CODE OF RESPONSIBILITY & RESPECT
NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The New Fairfield Public Schools believe that the standards of student behavior must be set cooperatively by interaction among students, parents/guardians, staff and community producing an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline and character development. In order to ensure the safety and welfare of all students in attendance, and to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning:

Every **student** is expected to:

- Treat others the way in which we would like and expect to be treated.
- Know and exercise positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Accept the responsibility for their actions and the consequences of inappropriate behavior as outlined in the Code of Responsibility & Respect.
- Respect the rights of others, including the right to secure an education in an environment that is orderly and disciplined.
- Adhere to all school and district policies and procedures.
- Review and sign the Safe Schools Pledge.

Every **parent/guardian** is expected to:

- Model positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Work cooperatively with the school staff to ensure the well-being of all children.
- Ensure their child's punctual and regular attendance.
- Exercise respect and civility in all interactions with staff, students, and members of the community.
- Explain and discuss the Code of Responsibility & Respect with your child/ren
- Review and sign the Safe Schools Pledge.
- Reinforce student compliance with the Code of Responsibility & Respect.
- Provide social, emotional, and academic support in the student's school life.
- Adhere to all school and district policies and procedures.

Every **staff member** is expected to:

- Model positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Provide opportunities and support to all students in developing self-discipline and respect for the rights of peers and adults.
- Accept shared responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of students throughout the school building and property.
- Enhance knowledge of the physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development of students when responding to expectations.
- Establish community classroom expectations within the classroom.
- Maximize an inclusive learning environment and opportunities for all students.
- Adhere to all school and district policies and procedures.
- Consistently uphold the Code of Responsibility & Respect, guaranteeing clear standards and expectations for students.
- Collaborate with support services for intentional and proactive solutions when student expectations are unsuccessful, and attend any conferences upon request.

- Communicate regularly with parent/guardian and collaborate on the student's academic, behavior, and social and emotional wellness.
- Use all district and school level strategies and resources within the classroom in ensuring student expectations are being followed and honored.

Every **administrator** is expected to:

- Model positive modes of behavior and good manners.
- Maintain a safe, nurturing, and caring school environment.
- Consistently uphold the Code of Responsibility & Respect, guaranteeing clear standards and expectations for students and staff.
- Adhere to all school and district policies and procedures.
- Be readily available to handle emergency situations and scenarios that create disruptions within the school community.
- Communicate with parents/guardians the expectations of the school and the role of the parents/guardians in supporting the efforts of the school in providing a safe school environment.
- Establish systems of communication that inform staff, parents, and community of the school's expectations, policies, and procedures.
- Continuously monitor and assess data.

Consistent, fair and respectful discipline is essential to the educational process. Discipline and citizenship must be taught just as any other content matter. Teachers are expected to be fair, consistent, and respectful in their handling of discipline related matters. Most discipline issues should be handled in the classroom. Good planning, active and engaging learning, and good classroom management are the keys to prevent student disciplinary issues. All staff members are expected to adhere to the Code of Responsibility & Respect and utilize any school-wide adopted classroom management model.

Students may not disrupt the educational process, and disruption of the educational process is an infraction and is subject to disciplinary action. The behaviors listed are not intended to be all inclusive. The Administrator has the authority to use his/her sole discretion determining the level of consequence within the range of options listed. They may need at times to exceed the range, depending upon the severity of the incident or frequency of offenses. Decisions will be based upon the age of the offender, the nature and severity of the offense, and the impact on the school environment. Exclusion of privileges is always an option.

	Levels of Interventions and Disciplinary Responses On the first instance of an inappropriate or disruptive behavior, one or more interventions from the lowest level indicated for that behavior, or any lower level may be used. If the same behavior is repeated during the same school year, or if misconduct is determined to be serious by the school administrator, one or more interventions or disciplinary responses from the next highest level may be used.	
Level 1	• Teacher/Student Conference • Reminders and Redirection • Teaching of Expectations and Skills • Written Apology	• Reflective Essay or Other Reflective Activity • Role-Play • Loss of Privileges (within the school day) • In-Class Time-Out
Level 2	• *Any Lower-Level Interventions* • Parent/Guardian Outreach • Seat Change • Self-Charting of Behaviors • Behavior Contract with Teacher • After School Detention • Restorative Justice	• Restitution • Reprimand by Administrator • Removal from Classroom to Supervised Time-Out in Another Location • Loss of Privileges (e.g. exclusion from extracurricular activities, athletics) • Mini-Course/Training Session (e.g. conflict resolution, anger management, social skills, or appropriate behavior)
Level 3	• *Any Lower-Level Interventions* • Student/Teacher/Parent Conference • Referral to Support Staff (e.g. school counselor, social worker, psychologist or nurse) • Short-term Behavioral Progress Reports • Behavioral Intervention Plan • In-School Suspension- 1 day or Saturday Detention (HS) • Bus restriction/suspension for bus disruptions- 1-3 days	• Change in Schedule/Class • Community Service • Mentoring Program • Peer Mediation • Functional Behavioral Assessment • Substance Abuse Assessment and/or Treatment Services • Modification of IEP (if applicable)
Level 4	• *Any Lower-Level Interventions* • School Resource Officer Referral • In-School Suspension- 1-3 days • Bus restriction/suspension for bus disruptions- 3 or more days	• Out-of-School Suspension- 1-2 days (if needed for “cooling off” period)
Level 5	• *Any Lower-Level Interventions* • Out-of-School Suspension- 1-10 days • Emergency Removal from School	• Recommendation for Expulsion • Arrest or Referral to Local Law Enforcement • Alternative Educational Placement

SECTION I RESPECT FOR HEALTH, SAFETY, AND FREEDOM FROM FEAR					
BEHAVIOR	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**
Arson, False Alarm/Bomb Threat					*
Assault or Battery ● Simple Assault or Simple Battery				*	
● Assault with a Weapon or Battery Causing Serious Injury					*
Bullying (Refer to Board of Education Policy 5131.91)					
Hazing			*	*	*
Harassment and Threatening Behaviors (e.g verbal and/or physical intimidation, instigation)			*	*	*
Bus Disruptions ● Minor Disruption on the Bus (e.g. eating, drinking, being too loud, standing)	*	*	*		
● Serious Disruption on the Bus (e.g throwing objects on or from the bus, foul language, disrespect for bus driver)				*	
Failure to display required ID card/badge	*	*	*	*	
False/Accidental Activation of an Emergency/Fire Alarm			*	*	
Unsafe or unauthorized operation of e-bike or other motorized vehicle (ie. riding on non-roadways, fields, sidewalks, grassy areas, paths; wheelies; reckless riding)			*	*	
Operation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs or "drones"), on school buildings and grounds, during school hours and at District-sponsored events.		*	*		
Physical Contact (applies to either or both combatants) ● Excessive physical contact (horseplay)	*	*			
● Physical Aggression (e.g. pushing and shoving)		*	*	*	
● More Serious Fighting (may include incidents involving minor injuries)				*	

Propping/holding outside doors open		*	*	*	
Possession/use of flammable materials (including lighter, firecrackers, etc.)			*	*	*
Tobacco Possession or Use (e.g. smoking or chewing)		*	*	*	
Vaping/E-Cigarette Device Possession or Use		*	*	*	
Controlled Substances: Alcohol, drugs, performance-enhancing substances or paraphernalia ● Under the influence, using, or possessing			*	*	
● Selling, Distributing					*
Possession of a firearm, deadly weapon, dangerous instruments (those that can be used to cause death or serious injury) or martial arts weapons					*
Visitor Rules Violation: Allowing an unauthorized visitor onto the bus, into the school, on the school campus or at a school activity (including scheduling unauthorized deliveries of food, etc.)		*	*	*	

SECTION II **RESPECT, COURTESY, AND HONESTY**					
BEHAVIOR	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**
Blackmail			*	*	*
Cheating / Plagiarism or theft of another's work (Refer to the Academic Honesty Guidelines and BOE Policy 5143)	*	*	*		
Insubordination and/or disrespect of staff (e.g. non-violent, non-physical defiance, talking back, failure to follow directions, failure to respond to school staff questions or requests, refusal to participate in classroom activities).	*	*	*		
Lying to Avoid Blame or Responsibility		*	*	*	
Obscene, Vulgar, Abusive, Inflammatory or Disrespectful Language, Gestures or Attire, Name-Calling, or Teasing Directed Toward and Student or Staff Member			*	*	*

Racial or other Discriminatory Slurs			*	*	*
Public Display of Affection/ Inappropriate Contact	*	*	*		
Sexual Harassment (Refer to BOE Policy 5145.5)					

SECTION III RESPECT FOR PERSONAL, PRIVATE, AND SCHOOL PROPERTY					
BEHAVIOR	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**
Property Damage, Graffiti & Vandalism ● Intentional Damage or Defacement of Another Person's or School Property (less than $50)		*	*	*	
● Intentional Damage or Defacement of Another Person's or School Property (more than $50)				*	
Littering	*	*			
Tampering with school/official records			*	*	*
Forgery, Falsifying Information			*		
Textbook/Library Responsibility	*	*			
Theft or Possession of Stolen Goods/Borrowing, Taking, or Receiving any Item (Including Money) by Force, Threat, or Intimidation			*	*	
Throwing Objects	*	*			

SECTION IV RESPECT FOR ORDERLY TEACHING/LEARNING ENVIRONMENT					
BEHAVIOR	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Level 4**	**Level 5**
Area Violation, Unauthorized (e.g. Going to Parking Lot or Being Outside the School Without Prior Approval)	*	*	*		
Dress Code Violation: Wearing attire which is Distracting and/or Inconsistent with a Teaching & Learning Environment (Refer to BOE Policy 5132)	*	*			
Skipping Class, Study Hall,Academic Support, etc.		*	*	*	
Failure to wear proper Safety Protection in class (e.g. protective goggles, food service gloves)	*	*			

Misuse of Pass	*	*	*		
Leaving Class Without Permission	*	*	*		
Failure to Report to the Office	*	*	*		
Failure to Serve After School Detention	*	*	*		
Failure to Serve Saturday Detention Without Parental Notification			*	*	
Failure to Sign In to School When Late	*	*	*		
Gambling Involving the Transfer of Money or Assets (in person or online while in school or at school-sponsored activities)		*	*	*	
Improper Sign In/Out During Study Hall, School Day		*	*		
Improper Possession of Cell Phones, Smart Devices etc. (See Bring Your Own Device Student (BYOD) Agreement 5131.81)	*	*	*		
Improper Use of District Technology Resources or Privately Owned Technological Devices (See Acceptable Use Policy)		*	*	*	*
Leaving School Building Without Permission		*	*	*	*
Parking Rules Violation (as defined in HS Handbook)		*	*		
Disruption of the School Environment and/or educational process	*	*	*	*	*
Disruption of the Classroom (e.g. talking out of turn in class, throwing objects and other behavior that detracts from teaching and learning).	*	*	*		
Tardiness to Class	*	*	*		
Trespassing (Level 5 interventions only used when a student has entered onto school property or unauthorized area without permission and then refused to leave upon request)				*	*
Truancy from School		*	*	*	
Walk-outs/Sit-ins		*	*	*	*

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms used in the New Fairfield Public Schools Code of Responsibility and Respect are defined to clarify language for the benefit of students, their parents/guardians, and the extended school community:

Area Violation, Unauthorized (Going to Parking Lot or Being Outside the School Without Prior Approval): Students are not permitted in unauthorized areas of the school building or campus, including but not limited to (1) an adjacent school campus, (2) unauthorized stairwells/hallways, (3) any area adjacent to the school building including parking lots, and (4) athletic fields/areas without permission.
Reference Section IV

Arson: Intentional attempt or act of starting a fire in the school on the school bus or on school property.
Reference Section I

Assault: Intent to cause physical injury to another person, causing such injury to such person or to a third party; or recklessly causing physical injury to another person; or causing physical injury to another person by means of a deadly weapon, a dangerous instrument, or an electronic defense weapon.
Reference Section I

Borrowing, Taking, or Receiving any Item (Including Money) by Force, Threat, or Intimidation: Students are prohibited from borrowing, taking, or receiving any item (including money) by force, threat, or intimidation of another student.
Reference Section III

Bullying: "Bullying" means an act that is direct or indirect and severe, persistent or pervasive, which: (1) caused physical or emotional harm to an individual; (2) placed an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm; or (3) infringes on the rights or opportunities of an individual at school.
Bullying shall include, but need not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

- "Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.
- "Teen Dating Violence" means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

Reference Section I

Bus Disruptions: All students are extended the privilege of riding to and from school and to school activities on the school bus. The bus driver has the responsibility of maintaining orderly behavior of students on school buses and will report, in writing, all misconduct to the transportation services manager and the school administrator. Video cameras may be used to record student behavior on the school bus and videotapes of students' behaviors may be used to support disciplinary action.
Reference Section I

Cheating: "Sharing" student work or collaborating on assignments that should be individually produced; using crib notes during assessments; sharing information about an assessment with students who have not completed the assessment; obtaining or passing unauthorized copies of or information about tests, quizzes, or other course assignments; stealing or unauthorized copying of another student's answers, homework, notes, or course materials.
Reference Section II

Co-Curricular School Activities: Student activities initiated by the instructional staff. Co-curricular activities are designed to provide an opportunity for students to expand their knowledge of related curriculum.

Controlled Substance: A drug, substance, or immediate precursor identified under schedules I to V, inclusive, of the Connecticut controlled substance scheduling regulations pursuant to Section 21a-243 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Cumulative Offenses: Specific student offenses which will accumulate from year to year within the grade span, i.e., grades 6-8; grades 9-12.

Cyberbullying: Any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

Dangerous Instrument: Any instrument, article or substance which, under the circumstances in which it is used or attempted or threatened to be used, is capable of causing death or serious physical injury, and includes a vehicle and a dog that has been commanded to attack (See also Firearm, Deadly Weapon, and Weapon.)
Reference Section I

Deadly Weapon: Any weapon, whether loaded or unloaded, from which a shot may be discharged, or a switchblade knife, gravity knife, billy, blackjack, bludgeon or metal knuckles. A weapon such as a pellet gun and/or airsoft pistol may constitute a deadly weapon if such weapon is designed for violence and is capable of inflicting death or serious bodily harm. In making such determination, the following factors should be considered: design of weapon; how weapon is typically used (e.g. hunting); type of projectile; force and velocity of discharge; method of discharge (i.e. spring v. CO2 cartridge) and potential for serious bodily harm or death. (See also Dangerous Instrument, Firearm, and Weapon.)
Reference Section I

Detention, After School: A consequence that is given to students by teachers or school administrators depending on the infraction and circumstance. Students who are assigned to after school detention must report promptly and have books or study materials to use. In all cases, students will be given 24-hours notice in order to arrange for transportation or to inform employers.

Detention, Failure to Serve (Per Infraction): Failure to serve assigned detention(s) will result in additional detention time. Continued disregard to serve detention(s) may result in suspension from school.
Reference Section IV

Detention, Saturday: A consequence that is given to high school students who have been tardy to class, study hall, or homeroom or have committed certain types of infractions. A parent or guardian will be notified of the Saturday detention. Each student must be prepared to do three hours of academic work. If a student fails to use the time in Saturday detention in a constructive manner, he or she may be asked to leave and be subject to suspension.

Detention, Teacher: A consequence that is given to students by teachers for inappropriate classroom behavior or certain types of infractions. Teacher-assigned detention is typically served after school.

Dress Code Violation: Students are expected to dress in a manner that is suitable for a school environment. Furthermore, students should dress so that their clothing does not jeopardize the health or safety of the wearers or others, or cause distraction or disruption of the educational process as determined by the school administration. Clothing advertising drugs or alcohol is inappropriate for school wear. Footwear and shirts must be worn at all times.
Reference Section IV, Board of Education Policy 5132

Drugs: Includes, but shall not be limited to, any medicinal preparation (prescription and non-prescription), and any controlled substance whose possession, sale, distribution, use or consumption is illegal under state and/or federal law.

Drugs, Drug Paraphernalia, Alcohol, Inhalants, Performance Enhancing Drugs, Tobacco, Tobacco Products, Tobacco Paraphernalia Use or Possession of: Any student in the New Fairfield Public Schools found to be in use, under the influence of, in possession or otherwise to exercise dominion or control over any drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, inhalants, performance-enhancing drugs, or other substances that can cause intoxication, tobacco, tobacco products, tobacco paraphernalia, or nicotine delivery devices during a school session, on school premises, or anywhere at a school-sponsored activity or trip, on

school-provided transportation shall be subject to disciplinary consequences including expulsion from school and referral to law enforcement officials as appropriate.
Reference Sections I

Drugs (Drugs, Alcohol, Inhalants, Performance Enhancing Substances), Sale or Distribution of: To deliver, sell, pass, share or give any alcohol, drug, or controlled substance, determined to be illegal under state and or federal law from one person to another or to aid in its use. Any student in the New Fairfield Public Schools found to be selling or distributing any controlled substance, controlled drugs, including prescription drugs, alcohol, or performance-enhancing substances during a school session, on school premises, or anywhere at a school-sponsored activity or trip, on school-provided transportation, or otherwise off school grounds shall be subject to severe disciplinary consequences including mandatory expulsion from school and referral to law enforcement officials, as appropriate.
Reference Section I

Drug Paraphernalia: Equipment, products and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing or concealing, or injecting, ingesting, inhaling or otherwise introducing controlled drugs or controlled substances into the human body, including but not limited to all items specified in C.G.S. Section 21a-240(20)(A), such as "bongs," pipes, "roach clips," miniature cocaine spoons, crack cocaine vials, tobacco rolling papers, and any object or container used, intended or designed for use in storing, concealing, possessing, distributing or selling controlled drugs or controlled substances.
Reference Section I

Drugs or Substances, Performance Enhancing: Performance-enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids, for the purpose of bodybuilding and enhancement of athletic ability and performance. This includes but is not limited to, those performance-enhancing drugs / substances identified on the CIAC comprehensive list including but not limited to the following:
1. Anabolic Agents, Diuretics, Peptide Hormones and Analogues
2. Blood doping (the intravenous injection of whole blood, packed red blood cells, or blood substitutes.
Reference Section I

Due Process: Unless an emergency exists prior to the suspension of a student, the school administration must inform the student of the reasons for the disciplinary action and provide the student an opportunity to explain the situation (informal hearing). In the event of an emergency, the informal hearing shall be held as soon after the suspension as possible. Recommendation for expulsion must be heard by the Board of Education or by a hearing officer appointed by the Board of Education, in a formal hearing, consistent with the certain requirements of Conn. Gen. Stat. 10-233d.

Electronic Communication Devices, Inappropriate Use of: The Board of Education supports the use of mobile and personal electronic devices as learning tools. Mobile and personal electronic devices such as smart phones, tablets, and laptops should be an integral part of the educational process. The Board encourages their appropriate use in the classroom or other school settings. Inappropriate use of personal electronic devices (photo/video/audio) on school property is not allowed. The use of mobile and personal electronic devices while at school, and school sponsored activities, is intended to support instruction and as a means of communication under approved circumstances. Use of mobile and personal electronic devices must not disrupt the classroom or harm others.
Reference Section IV

Emergency Removal from School: A situation under which continued presence of the student in the school imposes such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that an informal hearing may be delayed until a time as soon after the exclusion of such student as possible.

Exclusion: Any denial of public school privileges to a student for disciplinary purposes. For some infractions, students will be excluded from co-curricular or extracurricular activities.

Expulsion: Exclusion from school privileges for more than ten (10) consecutive school days provided such exclusion shall not exceed one (1) calendar year. The period of exclusion may extend to the school year following the school year in which such exclusion was

imposed. Participation in any school activities for the duration of the suspension/expulsion period whether those events occur on school days, on weekend days, or on holidays and school breaks is prohibited.

Extracurricular School Activities: Student activities initiated through student choice for participation. Extracurricular activities are intended to enhance a student's school experience or satisfy a student's particular interest in a subject, topic, sport, or other activity.

False Alarm/Bomb Threat: The willful act of causing a false fire alarm or making a bomb threat directed at the school, the school bus, or other school property.
Reference Section I

Forgery, Falsifying Information: Students found to have falsified a signature, an attendance excuse or other school documents, or to have made any deliberate false statement, whether written or stated are subject to disciplinary consequences.
Reference Section III

Fighting/Physical Altercation/Physical Aggression: A planned or unplanned encounter which results in a student or students assaulting, or attempting to assault, another individual(s) in a manner that is not reasonably necessary for self-defense.
Reference Section I.I. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Firearm: as defined in 18 U.S.C § 921, means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) that will, is designed to, or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon, (c) a firearm muffler or silencer, or (d) any destructive device. The term firearm does not include an antique firearm. As used in this definition, a "destructive device" includes any explosive, incendiary, or poisonous gas device, including a bomb, a grenade, a rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, a missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, a mine, or any other similar device; or any weapon (other than a shotgun or shotgun shell which the Attorney General finds is generally recognized as particularly suited for sporting purposes) that will, or may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by explosive or other propellant, and which has a barrel with a bore of more than ½" in diameter. The term "destructive device" also includes any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. A "destructive device" does not include: an antique firearm; a rifle intended to be used by the owner solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes; or any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon. (See also Dangerous Instrument, Deadly Weapon, and Weapon.)
Reference Section I.O. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Gambling (Involving the Transfer of Money or Assets): Students are prohibited from any type of "gambling" activity, which involves the transfer of money or assets, including betting on sports pools, playing poker, or participating in unauthorized raffles. Gambling is an illegal activity and is not permitted in the school building, on the school-provided transportation, or at any school-sponsored activity.
Reference Section IV.M. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Graffiti: The willful defacing of property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education. Students involved are subject to disciplinary action and/or prosecution. Any student discovered to have engaged in graffiti of school property will make full financial restitution for repair or replacement. The parent / guardian of a minor child responsible for graffiti will be held liable for damages under the provisions of Connecticut State law. Damaged property paid for by the student remains the property of the school.
Reference Section III. D. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Hazing: Any conduct or method of initiation, on or off campus, into any student organization or team, whether on public or private property, which endangers or creates a risk of harm to the physical or emotional health or well-being of any student or person, including any activity that causes or requires an individual to perform a task that is in violation of the law or of school district policies. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any treatment or forced physical activity that is likely to adversely affect the health or safety of any student or other person, or that subjects such student or other person to emotional stress, including deprivation of sleep or rest, confinement to a restricted area, the threat of ostracism, or extended isolation. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing does not in any way sanction or excuse the behavior nor lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.
Reference Section I.F. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Laser Pointers: Students are not permitted to possess or use laser pointers while on school property, while using school district transportation, or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether on or off school property unless under the supervision of a staff member and in the context of instruction. Laser pointers will be confiscated.
Reference Section IV.F. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Leaving School Grounds without Administrator's Permission: Students are not allowed to leave school grounds without the approval of the school administrator. Once present on campus, students are not permitted to leave until the end of their scheduled day. Seniors only may apply for early dismissal at the beginning of each trimester.
Reference Section IV.K. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Libelous, Obscene, or Defamatory Materials or Literature, Posting or Distributing: Students are expected to respect the dignity, rights, and written expression of others and are prohibited from posting or distributing libelous, obscene, or defamatory materials or literature in the school, on the school bus, or at any school-sponsored activity.
Reference Section II.G. in the Behavior/Infraction Charts.

Misconduct, Other Serious, as Determined by School Administrator: In unusual situations, where the student behavior or the infraction is not explicitly included in the Code of Conduct, the school administration reserves the right to administer consequences including detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, exclusion from co-curricular and/or extracurricular activities, and expulsion per Board of Education policy.

Misconduct Out Of School/Conduct Leading to a Felony Arrest or Class A Misdemeanor/Adjudication as a Delinquent or Youthful Offender: Students are subject to discipline, up to and including suspension and expulsion, for misconduct even if such misconduct occurs off school property and during non-school time. Examples of such out-of-school misconduct that shall result in expulsion include, but are not limited to, the possession, of a firearm; the sale or distribution of illegal drugs controlled substances, and the possession or use of a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument in the commission of a crime. Students may also be subject to discipline, including expulsion, for out-of-school misconduct that violates a policy of the Board of Education and is considered to be seriously disruptive to the educational process. Upon notification by a municipal police department or division of the state police of the student's arrest, the superintendent may disclose the information to the principal of the school that the student attends. The principal may in turn disclose it to special services staff members for the purposes of assessing the risk of danger posed by the student to himself or herself, to other students, or to the staff. Connecticut law also provides procedures for coordination between the school superintendent and the courts in matters of probation and school attendance.

Obscene, Vulgar, Abusive, Inflammatory, or Disrespectful Language, Gesture or Behavior Directed Toward anyStudent or Staff Member: Verbal or abusive gestures toward another student or staff member will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Students who exhibit such behaviors will be subject to disciplinary consequences.
Reference Section II

Parking Violations: Parking on school property without the appropriate permit or in a reserved space, handicapped space or other designated "no parking" area, or while expelled or serving out-of-school suspension is prohibited. Driving to school and parking on school property is a privilege extended to seniors in good standing only, on a first-come, first serve basis. All students are extended the privilege of riding the bus to and from school. Driving privileges may be lost without benefit of refund for parking infractions.
Reference Section IV

Physical Contact, Inappropriate (Pushing or Shoving another Student-no physical injury occurs): Any physical contact which has the potential to result in emotional or physical injury.
Reference Section I

Plagiarism: Intentionally or unintentionally presenting another's work as your own; using direct quotes, paraphrases, and specific ideas of another person without explicit citation; obtaining and submitting work from the Internet or other sources as your own; supplying/selling your work, or part of your work to another; inventing/counterfeiting sources; purchasing or copying pre-written papers, etc.

Reference Section II

Privately Owned Technological Devices: Privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture and recording, sound recording, information transmitting and/or receiving, storing, etc. These devices may include, but are not limited to, eReaders, personal laptops, smartphones, network access devices, and tablets.
Reference Section IV

Racial or Other Discriminatory Slurs: Unwelcome speech or conduct of an offensive or hostile nature based on an individual's race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or religion is prohibited. Any type of racial or other discriminatory slur, regardless of the intent of the speaker, is unacceptable at school, on the school bus, and / or at school-sponsored activities.
Reference Section II

Refusal to Adhere to a Staff Member Directive: Open Defiance of a Teacher or any School Employee: A refusal to adhere to a staff member's directive and showing open defiance toward a teacher, administrator, or any school employee will not be tolerated.
Reference Section II

School Days: Days that school is in session; however, for students who are suspended or expelled, participation in any school activities for the duration of the suspension/expulsion period whether those events occur on school days, weekend days, holidays or school breaks is prohibited.

School-Sponsored Activity: Any activity sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the Board of Education or its administrative agents, including activities both on and off school property.

Search and Seizure: When there are reasonable grounds to believe that a student is in possession of drugs or any object that is illegal or in violation of any Board of Education policy, there is an obligation on the part of the school personnel to search for and seize such drugs and illegal objects. Such search and seizure may involve school lockers, cars on school property, clothing, purses, book bags, books, and other personal property. All confiscated drugs or other illegal objects will be turned over to the local law enforcement officials.

Sexual Harassment: Any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and otherinappropriate verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used and/or threatened to be used as the basis for making any educational decisions affecting a student; or
2. such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to limit an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from the education programs; or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational or work environment.

Sexual harassment includes a wide range of conduct – from pressure or requests for sexual activities to unwelcome sexual comments and innuendo to verbal abuse of a sexual nature. Examples of the type of conduct prohibited include:

1. Statements or other conduct indicating that a student's submission to, or rejection of, sexual overtures or advances will affect the student's grades and/or academic progress or status.
2. Unwelcome sexual attention, flirtations and advances, including verbal comments, sexual invitations and leering, unwelcome touching of an individual.
3. Graphic or verbal commentaries about an individual's body, and/or the use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual.
4. Displays in the school setting of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, or use of sexually suggestive or obscene comments, invitations, letters, notes, slurs, jokes, cartoons, epithets or gestures.

Reference Section I, Board of Education Policy 5145.5

Skipping Classes During the School Day: Students are expected to attend each of their academic classes, study halls, and support classes every day unless given permission from the school administrator to be absent from a class for a specific purpose.

Reference Section IV

Substance-Abuse Assessment: An evaluation conducted by a professional to determine the student's overall health and condition in relation to use of a controlled substance or drug.

Suspension, In-School: An exclusion from regular classroom activities and co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days, but not exclusion from school, provided such exclusion does not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such in-school suspension was imposed. No student shall be suspended more than fifteen (15) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one (1) school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion. A parent/guardian will be notified of the in-school suspension assignment. The student is usually given 24-hours' notice before being placed in in-school suspension; however, the school administrator reserves the right to assign a student immediately if the circumstances warrant placement.

Suspension, In-School - Failure to Serve or Misbehaving During In-School Suspension: Students who do not demonstrate appropriate behavior or are disruptive while serving an in-school suspension have their suspension extended, may be given an additional suspension, and/or may have the remainder of the suspension time served as an out-of-school suspension following an informal hearing.

Suspension, Out-of-School: An exclusion from school privileges (academic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular) or transportation services only, for no more than ten (10) consecutive school days, provided such exclusion should not extend beyond the end of the school year in which such suspension was imposed. No student shall be suspended for more than ten (10) times or a total of fifty (50) days in one school year, whichever results in fewer days of exclusion, unless such student is granted a formal hearing. Out-of-school suspension is given to students if the administration determines that the student poses a danger to persons or property or a disruption of the educational process. Out-of-school suspension is for the full 24-hour day(s). Parents/guardians will be informed that the student must remain at home during school hours for the period of the suspension. A student may not enter the school grounds or participate in any school activity held either on or off the school grounds at any time during the period of suspension including the weekend, if applicable.

Suspension, Out-of-School – Violations of (Trespassing): Failure to comply with an out-of-school suspension will result in an extension of the suspension or an additional suspension. A student's presence on school grounds while serving an out-of-school suspension can result in notification of trespassing to the local law enforcement officials.

Suspensions shall be in-school suspensions, unless during the informal hearing (1) the administration determines that the pupil being suspended poses such a danger to persons or property or such a disruption of the educational process that the pupil shall be excluded from school during the period of suspension, or (2) the administration determines that an out-of-school suspension is appropriate for such pupil based on evidence of (A) previous disciplinary problems that have led to suspensions or expulsion of such pupil, and (B) previous efforts by the administration to address such disciplinary problems through means other than out-of-school suspension or expulsion, including positive behavioral support strategies.

Tampering With School Records: Any attempt to change, alter, delete school records, including but not limited to, student permanent records, student non-permanent records, teachers' records, electronic grade book records, etc.
Reference Section III

Tardy to Class During the School Day: Students tardy to class during the school day will be issued passes to class only if there are extenuating circumstances that excuse their tardiness. Teachers will not allow students admittance to class without a tardy pass from the office. All unexcused tardies will be considered as unexcused absences to class and may count towards loss of academic credit, as appropriate to the age and grade level of the student.
Reference Section IV

Tardy To School: Being late to school, class or an activity without permission of school personnel. Students who arrive to school after the designated start of the school day will not be admitted without administrative approval.
Reference Section IV

Technology, Inappropriate Use of Out-of-School: "Cyber-bullying" and/or inappropriate use of technology in the extended school community, even if school technology is not utilized, may be subject to school discipline. Additionally, discipline for off-campus speech (including that on the Internet) is permitted in cases where a student has threatened school staff or other students; or otherwise severely disrupted the educational process.
Reference Section III

Technology, Inappropriate Use of School: Electronic communications systems which include, but are not limited to, the computers, computer systems, software, electronic access privileges, and networks are the property of the New Fairfield Board of Education and are to be used only for those activities directly related to teaching, learning, and/or management of educational records and data. The equipment, infrastructure, and software are not to be used for personal gain by any student. The computers, computer systems, software, electronic access privileges, and networks provided by the New Fairfield Board of Education shall not be modified or altered by individual users without the authorization of the Superintendent or his / her designee. All users are hereby made aware that all information on the New Fairfield Board of Education's computer systems, software, and networks is in the public domain, unless specifically protected by Federal or State Law. . Users should not assume that any information accessed or stored on the computers, computer systems or networks provided by the New Fairfield Board of Education is private. The New Fairfield Board of Education reserves the right to bypass any or all passwords to determine the activity on any or all of the computers, computer systems, software, electronic access privileges, and networks. The district shall provide student education about appropriate online behavior, including cyberbullying awareness and response, and how to interact with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms. Parents are required to annually sign a grade level appropriate Network Use Agreement granting permission for their child to access network resources. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.
Reference Section III

Theft or Possession of Stolen Goods: Stealing another person's possessions is illegal. School administration strongly encourages students to keep expensive items at home. A student involved in stealing or possession of stolen goods shall receive disciplinary consequences and may be referred to local law enforcement officials.
Reference Section III

Tobacco, Tobacco Products, or Tobacco Paraphernalia, Use or Possession of: There shall be no smoking or any other use or possession of tobacco or tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia by students at any time, in any school building, on school-provided transportation, or on school grounds during the school day, or at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of designated school personnel, such as when the student is at any school function, extracurricular event, field trip, or school-related activity such as a work-study program. The definition of "smoke" or "smoking" means the lighting or carrying of a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or similar device, nicotine delivering devices or any other tobacco or nicotine innovations.
Reference Section I

Trespassing and Violations of Out-Of-School Suspensions: Unauthorized presence on the school premises while school is not in session is considered trespassing. Students are not allowed on school premises without permission after regular school hours or after scheduled activities in which they are participating. Unsupervised after-school activities are not allowed on school premises.
Reference Section IV

Truancy: Parents, guardians, or other persons having control of children between the ages of five and eighteen must assure that their children attend school "regularly during the hours and terms the public school in the district wherein such student resides is in session" per Connecticut General Statutes. Students under eighteen years of age are subject to mandatory attendance laws, unless the student is seventeen years of age and their parent or guardian consents to their withdrawal, and personally appears at the Board of Education offices and signs a withdrawal form indicating such consent. Connecticut law defines "truant" as a student who has four unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a year. A student five to six years of age will not be considered truant if the parent or guardian has appeared personally at the Board of Education offices and affirmatively exercised the option of not sending the child to school at five or six years of age. If a parent or guardian of an expelled student chooses not to enroll the student in an alternative educational program, the student shall not be considered truant. Failure to comply with the requirements that children attend the public schools is a violation of law, unless the parent or guardian provides alternative instruction by enrolling the student in a private school or in a home school program after withdrawing the student from the public school if the student has been enrolled. Failure to comply with this policy will result in consequences.
Reference Section IV

Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drones): In an effort to maintain the safety, security, and privacy of students, staff and visitors, the New Fairfield School District has determined that the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also commonly referred to as drones, is prohibited by any persons on or over District property, including all buildings and grounds, during school hours and at District sponsored events.vFor the purposes of this policy, a UAV or drone is any aircraft without a human pilot aboard the device.

An exception to this policy may be made in specific cases where circumstances warrant, but must be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.
Reference Section I, Board of Education Policy 3523.11

Vandalism: The willful destruction or otherwise injuring of property under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education is prohibited. Any student discovered to have committed an act of vandalism of school property will make full financial restitution for repair or replacement. The parent / guardian of a minor child responsible for vandalism will be held liable for damages under the provisions of Connecticut State law. Damaged property paid for by the student remains the property of the school. Any group or school organization responsible for an act of vandalism will be held liable for damages. (See also Graffiti)
Reference Section III

Vehicle: A "motor vehicle" as defined in Section 14-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, snow mobile, any aircraft, or any vessel equipped for propulsion by mechanical means or sail.

Verbal Assault or Threatening Physical Harm: Any statement or act, oral or written, which can reasonably be expected to induce apprehension of danger or bodily injury or harm to another person,student or staff member.
Reference Section I

Visitors to School During the School Day: All visitors must check in at the school's administrative office upon entering the building. Students are generally not allowed to have guests. If an exception is made, permission must be obtained from the school administrator in advance of the scheduled visit. The school administrator reserves the right to restrict the number of visitors at any time during the school day or the school year.
Reference Section IV

Walkouts by Students: Leaving school/classes en masse. Students are expected to behave responsibly and respectfully at all times. Students should obey the rules that govern students' rights of expression regarding issues in the school setting. Therefore, students are discouraged from organizing and /or participating in "walkouts" intended to be disruptive to the educational process. Students' concerns, interests, and needs regarding issues should be directed to the appropriate staff member or school administration so that resolution to said issues can be sought. Students failing to adhere to these expectations shall be subject to disciplinary consequences.
Reference Section II

Weapon: Any BB gun, any blackjack, any metal or brass knuckles, any police baton or nightstick, anyvknife, including but not limited to any dirk knife or switch knife, any knife having an automatic spring release device by which a blade is released from the handle, having a blade of over one and one-half inches in length, any stiletto, any knife the edged portion of the blade of which is four inches and over in length, any martial arts weapon or electronic defense weapon, or any other dangerous or deadly weapon or instrument, unless permitted by law under section 29-38 of the Connecticut General Statutes. All students, staff, and visitors, even those who may have a legal permit to carry a weapon, are strictly prohibited from possessing, conveying, using or storing weapons or look-alike weapons on school property, at school-sponsored events, or on school-provided transportation. (See also Dangerous Instrument, Deadly Weapon, and Firearm.)
Reference Section I