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Welcome to Hillsboro High School

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

12th 4th St NE, Hillsboro, ND 58045

Dr. Carly Theis, Principal

Mr. Kyle Morehart, Career Counselor

HILLSBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION

12th 4th St NE, Hillsboro, ND 58045

Mr. Jon Dryburgh, Superintendent of Schools

Mission Statement

The Mission of Hillsboro Public Schools is to lead and prepare our learners to succeed in life.

We Believe

- All students are entitled to equal access to free and appropriate public education.
- Schools should promote scholarship, service, leadership, and character.
- Schools should provide students with a quality core curriculum, along with opportunities to pursue an interest in the arts, career, and technical education, and physical education.
- Schools should equip students with communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity skills.
- Schools should provide a system of support services that will allow all students to succeed.
- Schools should provide students with a safe, caring, and respectful learning environment.
- Schools should inspire students to succeed.
- Parents and the whole community are partners helping schools achieve the mission and vision of the District.

Code of Conduct:

- ❖ Be Respectful
- ❖ Be Responsible
- ❖ Be Safe
- ❖ Be Ready to Learn

BLUE, WHITE, are the school colors of HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

ADMINISTRATION

The Hillsboro School Board, composed of five members, is elected by the people of the Hillsboro School District #9 to perform the duties required by the Board, by the State of N.D., the accrediting association, and the people of the School District. The Board appoints a Superintendent of Schools, who is the executive officer of the Board and the chief administrative officer of the Hillsboro Public School District. Directly in charge of each school is the Principal who is responsible for the operation of the school. Classroom instructors are hired to instruct the students and are responsible to the Board through the Principal and Superintendent. All staff meets current state qualification and licensing requirements.

ADMISSION

Students who have satisfactorily completed the 6th grade and have a recommendation from their elementary, middle, or junior high school will be admitted to Hillsboro High School. A satisfactory transcript of credits completed in another high school is required of all students who transfer to Hillsboro High School. Students must have a North Dakota Department of Health Certificate of Immunization before they can enroll in any North Dakota school.

Hillsboro Public School District requires proof of identification for all students upon their initial enrollment at any grade level. Proof of identification shall consist of 1) receipt of student records within 60 days or 2) presentation of a certified birth certificate within 40 days.

BUILDING HOURS

The school building will be open to students from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on school days. Prior arrangements with a supervising teacher or librarian may extend the day beyond school hours.

BULLYING POLICY

Bullying is defined as conduct prescribed in [N.D.C.C. 15.1-19-17](#).

While at school, on school district premises, in a district-owned or leased school bus or vehicle, or at any public school or district sanctioned or sponsored activity, a student may not:

- Engage in bullying;
- Engage in reprisal or retaliation against:
 - A victim of bullying;
 - An individual who witnesses an alleged act of bullying;
 - An individual who reports an alleged act of bullying; or
 - An individual who provides information/participates in an investigation about an alleged act of bullying.
- Knowingly filing a false bullying report with the District;

Off-campus bullying that is received on school property is also prohibited. The District has limited disciplinary authority to respond to such forms of bullying.

The entire bullying policy, including definitions can be found in the [A.C.E.A. Bullying Policy](#). Reporting options for students or suspected violations of the bullying policy include the following:

- Complete a written complaint form.
- Complete or submit an online complaint form.
- File an oral report with any school staff member.

CHEATING

The penalty for cheating which includes plagiarism and inappropriate use of AI pertains to all classes, is the following:

- First Offense – students lose semester test exemption. Students may receive a “0” on daily assignments (major projects or tests – students may be required to redo the project / test). Final discretion rests with the teacher as is define in their course syllabus.
- Second Offense – “0” on that assignment and two full letter grade reductions for the semester grading period.
- Third Offense – Failing grade for the semester (60% or lower).

COUNSELING DEPARTMENT | STUDENT SERVICES

Counselors are available to help students make important decisions regarding academic choices, college and career-readiness options, and their social/emotional well-being.

Students, parents, and teachers are urged to consult with the counselor regarding a student’s academic progress. Students may check on their plan of study at any time by making an appointment with the counselor. If students need help with a problem, they should secure an appointment with the counselor. It is very important that appointments be kept or that students notify the counselor if there is a need to reschedule.

The counseling office administers a selected number of tests for the purpose of helping students to determine aptitudes, scholastic achievement, and career preferences. The counselor will interpret many of the results of these tests and inventories for students and parents. Most tests will be administered to a class as a whole, but in some cases, tests will be given to individuals or small groups.

The counseling office has vocational and educational material, which is available for student use. Students are invited to use this service for career exploration. The material also is available to assist parents and students in selecting colleges or trade schools.

COMPUTER USAGE

Computers are available for student usage, and all students are encouraged to use these computers. However, students are **ABSOLUTELY LIMITED** to the use of programs or websites, **which are assigned or approved by an instructor**. Students using or attempting to use unauthorized programs or websites will be denied access to any of the school computers for a period of time set by the instructor and/or principal. Students are also advised that nothing they save on the computer network is confidential; teachers and administrators have access to all student documents on the network.

DETENTION

Detention will be held from 3:15 pm – 4:00 pm **Tuesdays and Thursdays**.

Students have two weeks to serve their assigned detention. If a student fails to complete their detention assignment, the student will be considered in violation of a “student in good standing” and will not be eligible to participate in various school functions or events. In addition, a mandatory truancy meeting with a school administrator may be held with the student, parents, and/or guardians. Failure to comply with this policy may result in suspension. The following rules apply while in detention:

- Students must bring academic materials and are expected to study.
- Students may not talk to other students or move around the room.
- Bathroom privileges will be strictly monitored.
- Students assigned to in-school suspensions are only allowed to leave the room when excused by a supervisor.
- Students are not allowed to lounge, sleep or use electronic devices.
- Only students assigned to detention are to be present.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Referral of a student to the principal's office is used as a last resort after teachers have used other appropriate preventative and corrective measures. Once a student reaches the principal's office, the seriousness of the situation speaks for itself.

The principal's office will take the action deemed necessary and/or call parents. Upon a student's third referral out of an individual class, a meeting may be held with the student, guardian, teacher, and administrator to determine if the student is to remain in the class.

In some instances, disciplinary action may require assigned time in detention, or in severe cases, the suspension of the student for a period of up to 10 days. It is understood that during an out-of-school suspension, the student may not attend classes, participate in or attend school activities, or visit the school grounds. In extreme disciplinary cases, the principal's office may recommend to the Superintendent and the Board of Education that the student be expelled from school.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Students are not permitted to use personal technology or communication tools, to record (video/audio) during the school day in any unauthorized area or of persons with legal protections of privacy. "Unauthorized area" means any area where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy; including, but not limited to locker rooms, specialized classrooms, and restrooms or any other area designated by the building principal. Use of technology and/or communication tools in locker rooms and restrooms at any time is strictly prohibited. "Persons with legal protections" means people who have a reasonable expectation of privacy for health or educational purposes; including but not limited to students with special educational plans (IEP) or health concerns.

Students in violation of any portion of this policy will be subject to disciplinary procedures and confiscation of the electronic device. If a student's cell phone or other electronic device is confiscated, the building principal may search the confiscated property upon reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of a violation of a school rule or upon reasonable suspicion that school safety or security may be in jeopardy. Disciplinary action up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or citation by law enforcement may be taken against any student using a prohibited device contrary to this rule or in a manner that causes substantial disruption to the educational environment. The building principal is authorized to make exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in this policy for health, safety, emergencies or as required by an individual education program. In the classroom, use of electronic devices (including cell phones) is not allowed. All blue tooth enabled devices are not allowed to be used from 8:30-3:10. If students are caught with an unapproved electronic device the consequences will be as follows:

1. The device will be taken away and can be picked up at the end of the day.
2. Parent contact & meeting. The parent must pick up the device from the office.

3. Student turns device into the office every day and detention.

NOTE: The school district will not be responsible for loss, damage, or theft of any personal electronic devices brought to school.

DISTURBANCE OF SCHOOL

Any person, whether a student or not, who willfully disturbs public school when in session, or who willfully interferes with or interrupts the proper order or management of a public school, by act of violence, boisterous conduct, or threatening language, so as to prevent the teacher or any student from performing his duty, or who, in the presence of schoolchildren, upbraids, insults, or threatens the teacher, shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor. Enforcement of N.D.C.C. 15-49-08 is determined by law enforcement.

DRESS

Students are to dress appropriately for school and class. Although no student shall be prevented from attending classes because of taste in style or fashion of clothing, certain rules do apply.

- ❖ Lab classes may require clothing, safety glasses, and shoe attire that conforms to OSHA safety rules.
- ❖ Clothing styles that are excessively revealing or show a student's undergarments may not be worn in school.
- ❖ No clothing that contains advertising logos and/or inappropriate wording related to alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or of an inappropriate sexual content/nature is allowed.
- ❖ No clothing containing obscene, discriminatory, or profane language or pictures.
- ❖ Shoes must be worn at all times in the building.
- ❖ No clothing or bandanas associated with gangs.
- ❖ No clothing that distracts from the educational program of the school (such as costumes unless approval from admin).
- ❖ Hats or other head gear are only allowed in classrooms at the discretion of the teacher.
- ❖ No hoods are allowed to be worn in the building due to safety concerns.

**Note: final determination on appropriateness of clothing is at the discretion of administration. School personnel will react to a student's appearance when it disrupts class, an activity, or constitutes a safety/health hazard to the student or classmate or is deemed by the administration team to be inappropriate for our academic setting.*

HPS recognizes the value of allowing individual student expression, protecting student health and safety, and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to education. Items approved to be worn or displayed must adhere to health and safety codes and comply with applicable law. When items on display can be reasonably forecast to either materially disrupt the educational environment or infringe upon the rights of other students to access and participate in a safe and welcoming educational environment, they will be prohibited. Items (worn or displayed on school grounds or at school sponsored activities) which fall under this prohibition include, but is not limited to, attire/symbols/messages depicting, implying, or reasonably perceived as promoting intolerance, hatred, and/or a hostile education environment.

HYGIENE

Strange odors that cause a disruption to the normal class environment should be referred to school personnel. Upon identification, a student and/or their belongings may not be allowed in class and may

be referred to the counseling / main office. Odors caused by tobacco, vapes, marijuana, or other smells may result in a student being sent home to change. Final judgment on odors is at the discretion of the administration.

DRIVERS EDUCATION

The classroom instruction for Driver's Education is offered during the summer session. Behind-the-wheel driver training is elective, and students must successfully pass the classroom instruction before participating in behind-the-wheel training. Students who complete the behind-the-wheel portion after the classroom instruction will receive ¼ credit. Eligible students must have completed the 8th grade.

Successful completion of the behind-the-wheel portion is based on the instructor's professional judgment of each student's driving performance, safety awareness, and readiness. Instructors reserve the right to determine whether a student has met the required standards and may choose not to pass a student on the driving portion if those standards are not demonstrated. Students who do not meet expectations may continue to practice driving skills with a parent or guardian and may schedule additional driving time with the instructor when appropriate, or they may choose to complete the behind-the-wheel driving test through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

EMERGENCY DRILLS

The Hillsboro School District conducts emergency drills in accordance with North Dakota Century Code 15.1-06-12, which states: "Each public and non-public school shall conduct fire, tornado, and other emergency or disaster drills, including lockdown drills.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

Graduation is a culmination of a student's school career. It is considered a special event to celebrate the completion of high school. Students are not mandated to attend the ceremony. However, students who attend are expected to conduct themselves appropriately and with the appropriate dress as defined by the administration. Complete details regarding the graduation ceremony will be provided to families.

Graduating Seniors are required to pay for caps and gowns, and tassels. Class rings are optional and available at local jewelers and various school suppliers.

HARASSMENT | SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The District prohibits any form of harassment, hazing, or intimidation on District property. Please refer to the complete AAC [Harassment Policy](#).

Harassment can be physical, verbal, bullying, or through intimidation. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of prohibited harassment should make a prompt, oral complaint to the teacher/supervisor or building administrator. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the incident should be submitted to the building principal/supervisor in writing.

[Sexual Harassment](#) is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, written, or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature. Complaints of sexual harassment are to be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

The school administration will determine appropriate consequences for violating these policies. Consequences may include but are not limited to a warning, building level discipline, notification of law enforcement officials, suspension, or recommendation for suspension or expulsion.

INELIGIBILITY

See Extra- Curricular Handbook Based on Tobacco, Alcohol and Controlled Substance Use..

INFINITE CAMPUS

Infinite Campus is a student management program that Hillsboro Public School District uses to track student information, attendance, and grades. Infinite Campus parent/student portal allows parents/guardians and students with Internet access to view grades, attendance, and assignments at any time. *Please keep expectations realistic concerning the posting of grades. Grades are expected to be updated by 4:00 pm. on Thursday of each week.

INSURANCE

The Hillsboro Public School District does not carry health or accident insurance for students.

LANGUAGE

Profane or vulgar language is not allowed in Hillsboro Public Schools and cannot be used at any time. Anyone who uses profanity or vulgarity is subject to disciplinary action.

LIBRARY RULES

The H.S. Library provides students with computers, a place to study, research, and recreational reading.

The library is open every school day from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Students that check out books are expected to return them on time. A student will be charged for the cost of the book if it is not returned and/or damaged. If a library book is not returned or paid for by the end of the semester, a letter will be sent home to the family. It is the families responsibility to cover the cost of the book. Final transcripts will not be released until the cost of the book is covered.

The library has computers for student use. All school computers are designated for academic and school-related purposes only. For more information on the acceptable use of technology policy, please refer to the [ACDA- Acceptable Use of Technology](#) Policy.

LOCKERS

Student lockers are the property of the school. Students are encouraged to place a lock on their lockers, however, if they are locked, a duplicate key or the combination must be turned into the office.

The following rules apply to all issued lockers:

- The school does not accept any responsibility for any articles lost or stolen.
- Students should not leave anything of monetary value in their lockers.
- Students are assigned lockers and are not allowed to switch lockers without administrative approval.
- Lockers may be inspected at any time.

MEDICATIONS

In order for school personnel to administer medication (including over-the-counter medications) to a student, a Medication Request form must be filled out and signed by both the physician and parent, including a statement of possible side effects.

The school designated staff member shall:

1. Administer the medication
2. Document the administration of medication
3. Store medication in a secure area.

MEDICAL/EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION

An effort will be made to contact parents before a student is sent home ill. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide transportation and care for the student. Students may not be sent home without parent/guardian approval.

In the event of serious illness or injury to a student, every effort shall be made to contact the parent and/or family physician immediately. If the illness or injury is life-threatening, 911 will be called.

NONDISCRIMINATION

Hillsboro Public School District supports the provisions of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which commit all schools to the elimination of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap to those educational programs and activities offered to its students. It is the expressed intent of the Hillsboro Public School District to provide equal opportunity in its employment practices or educational programs and activities to all students, free from limitations of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap.

Any student of the Hillsboro Public School District is entitled to submit any complaint of alleged discrimination to the Regional Office for Civil Rights of the United State Department of Human Services.

PARKING LOTS & PERSONAL VEHICLES

Students who drive personal vehicles to school are asked to follow traffic and safety rules. The speed limit around the school is 15 M.P.H. Traffic violations may be referred to the Traill County Sheriff's Department.

Please refrain from parking on the West, East, or South sides of the school as this is intended for staff and patron parking. Students will be asked to move their vehicles if they park in the no parking zones. There is no student parking in front of the school in the bus loading zone, or in front of fire hydrants. Students need to park on the east side of the HEC for all events and in the summer. This includes games, practices, camps and any other school event. The north parking lot is for community members.

The School District accepts no responsibility for articles lost or stolen from cars or for vandalism to cars parked in student lots.

PATRON COMPLAINTS

In order to provide an effective procedure for responding to complaints in a manner that is in the best interest of promoting better educational opportunities, complaints should be resolved at the lowest

possible level of authority. If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved at that level, the complaint shall be directed to the principal or the supervisor directly responsible for supervision.

Concern:	1 st Contact	2 nd Contact	3 rd Contact
Athlete	Coach	Athletic Director	Superintendent
Cafeteria/Food	Food-Service	Principal	Superintendent
Curriculum/Testing	Curriculum Committee	Principal	Superintendent
Custodial	Buildings & Grounds	Principal	Superintendent
Facilities Use	Athletic Director	Principal	Superintendent
Mental Health	Counselor	Principal	Superintendent
Parent	Teacher/Coach	Principal/AD	Superintendent
Student	Teacher	Principal	Superintendent
Budget	Business Manager	Superintendent	School Board

The District will not tolerate any form of reprisal, retaliation, or discrimination against a student, parent, and/or community member because s/he, in good faith, filed a complaint.

POSTERS AND NOTICES POLICY

Any poster or notices placed on a bulletin board or in other school areas must have prior approval by administration. Posters and materials used to attach the posters to the walls must be removed after the event.

REGISTRATION

- Registration will be conducted in the spring semester of each school year.
- Freshmen must register for 7 assigned periods, and Sophomores must register for 6 assigned periods. **Juniors and seniors must register for a minimum of 5 assigned periods.** Exceptions to minimum registrations must be approved by the principal.
- Students not registered by the first day of classes must make an appointment with the counselor to register. The days students are not in classes may count as an unexcused absence.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes are at the discretion of administration. All changes must be made within one week of the start of a new semester. All requests may not be approved.

DROPPING CLASSES

Freshmen and Sophomores may not be allowed to drop classes. Juniors and Seniors who are registered for seven classes may be allowed to drop one class. All changes in schedules are at the discretion of administration.

If a student is contemplating dropping a class, he/she should discuss the matter with the teacher, counselor, and parents. If a student is permitted to drop (withdraw) from a class that has been in session for more than 7 days. Permission from parents is required when a student drops a class.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

Parents are responsible for monitoring their student's meal accounts to ensure a positive balance. Student lunch balances can be viewed in the parent portal in Infinite Campus.

Students and parents may visit the office to put money into school lunch accounts from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Students are also allowed to bring a cold lunch.

STUDENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Student academic progress is always available for viewing to parents, guardians, and students via the Infinite Campus parent portal. Student attendance is updated daily, and student academic progress is updated weekly. Parents can obtain the necessary passwords to access the Infinite Campus parent portal by contacting the office. Please allow 24 hours for attendance to be updated.

STUDENT PRIVACY AND DATA

All student data collected by Hillsboro Public Schools is the property of the District. Distribution of student data protected by school confidentiality/privacy laws is strictly prohibited. This policy does not pertain to the sharing of data with a student's parents if required by law. The district may disclose directory information without parent/eligible consent; however, opt-out notices are provided at the beginning of the school year and when the student otherwise enrolls in the District. For more information on privacy and data protection, see School Board Policy FGA- Student Education Records and Privacy.

The Hillsboro School Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to distribute student directory information to accredited institutions of education or advanced training and all branches of military service.

The athletic department publishes eligibility lists and program lists that they may exchange among schools. Names of students will be omitted from any list at the request of the student or parent/guardian. The request should be made to the appropriate principal or guidance counselor.

Additional guidelines and enforcement of this policy shall be discretionary with the Superintendent and in alliance with F.E.R.P.A. guidelines.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATIONS

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or any controlled substance as defined by the N.D. Century Code is prohibited. No student shall use, sell, distribute, buy, receive, be under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol, tobacco, any controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, or other potentially harmful chemicals on any school property including buses or while attending any school-related function.

In addition, look-alike drugs including, but not limited to e-cigarettes, synthetics, marijuana, or incense will be treated the same as illicit drugs or tobacco as they promote the use of illicit drugs and have no place in a school setting.

Violators will be lawfully prosecuted, and a referral will be made to the proper administrative authorities for reprimand, suspension, and/or expulsion. It is the intent of the Hillsboro School Board to create a safe, drug-free zone in and around school property. Enforcement of the policy may include the use of drug detection dogs, and/or electronic equipment.

TEXTBOOKS

Students are required to take care of all textbooks issued to them, and textbooks must be returned at the end of the course. Students are responsible for replacement costs if textbooks are lost, damaged, or stolen.

WEAPONS

No student will possess, handle, carry, or transmit any weapon (as defined in N.D.C.C. Section 12.1-01-04(6)(7)(8)(10) in any school building, on school-supervised areas, in any school vehicle or at any school-sponsored activities. All weapons will be confiscated and may be turned over to the proper authorities at the discretion of school administration. ***Note: pocketknives, air soft guns, or other dangerous objects are not allowed on school property.***

Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action. Proceedings for the suspension and/or expulsion of the student(s) involved will be initiated immediately. Refer to the school board FFD- Possessing Weapons Policy.

YEARBOOK

Pictures are required each year for all students for the yearbook and Infinite Campus. Students have the option to purchase pictures. A yearbook is published annually. Jostens will send order forms via mail. Yearbooks that are purchased will be delivered and distributed the following fall.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is necessary to achieve consistent educational progress. Classroom learning experiences are a meaningful and essential part of the educational system. North Dakota State Law requires all children between the ages of 7 and 16 to be in attendance every day school is in session, with the exception of illness and certain other incapacities.

Students are expected to be in class(es) to which they are assigned every school day. An exception may be made for illness, injury, school-related activity, family emergencies, or religious observance. School work missed by the student during an absence shall be made up regardless of the reason for the attendance. Family trips should be scheduled, when possible, during the summer or other non-school days. Should it be necessary for a student to be absent from school due to a family trip, arrangements should be made by the student to complete, in advance, as much as possible of the schoolwork that would be missed.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Students are expected to be in class(es) to which they are assigned every school day. An exception would be made for illness, injury, school-related activity, family emergencies, or religious observance. Personal appointments should be made outside of school time. The responsibility for notifying the school rests with parents and/or guardians and the students. If a parent/guardian does not notify the school within one school day of the date of return to school, the absence may be considered unexcused. Unexcused absences will not be changed after two weeks.

Students who have reached the age of 18 and no longer reside with a parent or guardian are required to notify the school on the day of an absence. It is expected that students who are excused for absences from school are not to be working a job or participating in activities on the day of the absence. Final determination of whether an absence is excused or unexcused rests with school administration.

PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE BUILDING / APPOINTMENTS

After school has begun and students become ill or an emergency arises, students will be excused from classes and must report to the principal's office where a phone call will be made to the parents. Students who do not check out in the office may be assigned one hour of after-school detention.

Driver's exams, senior pictures and other non-medical appointments should be scheduled during non-school hours.

Medical and dental appointments should be scheduled during non-school hours. These absences will not count against the 10-day excessive absences policy if the students bring in a doctor's note within five school days.

MAKE-UP WORK FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES OR ACTIVITIES

The responsibility for making up missed lessons rests with the student, not the teacher. When absences occur, the student is required to see each teacher for make-up work and assignments. It is recommended for each day missed; two days are allowed for make-up assignments.

Students involved in school activities and are away from school must consult teachers and the principal's office. Students are responsible for making up their assignments or tests. Students with approved advanced make-ups must have all assignments turned in the day before they are absent from school.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to report to class on time. If students are more than 10 minutes late for a class, a teacher may count it as an absence. Individual teachers will determine a student's tardiness for their classes.

PENALTIES FOR EXCESSIVE TARDINESS

- On the third tardy the student will have to serve a detention.
- Each subsequent set of three tardies will count as an unexcused absence and count against the 12-day excessive absences policy and contribute to credit loss in that class.

CREDIT LOSS / BUY-BACK AFTER EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Students are limited to twelve absences in each class per semester. As a matter of procedure, parents will be notified by the administration when a student has accumulated more than 6 non-school sponsored absences in a class. Thereafter, it is the student's responsibility to monitor his/her attendance to avoid credit loss. Once a student has exceeded 12 absences, a phone call or inperson meeting with the parents and students will be made to discuss barriers and plan next steps. Parents and students will also be made aware of the opportunity for the student to enter into a credit buy-back contract. It is the responsibility of the student to contact administration regarding credit buy-back. Students that exceed twelve absences will be required to continue to attend that class unless otherwise determined by administration. Buy-back is limited for all students as no students should have more than 18 absences in a class. At 18 absences in a course, the student is dropped from the course. Credit recovery is possible through an online course, depending on the drop date, using the Center for Distance Education at the

family's expense. Parents will be contacted by school administration or counselor to explain options for credit recovery and any necessary schedule changes.

TRUANCY

Unexcused absences from school are considered truancy. Disciplinary action shall be taken in such cases, beginning with notification of parents and/or guardians. Continued violation may lead to further disciplinary action. Violators of compulsory school attendance shall be guilty of an infraction as provided by law.

EMERGENCY CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

School will be in session unless shortened or canceled by the Superintendent of Hillsboro Public Schools. Parents/Guardians will be notified via the School Alert System if the parent has opted into receiving notifications, as well as social media and local radio stations.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

An unexcused absence results when the conditions for an excused absence are not met. Examples of an unexcused absence are skipping, leaving a class early without permission, abusing a hall/library pass, running routine errands, and doing other absences of a nonessential nature. In addition, if a student makes a false call or brings a false note, the absence will be counted as unexcused, and the student will be assigned one day of in-school suspension.

PENALTIES FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCE

- All missed work, tests, or quizzes must be made up.
- Students will be assigned one hour of detention or buyback for each unexcused absence.
- Juniors or Seniors may be dropped from a class once they reach 15 absences as buy back is limited.
- Students may suffer credit loss.
- Students are required to take semester exams.

EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS & ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

CLASS MEMBERSHIP

Students are registered for classes and considered members of classes by credits earned. Class membership will be reviewed prior to the first day of the fall semester. Students that do not meet junior class membership will not be permitted to take junior or senior electives. Class membership is also related to the extracurricular eligibility policy.

Freshman	0 to 6.0 credits
Sophomore	a minimum of 6.0 credits
Junior	a minimum of 12 credits
Senior	a minimum of 16 credits

CLASS RANK

Class rank is determined by each student's cumulative weighted GPA for all juniors and seniors at the end of each semester. All courses that receive a letter grade are included in class rank and are calculated on a 4.0 scale. Courses graded as S/U are not included in class rank.

Students will be recognized for academic achievement based on their cumulative GPA at the end of the first semester of their senior year. A student will be designated as a "High Honors Student" if they earn a cumulative GPA of 3.95 or higher, with no rounding. A student will be designated as an "Honors Student" if they earn a cumulative GPA between 3.50 and 3.94.

In cases where two or more students have identical cumulative GPAs, those students will share the same class rank. The rank of subsequent students will be determined by the number of students with higher cumulative GPAs.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Correspondence credits will be accepted through the North Dakota Center of Distance Education.

The following criteria will be used to determine eligibility into Hillsboro High School's correspondence courses: 1) Failed the course two or more times, 2) Received administrative approval to take the assigned course(s), 3) Received counselor approval to take the assigned course(s), 4) Received parental approval to take the assigned course(s) unless the student is 18 years of age and older.

*****A student may take no more than four credits of CDE courses without administrative approval.**

Exceptions to this policy would be transfer students, extended illness, or other reasons as determined by the building administrator.

DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Numerous courses are offered at HHS for dual credit. Students are to register with the respective colleges, as well as with Hillsboro High School. Grades in these classes count towards high school and college credit. College tuition and materials are the responsibility of students and parents. These classes count toward graduation requirements, academic eligibility and affect the student's grade point average at Hillsboro High School. All sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible for dual credit courses. Complete information can be obtained in the counseling office. ****Note**-Dual credit courses are more demanding and require much more rigor than other high school courses, and they are reflected on high school and collegiate transcripts.

GRADING SCALE

Grades on report cards and permanent records are letter grades that correspond to the following numeric values:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69

F	59- below
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GRADE REPORTS

Grade reports will be issued at semester midterm and at the end of a semester. Grade reports will be sent via email only. Final semester grade reports will be emailed to keep the student and parent informed of student progress. Grades are available at all times to parents online via the Infinite Campus parent portal.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Graduation from Hillsboro High School implies that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study from the grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities and that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and other requirements.

Students must have attended a minimum of eight semesters of high school and must be enrolled at Hillsboro High School during their last semester.

The following are the minimum requirements to receive a Hillsboro High School Diploma:

A.	Four units of English which must include English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12 or A.P. English.	4
B.	One unit of United States History, one unit of Problems of Democracy, plus one full unit of elective Social Studies courses.	3
C.	Three units of Mathematics.	3
E.	Two units of natural laboratory Science (Physical Science and Biological Science required) and one unit of additional Science are required.	3
F.	One-half unit of Physical Education and one-half unit of P.E. is required. A medical excuse from a doctor will excuse a student from P.E. without course credit.	1
G.	At least three units of work in, foreign language, business education, or career technical education courses.	3
D.	An additional five credits of electives are required.	5
J.	Total credits needed to graduate:	22

HONOR ROLL

Students who have attained a “B” average with no grade lower than a “C” will be placed on the semester honor roll. Special recognition will be given to students who achieve a 4.0 or higher-grade point average. All grades must be accounted for with no incompletes, and there may be no failing grades.

INCOMPLETE OR LATE WORK

Any course that is recorded as incomplete at the end of the grading period, will become an “F” after five business days unless arrangements have been made with Administration. Students are allowed the

opportunity to hand in work throughout and up to the end of a chapter/unit, without a points penalty. Once a chapter/unit test has been completed, no missing work will be accepted. Teachers will not allow students to complete missing materials from any chapter / unit unless it is approved by the teacher and administration. Graduating seniors who have incomplete work will become an “F” on the last day of class in the second semester. Any unexcused class absence on the day of the semester test may result in an “0” on that test.

NORTH DAKOTA UNIVERSITY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission requirements apply to all four-year public campuses in North Dakota—N.D.S.U., UND, Dickinson State University, Mayville State University, Minot State University, and Valley City State University. Students and parents need to be aware of additional admission requirements including A.C.T., N.C.A.A. and/or other placement tests needed for admission in post-secondary institutions. Students are advised to contact individual colleges to determine specific requirements for admission.

Courses at the secondary level in content are required in the following areas, regardless of student age or grade when taking the course:

4 Units	English including written and oral communication skills
3 Units	Mathematics – Algebra I or above
3 Units	Laboratory Science including at least 1 Unit in 2 or more of the following: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or Physical Science
3 Units	Social Studies excluding: Consumer Education, Cooperative Marketing, Orientation to Social Studies and Marriage/Family

It is recommended that students intending to enroll in Baccalaureate Universities take Algebra II.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND MEDICAL EXEMPTION

If a student has a medical condition that does not allow them to participate in P.E., the student is required to provide medical documentation to the instructor. If no medical documentation is provided, classes missed will count as unexcused absences. Medical documentation must include any physical restrictions and a timeline for any restrictions.

If a student has a medical exemption, they will not be able to participate or practice in any athletic or co-curricular activities. Any extended medical absences will be handled on a per case basis in order to avoid losing credit.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The HHS counselor will provide information and applications for local, state and national scholarships. It is the student’s responsibility to look into scholarship programs, inquire about information regarding scholarships and submit applications on time.

SEMESTER TESTS

A student is eligible for exemption from a semester examination by meeting the criteria listed below:

1. The student has been absent from that class not more than 5 days during the semester;
AND

2. The absence(s) are excused,
3. The student has been tardy from that class not more than 2 days during the semester,
4. The student has not received a semester grade of "F"

Missing a class due to an unexcused absence, illness (with no medical note), sent out of class or serving a suspension SHALL COUNT AS ABSENCES FROM CLASS. **Students that have an unexcused absence in a class, will be required to take the semester exam in that class.** (This is not an all-inclusive list of absences). ***Failure to take a required semester exam will result in an "0" on that test.**

Should either of the following cause a student to miss a class or classes, he/she shall not be counted absent 1) W-Weather Related absences 2) C- circumstances unusual 3) S- School related participation in a school-sponsored activity or group 4) M- Medical related absences where a medical note has been turned into the office. (There may be other exceptions as determined by the Principal's Office.

Rules to assist in enforcing the semester test exemption policy include the following:

1. The classroom teacher will inform those students that are exempt from taking the semester exam in their class.
2. A student who is exempt from a semester test will not be in the classroom during the class period the test is given.
3. A student who is exempt from a semester test is not to be listed as absent from that class on the day the test is given.
4. All semester tests must be taken at their assigned times. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the building principal.
5. A student who is exempt may elect to take an examination to improve his/her semester grade. If the test grade improves the student's overall grade, it will be calculated into the final semester grade. If the test score would cause the semester grade to be lowered, it will not be counted.

STUDENT IN GOOD STANDING

No students shall participate in any competitive co-curricular activity or any co-curricular public performance representing the school if such student at the time has any unsatisfactory academic record. Students who do not maintain a status of "Student in Good Standing" will be placed on academic co-curricular suspension at the end of each semester. See school board policy [FFE- Extracurricular Participation Requirements](#).

Student in Good Standing is defined as follows:

- A student who is not in credit loss status.
- A student who does not have any unresolved discipline referrals.
- A student who meets school eligibility requirements.
- A student who is not in violation of the district alcohol, tobacco, or drug policy.
- A student who is on track to graduate.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Hillsboro Public Schools is a member of the N.D. High School Activities Association. Eligibility and participation in school activities are governed by the rules and regulations of the association. Co-curricular programs are voluntary and are a privilege to participate in.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY RULES

Grades will be taken every **Thursday by 4:00 PM** to determine participation eligibility. If a student is receiving an “F” in any class they will be ineligible to participate in games for one week starting the **following Monday. Eligibility will run from Monday to Sunday. Parents and students will be notified no later than 4:00 on Friday.** If a student fails a semester class, they will be ineligible for the first 2 weeks of the following semester. This includes fall semester to spring semester and spring semester to fall semester. If a student takes a credit recovery class over the summer and pass, they will be eligible immediately for the fall sport. All courses taken it in the summer must be completed by August 1st in order to be eligible.

Students taking classes from North Dakota Center for Distant Education, during the school year, can only be 5 assignments behind the class pacing guide as set-up by the NDCDE. Students who fall 5 or more assignments behind the pacing guide will be considered ineligible until assignments are completed accurately to pacing guide schedule.

ACTIVITY FEES

Please see the office for a list of current activity fees.

BEHAVIOR AT STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Students at a school activity will behave in a manner representative of HHS discipline policy.
- When participating in an activity, the students must remain in the area designated for that activity by the supervisor.
- Students are expected to exhibit proper behavior at home and away games or events, regardless of the site.
- Students not demonstrating common courtesy or engaging in disruptive or unsportsmanlike behavior may be removed from the event. Serious disruptive behavior may result in loss of attendance privileges at future co-curricular events and/or further discipline at school.
- Hillsboro Public School District’s eligibility requirements and rules are in accordance with the N.D. High School Activities Association. All school-sponsored activities are required to abide by these guidelines. A complete list of these guidelines may be found at www.ndhsaa.com.

HOMECOMING

The homecoming dance is open to current HHS students in grades 7-12. The dance is sponsored by a school organization. The sponsoring organization will provide the music, set the admission fees, and assign chaperones.

SNOBALL DANCE

The snoball dance is open to current HHS students in grades 7-12 and their dates or escorts. The dance is sponsored by a school organization. The sponsoring organization will provide the music, set the admission fees, and assign chaperones. To attend students must meet the school dance expectations.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

To uphold their National Honor Society membership status, all members must meet the standards each year and participate in one service activity as arranged by the National Honor Society advisor. Students that fail to participate in a service activity or attend 80% of all meetings will not have their membership in the National Honor Society recorded on their transcript that school year.

PROM

All prom couples must be signed up and registered at least one week in advance of the prom. This will give the principal time to contact any school that our out of town guests may attend. Students attending from out of town must complete the prom guest approval form before attending prom and it must be turned in by the due date listed on the form.

Persons attending the Hillsboro High School Junior-Senior Prom must meet the following criteria:

- Under 21 years of age
- Eligible for activities according to the Hillsboro High School Eligibility Rules (excluding academic eligibility)
- Can not be a high school dropout
- Must be at least a freshman in high school (9th and 10th graders must be invited by a jr. or sr.)

SCHOOL DANCE EXPECTATIONS

All school-sponsored dances are subject to the following guidelines:

- All Students must have completed their detentions/consequences before being eligible to attend dances.
- Students attending from out of town must complete the dance guest approval form before attending and turned in by the due date listed on the form.
- All guests need to be approved by the sponsoring organization advisor and/or principal or designee.
- Students may be randomly screened for alcohol or drug use upon entering the dance.
- Students who drop out during the current school year are not eligible to attend or be in attendance.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ON DAY OF ACTIVITY

A student must be in school on the day of an activity in order to participate in that activity (games, concerts, performances, practices, rehearsals, and meetings), and school attendance the day after the activity is expected. Exceptions for unusual circumstances may be made by administration.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council consists of two elected members from each grade 7 through 11 and eight elected members from grade 12. These members are chosen by their peers during spring class elections, with elected students serving the following school year. The purpose of student council is to organize activities, promote school spirit, serve as student leaders, and give a voice to students when needed.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE VIOLATIONS

The use or possession of tobacco, alcohol or any controlled substance as defined by the N.D. Century Code is prohibited. Any co-curricular participant who is in violation of the foregoing shall be declared ineligible from the participation in interscholastic contests or activities for a minimum period of six consecutive weeks for the first offense and a period of eighteen consecutive school weeks for any subsequent offense. The period of ineligibility shall begin from the date and time notification is given to the student by the school administration. (N.D.H.S.A.A. Constitution and Bylaws). Under Policy FFE the school district enforces eligibility requirements for any activity sponsored by the school. This policy affects all students in grades 6-12.

GENERAL RULES AND STUDENT CONSEQUENCES

HHS GENERAL RULES

- Keep halls and classrooms clean. Don't litter.
- Be seated in the classroom before the bell rings to begin class. Do not be tardy.
- Strive to be in class every day. Statistics show that failure often is the result of frequent absences.
- Efforts will be made to eliminate and/or minimize educational disruptions. Dress and wear clothes in good taste. Students shall not wear clothing that is too revealing or contains suggestive (or dirty) words or pictures. Students are not allowed to wear clothing advertising alcohol, tobacco, or other drug-related items.
- Respect yourself, respect others, young and old.
- Respect others' property; for example, area around schoolhouses, lawns, etc.
- Vandalism to school property or to property belonging to others is prohibited.
- Lockers are school property—take care of them. Obscene signs or pictures, writing, etc. must not be in or on lockers.
- No running, shouting, or vulgar language will be tolerated in the building, on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity.
- Fighting, threatening, harassing, or hazing other students is not tolerated.
- Stay to the right on all stairways and in all hallways.
- Laser pointers are not allowed.
- Inappropriate physical contact or public displays of affection (holding hands, hugging, kissing, etc.....) are not permitted on school grounds.
- Students leaving class without permission will receive a minimum of one hour of after-school detention.

BEFORE SCHOOL AND AFTER SCHOOL RULES

Before School

- Students needing extra academic help or that would like to work with teachers/supervisors must communicate with teachers in advance to ensure they are here.
- Students are to enter HHS through the front school doors. Due to security reasons, these doors may be locked after school begins.

After School

- Students involved in school-related activities after school hours must be in supervised areas.
- Students must conduct themselves in an appropriate manner as established by school guidelines outlined in this handbook.
- Any student that does not follow the before/after school rules will be subject to disciplinary action.

BUS RULES

"DO NOT LOSE YOUR BUS PRIVILEGES" Follow these "Classroom Conduct" rules

Be Safe:

- Stay in your seats at all times while keeping the aisle clear until the bus stops.
- Talk quietly and appropriately. Headphones are required for personal music.
- No pushing, shoving, or fighting.
- Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus.
- Throwing objects is prohibited.

Be Respectful

- Obey the bus driver.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- No yelling or use of profanity.
- Do not damage or tamper with bus equipment.
- The bus driver is authorized to assign seats.
- Be courteous to others as you willingly share seats.

Be Responsible

- Eating or drinking on the bus is at the discretion of the bus driver.
- Keep the bus clean.
- Tobacco, vaping, juuling, or alcohol in any form is prohibited.
- Possession of illegal drugs or weapons is prohibited.

Riding the bus is a privilege not a right. Please help to get everyone to their destination safely! If you have issues or need assistance call Hillsboro Public Schools at 636-4360.

CLASSROOM RULES

- Students are asked to be courteous to others.
- Students are asked to be on time, have materials ready, assignments completed, and work turned in on time.
- Writing on or vandalizing classrooms will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action and/or restitution.
- Sleeping in class is not permitted.
- Students are asked to respect the rights, property and safety of others.

HALLWAY / ACADEMIC COMMONS RULES

- Students are only allowed to be in hallways / academic commons areas during designated times .
- Running, shouting or vulgar language will not be tolerated.
- Inappropriate physical contact or public displays of affection are not permitted on school grounds.

STUDENT IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL/ILLICIT DRUGS

The building administrator or designee notifies parents and police, detaining student until the police arrive. Abuse of certain substances may not necessitate police involvement (i.e., glue, solvents, etc.) In addition to the regulations of this policy, a student involved in co-curricular activities will also be subject to the rules and regulations as defined in the “Activities Drug/Alcohol Policy.”

A parent conference is held as soon as possible after the offense occurs.

The parent and student are given the following options:

- **1st Offense**

- Up to a three-day out-of-school suspension in the custody of the parent or guardian.
- **2nd Offense**
 - Up to a five-day out-of-school suspension in the custody of the parent or guardian.
- **3rd Offense**
 - Suspension until a school board expulsion hearing is held.

Offenses will be documented, and the record maintained in student services files and carried over each year as long as the student is in attendance in the Hillsboro Public School system.

It is forbidden for any student to possess an illicit drug with the intent to distribute it to other students. Distribution is defined as selling, giving, or taking orders of an illicit drug. Any student intending to distribute an illicit drug based on reliable information as to the fact the student actually distributed the illicit drug, will be suspended immediately, will be lawfully prosecuted and will be referred to the proper authorities for reprimand, suspension, and/or expulsion.

If a transfer student has a record of offenses, the Assessment Team will determine the status.

STUDENT IN POSSESSION OF TOBACCO / VAPE PRODUCTS

The building administrator or designee notifies parents and/or police, detaining student until the police arrive.

In addition to the regulations of this policy, a student involved in co/extra-curricular activities will also be subject to the rules and regulations as defined in the “Activities Drug/Alcohol Policy.”

The parent and student are given the following options:

- **1st Offense**
 - Up to a three-day suspension in the custody of the parent, guardian, or school. Should the principal or designee confiscate tobacco products from the student, the police will be notified.
- **Continued Offenses**
 - Up to a five-day suspension in the custody of the parent, guardian.

REASONABLE SUSPICION THAT A STUDENT IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE

- Staff member reports the problem to an administrator immediately.
- Administrator, and/or reporting staff member, and/or school counselor will evaluate student use. If a student refuses evaluation, administration may impose up to a five (5) day suspension. 1. If it is determined that the student is not under the influence, the administrator or his designee calls the student’s parents or guardian regarding the nature and outcome of the conference with the student.
- If it is determined the student is under the influence, the administrator follows the procedure cited in the section, “Students Under the Influence.”
- If the repetitive nature of the problem cannot be determined, the parents or guardian should be called immediately, and a conference scheduled within two working days. The conference may include the administrator, school guidance counselor, reporting staff member, student, and the parents or guardian of the student. In the conference, the following issues will be addressed:
 - A review of the circumstances (behaviors) which necessitated the conference.
 - A request for information from both the student and parents to aid in determining the possible reasons for the student’s behavior.

- Review possible referral sources within the school and community, both medical and counseling, that may help the parents or guardian and student in dealing with the behavior exhibited. Follow-up with guidance counselor.

BEHAVIOR OFFENSES AND CONSEQUENCES CHART

Determination of all final consequences is left to the discretion of the administration.

Behavior Type	1st Occurrence	2 nd Occurrence	3 rd Occurrence or Severe Case
Disruption/Defiance	Verbal warning, reteach expectation	Parent contact, detention	Office referral, in-school suspension
Electronic Devices	Taken away, pick up in office at end of day	Parent contact & meeting, parent must pick up from the office	Student checks phone into office every day, detention
Tardiness/Skipping Class	Warning, teacher conference	Warning, parent contact	Detention, loss of privileges, ISS/OSS
Inappropriate Language	Warning, apology	Warning, parent contact	Detention, office referral, ISS
Minor Physical Altercation	Restorative conversation, warning	Parent contact, detention	Office referral, ISS/OSS
Bullying/Harassment	Investigation, parent contact	Office referral, ISS, counseling	OSS, possible expulsion
Possession of tobacco, juul, or vapes	Parent contact, device confiscated, detention	Parent contact, complete vape education course, ISS	OSS, may receive citation/fine
Possession or under the influence of alcohol/ illicit drugs	Parents and police notified, 3 days OSS	Parents and Police notified, 5 days OSS	Law Enforcement notified and possible expulsion
Theft/Vandalism	Restitution, parent contact	Office referral, ISS/OSS	Police contact, expulsion
Substance Abuse	Office referral, parent contact, ISS	OSS, counseling referral	Expulsion, law enforcement notified
Weapons/Serious Threats	Office referral, OSS, police notified	OSS, possible expulsion, law enforcement	Expulsion, law enforcement
Dress Code Violation	Warning, change clothes	Parent contact, change clothes	Detention
Cheating/Plagiarism	Zero on assignment, reteach policy	Parent contact, detention	ISS
Technology Misuse	Warning, loss of device privilege	Parent contact, check in devices at office	Detention, ISS/OSS, longer device ban
Fighting	Office referral, ISS/OSS, parent contact	OSS, counseling referral	OSS, Expulsion, law enforcement.

UNSTATED POLICY

It is impossible to list every acceptable and unacceptable behavior for students in schools. The school administration reserves the right to determine acceptability of student behavior and to make decisions and administer appropriate disciplinary action when necessary.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO 1st or 2nd PERIOD TEACHER ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, September 4th, 2026.

I, the undersigned have read and fully understand the Hillsboro High School Student Handbook. I will respect the administrators, teachers, and staff who are charged with the responsibility to enforce the rules and carry out the policies of the Hillsboro School District. The hand book can be found on the Hillsboro Website.

www.hillsborok12.com

Click on the students tab. Then Student Handbook.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____