisk () are considered serious and may be referred for adjudication pursuant to Act 26 (24 P.S. §13- 1317.2) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Any Act 26 offense may also result in an investigation by local police authorities, which may result in criminal charges or a summary offense levied against the student.*

STUDENT ACTIVITIES EXCLUSION FOR SUSPENSIONS

If a student receives an in-school or out-of-school suspension, the following activities exclusion will immediately apply:

NUMBER OF SUSPENSION DAYS	MULTIPLIER	PERIOD OF ACTIVITIES EXCLUSION
1 to 3 days suspension	3	3-9 school days
4 to 6 days suspension	3	12-18 school days
7 to 10 days suspension	4	28-40 school days

A student activities exclusion applies to the following events, as a participant and/or spectator in our school:

- An athletic event, inclusive of an athletic contest, scrimmage, or practice. Students are also not permitted to attend these events as a spectator.
- Any club or co-curricular activity sponsored in part or full by the school district.
- The usage of any district athletic facilities
- An after-school or weekend activity affiliated with the school district
- A field trip or scheduled event affiliated with the school district

In situations where participation fees are paid in advance of the event or activity, Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School is not responsible for any reimbursement as a result of a disciplinary consequence.

Discrimination Policy

The Ferndale Area School District will not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, ancestry, union membership, or any other legally protected classification. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with state and federal laws, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Ferndale Area School District employees and participants who have an inquiry or complaint of harassment or discrimination or who need information about accommodations for persons with disabilities should contact Mr. John Kowal, Business Manager, Administrative Office, 100 Dartmouth Avenue, Johnstown, PA 15905, telephone: (814) 535-1507.

Dress Code

The specific dress and appearance guidelines for Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School are as follows. For more information reference Policy 221 Dress and Grooming.

1. Student clothing must be neat and clean with no depictions promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, racism, violence, weapons, obscene language, inappropriate messages, vulgarity, double meaning or anything that would be inconsistent with acceptable public behavior or disruptive to the learning environment.
2. Short shorts and short skirts are prohibited. Shorts and skirts are to be no shorter than the "Finger Tip Rule" (tip of their fingers while their hands are at their sides, **fully** extended).
3. Student clothing will provide coverage and not be excessively tight. The following are not permitted: pajama or sleep-wear type of clothing to include fleece/ lounge pants, exposed mid-riff, yoga pants or leggings/jeggings worn without a skirt/shorts/shirt/sweater that meet the "fingertip rule, halters, shirts with spaghetti straps, camisoles, off the shoulder shirts, low-cut/plunging neckline shirts, open shirts showing bare skin or undergarments (including sport bras), slippers, and visible undergarments (including underwear). Tops must be at least 3 inches in width at the shoulder. Sagging pants that expose shorts/undergarments are not permitted.
4. Any clothing above the "Finger Tip Rule" that has holes, rips, tears or is transparent / translucent is prohibited.
5. Hats and other head coverings will not be worn in the building at any time.
6. Bandanas are not to be worn or visible on a student at any time.
7. Jewelry should not be disruptive to the learning environment or pose a safety concern:
 - a. No large, sharp, dangling necklaces or bracelets
 - b. No chains hanging from belts, purses, pockets or wallets
 - c. No animal collars or excessive necklaces or bracelets
 - d. No pendants that represents a weapon, promotes drug/alcohol use, or contains any liquid substance.

Piercing – While the administration appreciates the individuality of students, body piercing must conform to acceptable standards and not disrupt the learning environment.

Make-up and hairstyles must be consistent with the stated dress and appearance philosophy:

- . No hairstyle that interferes with or disrupts the classroom-learning environment.
- a. No excessive or disruptive make up.
- b. Hair coloring should be tasteful and remain within the guidelines of not interfering with or disrupting the learning environment.

Footwear must be worn at all times. Any footwear that poses a safety hazard is not permitted (slippers, excessively high heels). Shoelaces must be tied.

Tight spandex clothing of any kind (yoga pants, leggings or tights worn with a top that does not meet the skirt requirement) is not permitted.

Outerwear, such as jackets and sunglasses, may not be worn in the classroom.

Dress code also applies to dress during Physical Education (especially shorts length and footwear; tennis shoes). Students who refuse to modify their attire may be sent home, parents may be contacted to bring appropriate clothing or may remain in Behavior Intervention Room until appropriate clothing is attained. Repeated lack of cooperation will result in additional or more substantial disciplinary action.

Drills

Periodic emergency drills are a necessary part of the school safety routine. The object of these drills is to clear the building as quickly as possible with no disorder. When the fire alarm is sounded, all classroom windows and doors are to be closed; lights are to be turned off. Students are to go swiftly and quietly to the exit designated for each room. Go directly to the areas designated for your safety.

These drills are for the safety of students and are extremely important. For this reason, running, shoving, pushing, or any other kind of thoughtless behavior will not be tolerated. Other drills will be conducted for bomb threats, severe weather alerts, and/or other catastrophic possibilities. Teachers will provide specific directions prior to these drills.

Drug-Free Schools

The Drug Free Schools Policy is established by the Ferndale Area School District pursuant to the Drug Free Act of 1988. It shall be unlawful to manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, or use any controlled substance within the meaning of Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act. All students shall abide by this policy. Those who violate this policy shall receive consequences in accordance with disciplinary procedures outlined in this handbook. In addition, the District will file charges with the law enforcement on each case. For more information, reference Policy 227 Controlled Substance/Paraphernalia.

Drug/Weapon Detection

In order to better ensure the safety and well-being of the school community, drug-sniffing dogs and weapon-sniffing dogs will be periodically used to conduct searches of the school grounds and student lockers. For more information, reference Policy 218.1 Weapons.

Dual Enrollment

Ferndale Area High School has partnered with local colleges to offer college-level Dual Enrollment courses during the regular school year. Taking advantage of this post-secondary experience may jumpstart a student's college career by giving him/her the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school. In order to enroll in dual enrollment courses students should:

1. Acquire the Dual Enrollment Application from the School Counseling office
2. Designate the Dual Enrollment courses in which they wish to enroll
3. Return the completed application with the payment to the college associated with the credit of interest

4. Upon completion of the course and after the grades are reported to the college, a grade report will be mailed to the student from the college

Final Examinations

A cumulative Final Examination shall be administered in every year-long, semester, and quarter course. This final examination is designed by the teacher to provide a culminating activity or assessment for the course, not necessarily in the format of an objective test. A student must have a 93% average of all 4 quarters AND not less than 90% for each quarter's final grade to be exempt from a final exam in a class. The format of the Final Examination is subject to the discretion of individual teachers. The Final Examination will constitute a percentage of the final course grade.

Flag Salute

Every student and citizen has the responsibility to show respect for his/her country and its flag. However, students do not have to join in the pledge of allegiance or salute the flag if they choose not to on the basis of personal beliefs or religious convictions. Students who do not want to participate in the ceremony must respect the rights of others.

Gifted Services

Ferndale Area School District provides a systematic screening and evaluation to determine the needs of gifted students as required by Chapter 16 of the Pennsylvania School Code. The screening process may result in a gifted evaluation and a Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP) for students who meet state requirements. For further information contact the School Counselor. For more information reference Policy 114, Gifted Services.

Grading

It is necessary for a student to be in regular attendance in order to grasp the important aspects of every course. Failure to do so will result in losing information and inter-related experiences with teachers and peers essential to the fulfillment of the criteria established for each course. **Illegal absences (Unexcused), will result in students receiving a failing grade for work assigned that day, including quizzes, tests, labs, homework, etc. assigned and/or scheduled for that day.**

End of marking period grades are based on each grading period and are not cumulative. It is necessary to obtain a passing grade each report period to be guaranteed a passing final grade for the subject. Simply accumulating grades during the first semester or first few grading periods in order to expect a passing grade on the basis of final grade average is not a proper approach to an education.

Incomplete grades must be made up within ten (10) school days after the current grading period (no Incompletes will be issued for the 4th Marking Period). Exceptions will be approved by administration. If incomplete work is not completed within the designated time, a "failing grade" will be assigned to the incomplete assignments and the final grade will be averaged. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the teacher and to see that his/her work is made up to comply with the above requirements.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100%	A
90-93%	A-
88-89%	B+
83-87%	B
80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+
73-77%	C
70-72%	C-
68-69%	D+
63-67%	D
60-62%	D-
59%-0.0%	F

Percentages of 0.5 or greater will be rounded up to the next whole number. Percentages of 0.4 or less will remain the same. Class rank for students in grade nine through twelve is determined using percentages. Using a weighted ranking system, greater emphasis is placed upon more challenging courses. Courses in this advanced category require study that goes beyond the classroom explanations. Most work is challenging at the higher level of cognition. These courses are accelerated, demand higher than average reading skills, and provide enrichment opportunities for able students. The Advanced Placement courses are examples and they follow the College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB) syllabus to prepare the students for the advanced placement tests in particular subject areas. The following courses are considered advanced work and their percentages are weighted:

English 9 Honors	Algebra II Honors
English 10 Honors	Trigonometry
English 11 Honors	Calculus
English 12 Honors	Geometry Honors
French 4 (5 if available)	AP European History (1.2 cr.)
Spanish 4 (5 if available)	AP United States History (1.2 cr.)
AP English Lit (1.2 cr.)	Advanced Chemistry/lab (1.4 cr.)
AP English Language (1.2 cr.)	Physics
Anatomy and Physiology/lab (1.4 cr.)	

This weighted system is used for the college admissions process. The procedure for weighting is used for calculations for determining honor roll, class rank, and eligibility for other honor programs such as the annual Academic Awards Ceremony.

For more information, reference Policy 213 Assessment of Student Progress and Policy 214 Class Rank. Note: Class rank will only be run at the semester break and after final exams.

Greater Johnstown Career and Technical Center (GJCTC)

Counselors will make announcements over the PA system regarding class meetings **concerning** the availability of CTC applications. It is the student's responsibility of initiating their request to the school counselor, who will inform the principal. Application packets for CTC will be distributed to interested students after administrative approval.

Students who are currently enrolled in the Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School and who are interested in the Career and Technical Center program should complete and submit an application form to the School Counseling office prior to the first of March for admission to the Greater Johnstown Career and Technical Center (GJCTC) for the next term beginning in September. Students must be at least a sophomore and in good academic standing (grades, PSSA Scores, Keystones and/or CDT's scores) to attend GJCTC.

Students are to return completed application to the school counselor with student and parent/guardian signatures. Students will be notified of acceptance or rejection by the district and GJCTC. Students scheduled for GJCTC must satisfy all outstanding obligations and complete graduation requirements of Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School.

Students are required to ride the bus to and from the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center unless prior approval from FAHS administration and GJCTC is obtained. For more information reference Policy 115 Vocational Technical Education.

Guidelines Regarding the Legal Name of a Student

Each student has one and only one legal name. This name will be the **only one** used by the Ferndale Area School District in **any** communications and dealings with the student, including official records, report cards, homework papers, class lists, and verbal communications. In accordance with the Pennsylvania School Law, Volume 1, Chapter 95, Section 95.06:

*“the name of a child may be legally changed in only **TWO** ways: through court adoption proceedings or name change by order of the court.”*

Upon receipt of **AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT FROM THE COURT** indicating adoption or name change, the school district will **IMMEDIATELY** change all records to comply with such change. Any questions should be directed to the Superintendent at 814-535-1507.

Hall Passes

Students are not permitted to travel from one area of the school to another without their planner signed by a member of the school staff. Students traveling without authorization will be disciplined according to the discipline code. Teachers will not admit a student into their classroom with proper documentation.

HALT! Bullying Prevention Program

If a child believes that he/she is being harassed, bullied, or mistreated by another student, he/she should first contact a teacher or school counselor. The teacher or counselor will attempt to resolve the problem. If the problem continues, the child should then contact the administration. In all cases the child should tell an adult at school and then an adult at home.

There is a stark difference between bullying and normal personal conflicts in adolescents. By definition, bullying is when someone is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he/she has difficulty defending himself/herself. The junior and senior high school have implemented the HALT! Bullying Prevention Program (Olweus) and adopted the slogan H.I.V.E. = "Honor & Integrity with a Vision of Excellence"

Ferndale Area Junior/Senior High School's Anti-Bullying Rules:

1. We will not bully others.
2. We will try to help others who are bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know someone who is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

For more information contact our school counselor and reference Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying and 248 Unlawful Harassment.

Harassment

The District strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain an educational environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated.

The District prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of students and third parties by all district students and staff members, contracted individuals, vendors, volunteers, and third parties in the schools. The District encourages students and third parties who have been harassed to promptly report such incidents to the designated employees.

Harassment shall consist of verbal, written, graphic or physical conduct relating to an individual's race, color, national origin/ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion. For more information reference Policy 248 Unlawful Harassment.

Hazing

The Ferndale Area School District does not condone any form of initiation or harassment, known as hazing, as part of any school-sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer, or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, or engage in any hazing activity. The school encourages students who have been subjected to hazing to promptly report such incidents to the building principal. District administrators shall investigate promptly all complaints of hazing and administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this policy. For more information reference Policy 247 Hazing.

High School Course Completion by 7th & 8th Grade Students

In exceptional situations, students are capable of advanced academic work. Students who complete high school courses during their 7th & 8th grade years will have the option of having the credits and their grades factored into their high school grade point average (GPA) for those courses. Decisions made toward course inclusion on high school transcripts will be required to be made at the conclusion of the student's 8th grade year. Courses completed, but not included on the high school transcript, will

require students to complete all graduation requirements during grades 9-12. For more information, reference Policy 215 Promotion and Retention.

High School Course Completion by 9th through 12th Grade Students

Students in grades 9th through 12th are expected to meet or exceed grade level expectations in order to meet graduation requirements. In the event that a student has not met grade level expectations, Summer School will provide an opportunity for credit recovery. If a student or his/her parent chooses not to take advantage of Summer School, they do so with the knowledge that the student will not remain on track to graduate with his/her class. For more information, reference Policy 215 Promotion and Retention.

<u>Status</u>	<u>Minimum Credits Earned</u>
Grade 9 – Freshman	Less than 6.0
Grade 10 – Sophomore	6.0
Grade 11 – Junior	12.0
Grade 12 – Senior	18.0
Graduation Eligible	25.0

Homebound Instruction

Homebound instruction is available to students who, with a physician and/or psychiatrist's excuse, are unable to physically attend school for an extended period of time, **due to hospitalization or home confinement**. Homebound instruction may be provided when an approved, temporary absence extends beyond two weeks. Students who are excused from school for less than two weeks can obtain their daily homework and assignments by contacting the high school office. "Application-for Temporary Extended Absences" must be completed and submitted to the School's Administration for approval before Homebound will be considered.

Homebound instruction may be provided for a maximum of three months. If the physician/psychiatrist determines there is a need beyond three months, then another Application for Temporary Extended Absences must be submitted. Homebound instruction can be provided for a maximum of five hours per week.

To secure homebound instruction, a request form from the high school office must be signed by the physician to indicate the nature of the disability and the length of absence. The form should be returned to the high school office and necessary arrangements to have a certified instructor sent to the home will be made, providing a mutual time can be arranged. These services are provided at no cost to the parent. For more information, reference Policy 117 Homebound Instruction.

Honor Roll

Highest Honors	95.0000% and greater
High Honors	90.0000% to 94.9999%
Honors	85.0000% to 89.9999%

Percentages are an average of all marking period grades. Any grade earned which is lower than an 80% makes the student ineligible for the honor roll.

Inclement Weather

In the event that it is necessary to close or delay the opening of schools because of hazardous weather conditions or for any other school emergencies, the district utilizes the One Call Now automated system to notify parents and students by phone. The following radio and television stations will also be notified:

WJAC-TV	Channel 6
WTAJ-TV	Channel 10
WGLU	92.1 FM
WKYE	96.5 FM
WYSN	101.7 FM
WJAC	850 AM
WADJ	1330 AM
WMTZ	1490 AM

Before your child leaves for the bus stop, he/she should check for such announcements. Because media systems sometime break down, it is advisable to check two or three different locations to verify the school closing or delay. Notice will also be provided through the aforementioned in the event of a non-scheduled early dismissal from school.

Independent Study

Independent study is available to students who would like to maximize their course enrollment. Students interested in independent study must be a motivated self-starter and be able to work independently. All independent studies must be channeled through one period of a student's school day. One or more courses may be taken during that period, but the student will be responsible for all course requirements. Courses available at FAHS must be taken with a FAHS teacher, unless there is a scheduling conflict. Students will receive credit for the number of independent study classes completed. Students cannot take an Independent Study without approval of the parent(s)/guardian(s), school counselor, independent study teacher, and administration. For more information, reference Policy 118 Independent Study.

Keystone Exam Proficiency

Students will demonstrate proficiency on each of the Algebra I, Biology and Literature Keystone exams. Students may take any exam more than once, up to and including the annual Spring Keystone exam window administered in May of the Grade 11 year.

Literature, Leaflets, and Newspapers Distribution

The administration may prohibit the distribution or dissemination of student-originated material on school grounds when such material would, in her/his judgment, materially and substantially interrupt the educational process or intrude upon the rights of others. The distribution of leaflets, newspapers, petitions and other printed materials on school district properties by a student, parent, or community group is permitted only with the approval of the building principal. For more information, refer to Policy 220 Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials.

Locker Searches

All lockers are and shall remain the property of the Ferndale Area School District. **Students shall only have limited expectation concerning privacy in their use of school lockers.** Under no circumstances should students share lockers with other students. The contents of a locker have been determined by the courts to be in the possession and property of the student assigned to that locker. Locker searches will be conducted by the administration when reasonable suspicion exists. The student assigned to the locker being searched may be present when the search takes place, when the circumstance allows. In the event of a locker search producing contraband, the student will face disciplinary action in accordance with the Discipline Code. If said contraband is an illegal substance or material that poses a threat to the school community, parents and Local Law Enforcement officials will be contacted and action in accordance with the Discipline Code will be taken. For more information, reference Policy 226 Locker Searches.

Medication Administration during School Hours

The school district will cooperate with parents and their medical practitioners in distributing prescribed medications when it must be taken during school hours. For more information, reference Policy 210 Use of Medication. Ideally, all medication should be given at home. It is also recognized that at the present time many students are able to attend regular school because of the effectiveness of medication in the treatment of chronic disabilities and illnesses. However, any student who is required to take medication during the regular school day must comply with school regulations. Therefore, prescription medication will be administered by the school nurse under the following conditions:

1. Upon written request from the physician and parent/guardian to the school officials that medication must be administered to the student during school hours. Included in the request must be the name of the student, name of medication, dosage, frequency and route of administration, and physician's signature.
2. All medication must be in the original protective container and properly labeled by the physician or pharmacy.

The administration of non-prescription medication is discouraged and can usually be avoided by adjusting the time schedule around school hours. If it is absolutely necessary for a child to receive nonprescription medication during school hours, it will be administered by the school nurse under the following conditions:

1. Receipt of written request or authorization from parent or guardian and a physician's signature.
2. Included within the request must be the name of the student, name of medication, dosage, frequency of administration, and route of administration.
3. All medication must remain in its original unopened container that is properly labeled.

All medications (prescription and non-prescription) must be transported to and from school by a parent or guardian for the safety of all students. No student will be permitted to carry any medication at any time. Any medications not picked up by a parent at the end of the school year will be discarded.

A student may carry inhalers only after written consent by a physician is provided to verify student knowledge of the use and administration of the medication. For more information, reference Policy 201.1 Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers. Neither the school nurse nor authorized staff will dispense medications of any kind without written permission from the parent/guardian and a physician.

National Honor Society

Membership

1. Membership in local chapters is an honor not a right bestowed upon a student. Selection for membership is by a faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.
2. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony. Participation in the Induction Ceremony is mandatory for membership.
3. A National Honor Society member who transfers to another school and brings a letter from the former principal or chapter advisor to the new school advisor shall be accepted automatically as a member in the new school's chapter. Transfer members must meet the new chapter's standards within one semester in order to retain membership.
4. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.
5. Each year one or more service projects shall be completed by the members of the National Honor Society. All members are required to participate in these projects.

Selection of Members

1. To be eligible for membership, the candidate must have spent at least one semester in this school and be a member of the sophomore, junior or senior class.
2. Candidates must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 91.0000%, A, or 3.50 (on a 4.00 scale) or its equivalent standard of excellence. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character.
3. A completed application / Student Activity Form is necessary for students interested in membership into the National Honor Society.
4. The selection of each member to the chapter shall be by a majority vote of the entire faculty based on Service, Leadership and Character.
5. The National Council and the NASSP shall not review the judgment of the faculty council regarding selection of individual members to local chapters.

Open Containers

Students are not permitted to bring into the school any containers that have been opened from their original seal. This can include soda bottles, pop cans, coffee mugs/cups, etc. If a student is witnessed drinking from an open container in their locker, the drink will be confiscated and discarded. If a closed bottle is brought into the school, the student is only permitted to open the container and drink the contents in the lunch room or after school.

Parking and Student Vehicles

The Ferndale Area School District provides bus transportation for all students. Student driving is not condoned and the FASD does not provide parking for students. For safety reasons students are requested to use provided bus transportation. Parking on school property is limited to school personnel only. All others will be towed at the owner's expense.

Photographs/Web Site

A commercial photographer takes colored photographs of students annually. There is no obligation to purchase these photographs.

The Ferndale Area School District maintains a district web site to inform parents of pertinent district information. Throughout the year, pictures are taken to post on our web site and for use in classroom instruction. Parents or guardians of a student may deny this picture taking procedure to school administration by submitting a written letter each year prior to the beginning of school to the high school office specifically denying web site pictures.

Progress Monitoring

Parents and students have the ability to monitor current student grades at any time through accessing the PowerSchool Parent portal. However, in addition to the online access, progress reports will be mailed home at the mid-point of each marking period. Parents should regularly check grades in PowerSchool to monitor student achievement throughout the grading periods. If you do not have access to a computer to monitor your child's grades online, or if you do not know how to access the PowerSchool parent portal, please contact the FAJSHS Office by calling 814-288-5757.

Prom for Juniors and Seniors

The location of the Prom is determined each year by the Grade 11 officers. No less than four faculty supervisors plus one police officer in are required to be in attendance. Students must remain inside the facility and at the dance for the duration of the event. If a student needs to leave the dance for an emergency, the parent/guardian must appear in person and meet with the administrators and/or faculty chaperones in supervision at the dance. After leaving, students may not return to the dance. All decorations are to be removed by the Prom Committee at the conclusion of the Prom. Any bag brought to the Prom must be checked in at the door, can be picked up when the student leaves, and is subject to search. The Prom is for juniors and seniors; however, the junior or senior student may invite a guest. Guests must be in at least Grade 9 and under 21 years of age in order to be permitted to attend the prom. Students must register guests

from outside the school with the administration prior to purchasing tickets for the Prom. All attendees to the Prom must be a student in good academic standing with no outstanding obligations.

Rehabilitation Act—Section 504 (Persons with a Disability)

The Ferndale Area School District, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program sponsored by the Ferndale Area School District.

Also, the School District does not discriminate in hiring of the disabled, provided reasonable accommodations to an applicant's disability can be made. If a student believes that he/she has been discriminated against because of their disability, he/she should first discuss it with their administration. If the problem is not resolved at this level, the student should obtain a "Section 504" grievance form and submit it according to the directions provided with the form. Any questions concerning "504 plans" should be directed to the School Counseling Offices.

Safety and Security

To ensure continued safety within the school there have been cameras installed at various locations. Monitors for each camera are located in the office and viewed by school district employees and law enforcement personnel only. All visitors must be authenticated for entry into the high school as a first-level security measure. There is one main entrance opened for public use and all visitors must report to the office upon entering the building to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Anyone entering the school must use the front door. All other doors are locked. Students are not permitted to open doors for any reason; to allow anyone access to the building, to hang out the doorway, etc. Doors should not be propped open for any reason.

Scheduling

Each spring students must register for classes for the next school year through the School Counseling Office. Each registration form needs a parent's signature. Please review class selections very carefully. Students can add or drop a course **within the first ten (10) school days** of the year. After this initial add/drop period, subsequent schedule changes must be pre-approved by the administration. The administration reserves the right to change schedules when it becomes necessary due to class size, student needs, etc.

School Counseling Services

A School Counselor is available to any student in order to assist with:

1. Adjusting to school
2. Improving their grades
3. Discussing and dealing with concerns
4. Working through problems
5. Exploring options and reaching decisions

6. Acquiring career and job related information
7. Monitoring their progress towards reaching graduation requirements
8. Participation in career and post-secondary education exploration

Students also receive information from the school counselor through classroom visits, small group counseling sessions, individual conferences, school announcements, and bulletins. Important information alerting parents and students to special evening presentations, tests, and other programs will be sent home. Admission officers from college, trade, technical, and business schools, and the military will visit the School Counseling Office. Students may schedule appointments to meet with them.

Any student with an educational, vocational, or personal problem is encouraged to schedule an appointment to discuss the matter with his/her school counselor. Ferndale Area encourages students and parents to take advantage of the school counseling services provided. For more information, reference to Policy 112 Guidance Counseling.

School Dances

All dances are required to have four faculty supervisors plus one police officer to be in attendance. Students must remain inside the facility and at the dance for the duration of the event. If a student needs to leave the dance for an emergency, the parent/guardian must appear in person and meet with the administrators and/or faculty chaperones in supervision at the dance. After leaving, students may not return to the dance. Clubs and organizations are to remove all decorations at the conclusion of the dance and restore the gym for class usage.

Book bags, gym bags, etc., if brought to the dance must be checked in at the door and can be picked up when the student leaves. Any bags brought to the dance are subject to search. Students must be in at least Grade 7 and under 21 years of age in order to be permitted to attend the dance. Students must register guests from outside the school with the administration prior to the dance. All attendees to dances must be students in good academic standing with no outstanding obligations.

School Issued Materials Responsibility

All basic texts and related materials are provided to students for their use during the school year. Students are expected to take proper care of their textbooks. Students are responsible for their condition and return. If a student receives a damaged book, he or she must inform the teacher of its condition immediately. **Stolen books are the responsibility of the student to whom it was originally distributed.**

Students will be charged the prevailing textbook replacement cost. If the book is found, monies will be refunded. In the event that the textbooks are damaged beyond ordinary wear and tear, the student or his/her parents are required to pay for the damage. The same requirement applies in the event that textbooks or library books are lost or stolen. Students, who are issued any equipment or supplies, including athletic equipment, may be held responsible for its return in an acceptable condition.

In addition, Ferndale Area Jr. /Sr. High School students have an opportunity that most schools do not provide; each student in grades 7 - 12 receives an iPad to use throughout the school year. However, the students are ultimately responsible for the care and possession of the iPads. Lost, broken, or inoperable iPads must be replaced through the district, as well as chargers and screens that are broken or scratched.

Significantly lower prices for replacement parts and repairs are arranged through the district. Failure to replace or repair broken items will result in the delay or forfeiture of the reissuance of an iPad the following school year, and could also have repercussions in regards to graduation and sports participation.

School Nurse

School nursing time is shared with the Elementary school. Schedule is dependent upon medications and students' needs at each school building. Students are not permitted to use the nursing station to rest unless authorized by the school nurse or administrative staff. Students too sick to attend class should have the nurse or administrator, in the absence of a nurse, contact the child's parent or guardian to pick them up.

There are certain instances when the school nurse is mandated by the PA Department of Health to exclude students from school. An example is when there is a question of a communicable disease (pink eye, lice, etc.). If excluded, the student will have to be seen and released by a physician prior to returning to school. Written notification from the releasing physician is required to return to school.

The PA School Code mandates that all children receive a physical assessment from a licensed professional at the following times:

- Upon entry/enrollment
- Grade 6
- Grade 11

It also requires that all students receive a dental screening conducted by a licensed professional at the following times

- Upon entry/enrollment
- Grade 3
- Grade 7

All physicals and dentals done by your family doctor must be turned into the school no later than October 31 of the current school year. It may be dated up to one year prior to this date. Any student who does not turn in a mandated physical or dental form will be scheduled to be seen by the school physician and/or the school dentist.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, request for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature that takes place under any of the following circumstances:

When submission to such conduct is made, explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of employment, instruction, or participation in school activities or programs; when submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used by the offender as the basis for making personal or academic decisions affecting the individual subjected to sexual advances; when such conduct has the effect of unreasonably interfering with the individual's work; or when such conduct has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment.

It is the policy of the Ferndale Area School District to provide learning and working atmosphere for students, employees, and visitors free from sexual harassment. It is a

violation of this policy for any administrator, teacher, or other employee, or any student to engage in or condone sexual harassment. It is the responsibility of every employee to recognize acts of sexual harassment and take every action necessary to ensure that the applicable policies and procedures of this school district are implemented. Any student who believes that he or she has been subject to sexual harassment should bring the concern to his/her School Counselor or Principal. The student may file a complaint with the administrator in accordance with the district's prohibition of sexual harassment policy. For more information, reference Policy 248 Unlawful Harassment.

Signs and Posters

Permission from the administration must be received to display signs and posters. Signs and posters must be taped to the tile walls and/or stapled on specified bulletin boards. Do not tape posters to plastered walls, windows or doors. For more information, reference Policy 220 Student Expression/Distribution and Posting of Materials.

Smart Snacks

Due to the USDA's "Smart Snacks in School" regulations that take effect July 1, 2014 and the increasing number of students in our district with food allergies/ intolerances, Ferndale Area School District will no longer allow any food, snacks or treats to be brought into the schools for birthday/holiday parties or celebrations of any sort. This is a district wide policy, K4 through 12; however, nutritious food alternatives may be coordinated with Mary Storer-Clawson, Food Service Director for a minimal fee. Other nonfood options may be coordinated through the building principal. Teachers will not be permitted to use food as a reward, incentive or teaching tool in their classrooms without prior approval by the building principal.

Student Assistance Program – “BEE AWARE”

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a program in the junior-senior high school designed to identify and assist students who may have issues that pose as barriers to learning and school success (e.g. drugs, alcohol, emotional). The SAP faculty members are professionally trained to use a systematic process to identify problems and recommend resources to help students.

Our Student Assistance Program is a voluntary and supportive program for students and their parents. Referrals should be made to the school counselor, administration, or faculty who will assist the student through this difficult situation. SAP is an intervention, not a treatment program, that requires parent permission for participation. SAP members include the administration, the School Counselor, the school nurse and several teachers (see FASD website for a list of members' names). For more information, reference Policy 236 Student Assistance Program.

Student Records

A copy of the Student Records Policy 216 of the Ferndale Area School District is available for inspection in the High School Office at 600 Harlan Avenue Johnstown, PA 15905.

Student Searches

Searching students will only take place when reasonable suspicion, as determined by the administration, exists. Searches of students and student property may only be conducted by the administration. Searches will consist of the emptying of pockets, purses, book bags, and other personal articles including, but not limited to, shoes, socks and if deemed warranted, a “pat-down” of the student to detect hidden/concealed objects. For more information, reference Policy 226.1 Student Searches.

The following procedure will be followed in the searching of a student:

1. The student will be questioned by the administration about the incident/concern whenever possible. Reasonable suspicion will be determined at this time.
2. The student will have the opportunity to voluntarily produce the item(s) he/she is suspected of having in his/her possession. If the student produces the item(s) in question, parents will be contacted immediately. If deemed necessary, Local Law Enforcement officials will be contacted.
3. If a student voluntarily participates in the search, the search will be conducted by the administration. Upon the conclusion of the search, regardless of what, if any items are found, the parent/guardian will be contacted.
4. If a student refuses to be searched by school officials, parents and local law enforcement officials will be contacted and the student may face a search conducted by law enforcement officials, off school premises.
5. In the event of a weapon or a controlled or dangerous substance being confiscated as a result of a search, students will face disciplinary action according to the Discipline Code and criminal charges and proceedings through the local law enforcement agency.
6. Searches by the administration may include the use of hand wands or metal-detection units.

Study Hall

A Study Hall *may* be considered in a student’s schedule, if necessary to promote academic support and excellence. In general, study halls are strongly discouraged. If a study hall is scheduled, any participating student will observe the following regulations:

1. Students should be on time. Assigned seats are to be taken quickly and quietly.
2. Attendance will be taken each period. The office will be notified of any missing student whose name does not appear on the Daily Bulletin.
3. A sign-out sheet is provided each period for students to sign out for activities, to attend classes in other rooms, to use the restroom, to go to their locker, etc. In all cases, a pass must be shown to the study hall teacher before the student may sign the log and be permitted to leave.
4. A pass from the study hall to another classroom must be signed by the teacher of the class to which the student is leaving the study hall. The study hall teacher must sign the admit indicating he/she is aware of the student leaving the study for that purpose.
5. Students must come to study hall prepared to use this time in an educationally constructive manner. This is the student’s opportunity to review materials from previous classes, study for exams and complete assigned homework.

6. Students should always plan to have something constructive to do during study hall. They should bring necessary books and supplies with them. Students are permitted to read books, magazines and newspapers.
7. Under no circumstances will students be permitted to sleep or lay their heads on the desks. Study halls are to give the students an opportunity to use the time to his/her educational advantage, and must be used for that intended purpose.
8. Study hall teachers *may* allow groups of 2 or more to study as a group as long as it does not disturb others in the room. This decision is up to the discretion of the teacher in charge.
9. Quiet will be observed at all times.
10. Only one student will be excused at a time for the purpose of using the restroom. Students are not to be excused from study hall to go to another teacher, room, gym, school counseling office, or office unless they have a pre-approved pass signed by a staff member. Failure to report to study hall without following the proper sign-out procedure may be considered a class cut or insubordination.
11. Students will sit in assigned seats and not move from that assigned seat unless permitted by the teacher in charge.
12. Teachers may establish additional regulations when supervising a study hall.
13. Teachers may withdraw hall pass privileges from students based on behavior.

Summer School

Summer School may be offered to all students needing remediation. Students should check with their school counselor prior to scheduling summer courses to be sure Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School will accept the transferring course.

Tardies

“To be early is to be on time!” The expectation of the administration and teachers is for students to assume personal responsibility in being prompt for their respective courses and activities. Therefore, the following guidelines will be followed to encourage *Tardies to School*

Students are tardy if not present within their assigned homeroom at 7:35AM. Students who find they are going to be late for school must make every effort to get to school anyway. It is better to be tardy than to miss an entire day of instruction. Students who miss an entire day because of a reluctance to have a “tardy” counted against them, will have the day recorded as an unexcused absence. Excessive tardiness, regardless of the reasons, becomes a concern. School personnel are hopeful that communication with a student and parent will quickly remedy the situation. There are no excused tardies to school without a medical excuse signed by a medical professional. This includes early morning doctor or dentist appointments, which are considered legitimate excusals from school.

The following are used as benchmarks in addressing concerns about tardiness to school:

First Offense:	Tardy 6-8	One-Hour Detention; Administrative Letter
Second Offense:	Tardy 8-10	Three-Hour Detention; Administrative Letter
Third Offense	Tardy 10-12	Saturday Detention; Administrative Letter
Fourth Offense	Tardy 12-14	In-School Suspension 1; Administrative Letter

Fifth Offense Tardy 15+ In-School Suspension 3;
 Citation filing with District Magistrate, subject to a fine and court costs

Tardies to Class

Students are provided with three (3) minutes in between periods to get to their next class. If a student is detained by a previous class, it is the student’s responsibility to acquire a pass from the current teacher so that the teacher of the next class is able to excuse the temporary absence. For situations in which a student is late to class without a pass, it will be assumed that the student was in an unassigned area of the building. Teachers will track any tardies to class and will submit a discipline log for every three (3) occurrences of tardies to class. The discipline log will itemize the specific dates that the student was tardy to class.

Telephone Use

A student telephone is available in the main office for purpose of student usage that are an emergency in nature, and must be used by the student during non-instructional time only (lunch, between periods, etc). Parents and friends are discouraged from calling students at school for non-emergency personal reasons during school hours. Students are not called from classes to the telephone except in cases of illness or emergency. Such messages will be delivered to students when the message is sufficiently important.

Testing Schedule

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School will conduct various tests to determine abilities, interests, and educational needs. The results of these tests provide a continuing record of each child’s academic progress. The tests are also an invaluable tool for teachers and counselors in diagnosing individual strengths and weaknesses in order to provide more effective individualized instruction. During the school year, the following tests will be administered to your child as part of this program:

Name of Test	Grade(s)	Objective
Hearing Screening	11	Assesses existence of hearing
Local Assessments	12	Achievement (for Keystone non-prof.)
Final Examinations	7-12	End of Course Assessments
PSSA ELA & Math	7-8	PA Annual Achievement Measure
PSSA Science	8	PA Annual Achievement Measure
Keystone Exams	8-11	PA Achievement Measure for Grad. (Algebra 1, Biology, Literature)
Vision Screening	7-12	Assesses existence of vision
Classroom Diagnostic Tool	7-11	Content-Area Achievement & Growth
Study Island Benchmarks	7-11	Content-Area Achievement & Growth
ACT/SAT	10-12	College Admissions
ASVAB	11-12	Scores in aptitude; career interests
PSAT/NMSQT	10,11,12	Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Qualifying Test

Tobacco Use Policy

In accordance with Act 128 of 2000 and Title 22 of the School Law Code, the school district will initiate prosecution of a student who possesses and/or uses tobacco or look-alike products in any area of the school district's buildings, buses, vans and vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the school district or on school grounds. Tobacco use shall be defined as use and/or possession of a lit or unlit cigarette, cigar or pipe; other lighted smoking product; and smokeless tobacco in any form. The district prohibits tobacco use and possession by students at school sponsored activities that are held off school property. Students convicted of possessing or using tobacco in violation of this policy may be fined, charged with court costs, or admitted to alternative adjudication in lieu of imposing a fine. Students who possess or use tobacco on grounds or within 1000 feet of school property will face action by the law enforcement and disciplinary action. For more information, reference Policy 222 Tobacco Use/Possession.

Transfer Students

A student who transfers from another district should register as soon as possible. Proof of age, immunization records, parental registration statement, home language survey, and proof of residency must be presented at the time of the child's registration at the high school office for grades 7-12. Additionally the school counselor may request transfer cards from his/her former district, disciplinary history and attendance history.

Transportation

Recognizing that proper student discipline is necessary to the efficient and safe operation of any school bus line, the Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School utilizes a system of bus discipline. The consequence for all offenses will be at the administration's discretion, according to the seriousness of the offense.

The following are prohibited on school buses-including buses taking students to co-curricular activities: smoking or chewing tobacco, fighting, profanity and abusive language, standing in the aisles, hands and arms out of the windows, initiation activities of any kind, food and drink, crowding at doorway to get on or off the bus, and heckling the bus driver.

Students are to follow the directions of bus drivers relative to opening and shutting windows. Nothing will be thrown out of the windows. In addition to school disciplinary action, violations for littering and vandalism may result in civil discipline. Students are required to ride the bus to and from all school sponsored activities unless prior approval from administration is obtained. For more information, reference Policy 810 Transportation.

TurnItIn.com

Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School uses Turnitin.com as a teaching and learning tool to aid our students with writing. Turnitin.com is a web-based program that allows students to submit their own written work in order to receive feedback in the form of an Originality Report. The submitted work is compared against the Internet, print sources and other student papers to check for matching or similar text. The Originality Report allows students to check their rough draft for proper citations and/or potential

plagiarism issues before handing in a final copy to the teacher. Turnitin.com helps students identify and properly cite quotations or use paraphrased material. In this way, the program helps safeguard academic integrity.

When a student submits his or her work to Turnitin.com, they will receive a “similarity index” that corresponds with the percentage of his or her text that matches sources found by Turnitin.com. If the written assignment calls for completely original writing, then the similarity index should be 0% or close to it. When a student is doing a research paper, however, he or she is using the words and ideas of others to produce the finished paper, causing a higher similarity index. The student should be presenting those words or ideas in the form of quotations or paraphrased sentences in the paper, and properly citing that information. Since the student is using the words and ideas of others, his or her Turnitin.com matching percentage will be equivalent to the amount of source quotations or paraphrased material in the paper. An acceptable matching percentage depends on the specific teacher assignment, but in general, if the percentage is too high the student has used too many quotes or paraphrased sentences and needs to add more of his or her own analysis to the paper. If the student is unsure what an acceptable percentage for the assignment is, he or she should discuss it with the teacher.

Unlawful Harassment (excerpts from Policy 248)

The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district to maintain an educational environment in which harassment in any form is not tolerated.

The Board prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of students and third parties by all district students and staff members, contracted individuals, vendors, volunteers, and third parties in the schools. The Board encourages students and third parties who have been harassed to promptly report such incidents to the designated employees.

The Board directs that complaints of harassment shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action be taken when allegations are substantiated. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Valuables

It is recommended that valuables and large amounts of money not be brought to school. Valuables or money should not be left in the student's desk or locker. If it is necessary for a student to have such articles with him/her, he/she should deposit them with the office for safekeeping. **In the event of a loss, the School District assumes no responsibility for the loss. Students have sole responsibility for their valuables.** It is strongly recommended that payment of large bills for candy, yearbook, class ring, lunch, etc., be paid by check.

Visitors

Parents and citizens are welcome to visit the high school. When a visit is desired, please contact the high school office to make appropriate arrangements. If you wish to have a formal conference with a teacher, please contact the high school office or school counseling office to make arrangements. All teacher conferences/meetings must be

scheduled in advance. If a public group wishes to tour, please contact the high school administration to make necessary arrangements to visit at any time during the school year. Students are not permitted to bring guests to school without prior approval of the principal. At no time should parents/visitors go directly to a classroom, cafeteria, etc., without first reporting to the office. This procedure is required to assure the safety of your children. For more information, reference Policy 907 School Visitors.

Work or College Release

Students in grade 12 may carry a reduced load of classes and be excused for the purpose of reporting for work or enrolling in college courses. Graduation requirements must be met and the student must take a minimum of 4 credits of coursework at FAHS. A student's attendance must be regular, and required work release and college admittance documentation must be submitted to the office. The building administration is responsible for determining the student's eligibility and must approve the request.

Working Paper Procedures

Students under 18 must obtain an employment certificate in order to get a job. The parent, guardian, or legal custodian of the minor for whom such employment certificate for Transferable Work Permit is requested must make application for Employment Certificate. The parent or guardian must appear in person in the high school office with definite proof of age; birth certificate, baptismal certificate, passport, or other documentary evidence, of the minor.

Annual Public Notice of Child Find and Special Education Services

Overview

School districts are required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA '04) to provide a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities who need special education and related services. (Note: The duty to identify, locate, evaluate and provide special education services to school-age individuals incarcerated in local correctional institutions rests with the school district within whose boundaries such an institution is located.) School age children who need special education and related services are identified as children with disabilities. These students have been identified as being in need of specially designed instruction and have one or more of the following physical or intellectual disabilities under IDEA:

- Autism
- Emotional disturbance
- Deafness
- Hearing impairment
- Specific learning disability
- Intellectual disability
- Multiple disabilities
- Other health impairment
- Orthopedic impairment due to chronic or acute health problems
- Speech or language impairment
- Visual impairment including blindness
- Deaf-blindness
- Traumatic Brain Injury

Intermediate Unit 8 and each school district in Bedford, Blair, Cambria and Somerset counties has established and implemented procedures to locate, identify, and evaluate

students and young children suspected of being exceptional. These procedures include screening activities which include but are not limited to: review of group-based data (cumulative records, enrollment records, health records, and report cards); hearing screening (at a minimum of kindergarten, special ungraded classes, first, second, third, seventh, and eleventh grades); vision screening (every grade level); motor screening; and speech and language screening. In schools which have a Pre-Referral, Child-Study, Early Intervening or Instructional Support Team, the above screening activities may lead to consideration by the teams to move the next level of screening activities.

When screening indicates that a student may be a child with a disability, the school district will seek parental consent to conduct an evaluation. Evaluation means procedures used in the determination of whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs. The term means procedures used selectively with an individual child and do not mean basic tests administered to or procedures used with all children.

This evaluation is conducted by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that includes the parent and a group of qualified professionals. The process must be conducted in accordance with specific timelines and must include protection-in-evaluation procedures. For example, tests and procedures used as part of the evaluation may not be racially or culturally biased.

The IEP team develops a written education plan called an IEP. The IEP is based on the results of the evaluation. An IEP describes a student's current educational levels, goals, objectives (when required), and the individualized programs and services that the student will receive. IEPs are reviewed on an annual basis. For more information regarding the special education process, please contact Mrs. Jessica Maxwell, Coordinator of Special Education Services at 814-539-6160 or jmaxwell@fasdk12.org

Gaskin Settlement Agreement

The Gaskin Settlement Agreement is a formal resolution between the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and a group of families and advocacy organizations who filed a class-action lawsuit against PDE on behalf of a group of children with disabilities in 1994. The goal of the settlement is to ensure that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams determine whether the goals in a student's IEP can be implemented in the general education classroom with supplementary aids and services before considering a more restrictive placement. The activities agreed to in the Settlement Agreement are designed to increase the capacity of school districts to provide appropriate specially designed instruction, related services, supplementary aids and services, and support to students with disabilities placed in general education classrooms. The agreement does not change an individual student's program, placement, or IEP. Only the IEP team can make such modifications.

View the entire Settlement Agreement on the Ferndale Area School District website (www.fasdk12.org) by visiting the Special Education link.

SPECIAL NOTE

Full text of Ferndale Area School District policies are available on the District website for your inspection. If you are unable to access the website, please request paper copies of the policies from the High School Office by calling 814-288-5757.

PARENT/STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF STUDENT HANDBOOK

_____ Parent/Guardian Printed Name

_____ Student Printed Name

We have read and reviewed the 2016-17 Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School Student Handbook. We understand the rights and responsibilities of students and agree to support and abide by the rules, guidelines, procedures, and policies of Ferndale Area Junior-Senior High School.

This signature page should be returned to the student's Homeroom teacher before Friday, September 2, 2016. Students will NOT be issued lockers or locks until this signature page, Internet Agreement, Health Forms, iPad Issue Agreement, and Emergency Card are returned to the school.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ Student Signature

_____ Date