



LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK
2025-2026 School Year

High School Principal: Sheila Key
Dean of Students: Brandon Schluterman
Counselor: Paden Zimmerman
Instructional Facilitator: Samantha Parker
Administrative Assistant: Shannon Stone

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GENERAL INFORMATION

VISION OF LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enhancing the Student's Education by Creating Individualized Learning at high levels.

MISSION OF LAMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

The collective community of the Lamar School District will cultivate excellence in students by *providing* academic richness, *promoting* college and/or career readiness, and *preparing* them to meet current and future challenges.

SCHOOL MASCOT AND COLORS

The colors of Lamar High School are **Black** and **Orange**. These colors will be used in all letters given by the school and uniforms worn by the athletic teams. The emblem is an Indian chief. The name of *Warriors* applies to all athletic teams. The chief is the motif for the design used in most school emblems. Its use on senior rings, invitations, and diplomas is optional.

LHS ALMA MATER

*Hail to thee our Alma Mater,
Hail the school we love,
We thy faithful sons and daughters
Pledge our love to thee*

*Lamar, Lamar dear old high,
Loud our praises be,
We will always stand beside her
With our loyalty.*



Lamar School District

2025/2026 Academic Calendar



July 2025							Date	Description	January 2026							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	Aug 7	Open House						1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Aug 11	First Day of Classes	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
27	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
August 2025							Sept 1	Labor Day-No School	February 2026							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Sept 11	Parent/Teacher Conferences	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	Oct 10	End of First Quarter-44 days	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Oct 17-20	Fall Break-No School	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Nov 24-28	Thanksgiving Break-No School	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Dec 19	End of 2nd Quarter-43 days	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 22	Christmas Break	March 2026							
31							Jan 2	Jan 5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
September 2025							Jan 5	PD Day - No School for Students All staff attends for PD	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Jan 6	3rd Quarter Begins	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Jan 19	MLK Day-No School	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Feb 12	Parent/Teacher Conferences	29	30	31					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Feb 13-16	Winter Break - No School	April 2026							
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Feb 16	President's Day-No School	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
28	29	30					March 13	End of 3rd Quarter-46 days				1	2	3	4	
October 2025							Mar 23-27	Spring Break-No School	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	May 8	Graduation	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
			1	2	3	4	May 22	End of 4th Quarter-45 days	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	May 25	Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	May	Make-up days, if needed	28	27	28	29	30			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25										
26	27	28	29	30	31				May 2026							
November 2025									S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
						1			10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			31							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			June 2026							
30									S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
December 2025																
S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6		
	1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			28	29	30					
28	29	30	31													
December 2025																
S	M	T	W	T	F	S										
	1	2	3	4	5	6										
7	8	9	10	11	12	13										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20										
21	22	23	24	25	26	27										
28	29	30	31													

Teacher Contract						
178 Student Contact Days						
2 PT Conference Days						
10 Professional Development Days Required						
Total Contract: 190 days						

BELL SCHEDULE FOR LHS

Period 1	7:50-8:38
Period 2	8:41- 9:29
WIN	9:32-10:02
Period 3	10:05-10:53
Period 4	10:56-11:44
Lunch (11th-12th)/Upgrade (9th-10th)	11:47-12:17
Lunch (9th-10th)/Upgrade (11th-12th)	12:17-12:47
Period 5	12:50-1:38
Period 6	1:41-2:29
Period 7	2:32-3:20

CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS

Our District is committed to serving the community and continually improving the educational experience we provide. We value feedback and welcome constructive criticism when it is shared with the goal of helping us grow and better serve our students. The School Board is responsible for setting policies and guiding the vision of the District, ensuring that decisions align with the best interests of students, staff, and the community. The Superintendent, appointed by the Board, is tasked with carrying out these policies and overseeing the daily operations of the District, leading the administrative team to implement the Board's vision effectively. As part of this leadership structure, the Principal plays a key role at the campus level, working under the direction of the Superintendent to manage school operations, support teachers and staff, and ensure that the educational goals of the District are achieved within their school community. If you have a concern or complaint related to school staff, curriculum, discipline (including specific discipline policies), or the daily management of the school, we ask that you follow certain steps to ensure your concern is addressed by the appropriate person: **(1)Start with the individual directly involved.** This could be a teacher, or other staff member.**(2)If the issue is not resolved, contact the school principal.(3)If further attention is needed, contact the Superintendent.**

Following this sequence helps ensure that concerns are handled efficiently and fairly at the appropriate level. We appreciate your partnership in supporting a positive and productive school environment.

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL COUNSELING PLAN

A comprehensive school counseling plan is a well-organized program that helps support all students' academic, social-emotional, and career development. It also supports crisis and mental health and encourages family and community connection. School counselors use the plan to help every child succeed in school and life. It is designed to make sure students feel safe, confident, and prepared for the future. Questions regarding counseling or support services should be directed to Mrs. Paden Zimmerman. paden.zimmerman@apps.lamarwarriors.org.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Lamar School District is committed to a policy of educating children for living by helping them to develop an awareness and appreciation for the achievements, problems, and aspirations of all people in our society. The School District shall help children from all walks of life to gain the knowledge, skills and determination that will enable them to reach their highest potential and to contribute to the welfare of all people. The Lamar School District shall establish and maintain an atmosphere in which all persons can develop attitudes and skills for effective, cooperative living, including:

1. Respect for the individual regardless of economic status, intellectual ability, race, creed, color, religion, sex, or age.
2. Respect for culture differences.
3. Respect for economic, political, and social rights of others; and
4. Respect for the rights of others to seek and maintain their own identities.

The Lamar School District shall continue to promote good human relations by removing all vestiges of prejudice and discrimination in employment, assignment, and promotion of personnel. In keeping with the guidelines of Title VI, Section 601, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Section 901, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Lamar School District assures that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, nation origin, age, sex, or handicap be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with Title VI (Race), Title IX (Sex), or Section 504 (Handicap) is directed to contact the District Superintendent.

ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS

Students whose parents reside inside the boundaries of the school district are eligible to enroll when they meet the entrance requirements of a particular school as described by the laws of the State of Arkansas; Lamar School District is a School Choice School (School Choice Act 1989). Students wanting to attend this School District under School Choice must notify the district office by May 1st the first year they choose to attend the Lamar School District.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE/ ENROLLMENT

Existing Arkansas Law as described in 6-15-501 requires that all students age five (5) by August 1 through seventeen (17) enroll in and attend school. Arkansas Law further provides that parents of students complied to attend school may be prosecuted if the student does not comply with local school district attendance policy. Prior to a child's admission to the Lamar School District, the parent or guardian shall provide the district with one of the following documents indicating the child's age:

1. A birth certificate
2. Previous school records
3. A passport
4. Attested baptismal certificate
5. A United States military identification
6. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent/guardian.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

The Lamar School District shall place transfer students as follows:

Accredited Schools:

- (1) Transfer students from any public school in the state of Arkansas will be given credit for any and all course work completed at a rate of one credit for each transferred.
- (2) Out-of-state transfer students will have their transcripts evaluated for course rigor and consistency with Arkansas curricular standards and graduation requirements. The evaluative process will be completed by the Counselor and/or Principal. The student will be placed according to the findings of the evaluation. If placement cannot be completed through an evaluation of the student's transcript, testing, using semester tests from the core areas of study as well as other areas as deemed appropriate by the administration will be administered and student(s) will be placed according to the outcome of the testing procedure.

Non-traditional, Non-accredited and Home Schools:

Students re-entering the public school from homeschool will provide evidence that an approved application is on file with the State. Local school districts where the original application was filed will have a copy of the applications on file if necessary.

The Home School Act 42 of 1985 (State of Arkansas) gives students the legal right to receive instruction through homeschooling. However, the local school district has the responsibility of determining whether or not credit is to be given should a student desire to receive public school credit toward graduation. The following procedures have been established for students in grades 9-12: A student must provide the following evidence; Homeschool Transcript; Name of textbook(s); Copy of Content Guide from textbook showing objectives or skills covered (also called scope & sequence); End of Course exams provided by homeschool curriculum

If the student is unable to provide the aforementioned evidence, then the student must score 60% or higher on a current semester test, provided by the school district, for each subject in which credit is sought. The appropriate department will construct the tests, with administrative approval. (60%-100%=full credit) (0%-59%=no credit) If provisions are met, credit may be

granted. Any credit given will be credit only and no letter grade. Transcripts will reflect credit only and that the credits were obtained through homeschooling. The maximum number of credits accepted for each school year of homeschooling or non-accredited private school instruction cannot exceed the number of credits that could be earned by a student enrolled in the Lamar School District for a comparable period of time. A student must attend an accredited public or private school for eight (8) semesters (ninth grade and above) to be considered for recognition as an honor graduate or class ranking.

VISITORS

All visitors are to report to the office first, upon school arrival. Visitors will check in, have their drivers license scanned, and be issued a visitor badge.

Parent Guardian Visits

The success of your child can be measurably increased if you, the parents, show an active interest in their work. Parents should endeavor to meet with the teacher during the teacher's conference period or after school.

Volunteer Program

Volunteer help from patrons and parents is encouraged. Persons interested should make arrangements with the building principal. Volunteers will be placed in the most appropriate setting as determined by the administration. Volunteers must fill out the following form and be ready to present ID when checking in at the front office. [Volunteer Form](#)

Parent Involvement

The Superintendent will appoint a Parent Involvement Facilitator/ Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Facilitator. This person will work with parents, the school and the community to increase involvement in school activities.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria operates to provide a low-cost, nutritious meal to all students who wish to participate. Every effort will be made to reduce, as much as possible, the time spent being served. Proper conduct should be displayed at all times. Good manners, cleanliness, and consideration for others shall be expected of a student in the cafeteria. Talking shall be in a conversational tone only. No straws, napkins, etc. will be taken from the cafeteria. Class will not be interrupted to notify students of delivered lunches. All students eat breakfast and lunch free with milk or water. Additional trays or drinks are charged.

FOOD DELIVERIES

Parents are encouraged to make arrangements prior to the scheduled school day for student pick-up of delivered lunches. Parents/Guardians/Grandparents may bring lunches for their child only. Door dash will not be accepted.

ATTENDANCE

School Hours: Start Time- 7:50 a.m.

End time- 3:20 p.m.

The expectation is for students to arrive on time and be present for all classes. Students are at risk of losing credits towards graduation if too many absences occur throughout each semester. If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at school, whether in person or digitally, is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement. Absences for students enrolled in synchronous digital courses shall be determined in the same manner as for District students attending courses in person.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

When a student is absent due to emergencies such as illness, death in the family and other extenuating circumstances, the parent or guardian of the student should contact the student's principal or dean of students and relate the facts causing the emergency. Parents may contact the school by writing a note, in person, email, or by other means deemed appropriate by the school principal. One day of makeup will be provided for each day absent. All absences not described as excused are unexcused. A written statement presented for an absence having occurred more than five (5) school days prior to its presentation will **not** be accepted. Students may have six (6) parent permission notes per semester. Any absence over six (6) days without a doctor's note will be unexcused.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences are all failures to attend school other than those specified above. Make-up work for trancies will be left up to the discretion of the building principal. Students who are suspended from school may make up any classwork missed during the time they were suspended. For students who have been expelled the District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of expulsion. *Students with 6 unexcused absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course.* At the discretion of the principal or designee after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

(See 4.7 Absences, 4.8 Make-up Work)

TRUANCY

Truancy is defined as the following: not attending school after leaving home to do so; leaving school without permission of the office; not attending a class the student is enrolled in without a legitimate pass to do so; using a forged note; and leaving class without permission. Each day of truancy will count as one of the unexcused absences per semester. A student who has been truant will be assigned to in-school suspension for five days up to a maximum of ten days. Students will not be allowed to take Out-Of-School Suspension in place of ISD. Operation Stay in School is a joint program between the city of Lamar and the school district that allows a member of the Lamar Police Department to pick up and question a student from the street during school hours and bring them back to school if they are truant.

TARDIES

Promptness is an important character trait that District staff is encouraged to model and help develop in our schools' students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement.

If students are tardy they must check-in with the office or an administrator before going to class. Tardies will be handled in the following manner: If a student misses fifteen minutes or more a class they will be counted absent. If a student misses less than fifteen minutes a class, they will be counted tardy. Four tardies in a semester will result in 1 day of in-school detention.

(See 4.9- Tardies)

ATTENDANCE CONSEQUENCES/ INCENTIVES

Consequences

If a student has more than 6 unexcused absences and/or is failing in multiple core classes at 4 ½ weeks and/or at end of each quarter, then the student will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities including but not limited to any sports, band, choir, driving to/from school, and any clubs such as FFA, FCCLA, any non-educational field trips or pep buses, and prom. Student will be required to attend Summer School unless days are made up in Saturday School.

Incentives (2-2-2)

If a student has zero unexcused absences then the student will receive two designated days off, two free tardies, and two homework passes a nine weeks as an incentive. Incentives will be administered and days determined by the principal and dean of students.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

When necessary, students may be assigned Saturday school as a way to compensate for excessive absences. Saturday school will be from 8am-12pm and consist of academic and community service related activities. Transportation by the district will not be provided.

Saturday School can be assigned for 3 or more unexcused absences per semester to assist in the prevention of being assigned a credit recovery course to satisfy graduation requirements.

Saturday school presents an additional alternative form of disciplinary action which may be taken by school administrators. Rules concerning Saturday school are as follows:

1. Students may *only* be assigned by an administrator.
2. Saturday school will be for students in grades 9-12.
3. Saturday school may be held once a month with a second date added if deemed necessary by the administration.
4. Students will be expected to report by 8:00 sharp or be locked out of the building.
5. Non-attendance on an assigned date must be due to extenuating circumstances and must be excused (or other arrangements made) by the assigning administrator.
6. Students must bring paper, pencil, and books with them.
7. One break will be allowed at approximately 10:00 a.m. for a restroom, water break.
8. Saturday school will be supervised by an administrator or designee.

If a student misses a day of Saturday School:

1st offense- Student will be assigned an additional day of Saturday School

2nd offense- Student will be suspended from all extra-curricular activities until Saturday School attendance requirements are met.

SUMMER SCHOOL

If a student exceeds 6 unexcused absences in any one class the student may be required to attend summer school and complete appropriate coursework to receive credit.

HALL PASSES

A student permitted to leave a class for any reason to go to another room, library, gymnasium, etc. should have a pass from the teacher whose class he/she is leaving. A student must report to his/her teacher each class period. If a teacher has given a student permission to stay after class to finish an assignment, the student still must report to his/her next class on time. That teacher will either grant or deny permission to return to the previous teacher's classroom. During all assemblies, pep rallies, and other school activities, students are to report to roll call before going, unless designated otherwise by the principal. It is the teacher's responsibility to make sure students have a hall pass before leaving the classroom or the teacher's supervision.

ARRIVAL/LEAVING CAMPUS

Students are advised to use the proper procedure for arriving at campus and leaving campus. Lamar is a closed campus.

Expectations of Students:

- (1) Stay on campus after arriving on the school grounds unless permission to leave is granted from the principal's office.
- (2) Check out in person with the secretary.

Students arriving on campus by bus, car, or driving are expected to enter the high school as soon as they arrive at school. Students are not allowed to sit in vehicles after they arrive, nor are bus and/or car rider students allowed to enter the parking lot and sit in vehicles with student drivers after they arrive at school. If students are tardy they must check-in with the office or an administrator before going to class.

Students are not allowed to leave campus at any time during the school day without a permit from the school office or a parent/guardian signing them out. Only high school students may sign himself/herself out and only if his/her parent or guardian has spoken with an authorized staff member. Students who are late to the first period must check in with the office to be admitted to class. High school students are not to be checked out of school for the purpose of going to lunch. Students checking out of school for the purpose of eating lunch will be charged a full day's absence. Students who do not follow proper check-in, check-out procedures may be considered truant and will be subject to disciplinary action.

CHECKING-OUT OF SCHOOL

Students enter the jurisdiction of the school when they leave home with the intent to board a bus or intent to come to school. If a student expects to leave the campus during the day, a signed and dated note and/or a call from the student's parent/guardian is required before a student will be allowed to leave school. The student can also bring a signed note (including a contact phone number) from the parent or guardian to the office or attendance clerk to be placed in the student's file. Before leaving, the student will sign the check-out sheet in the attendance office or the principal's office and must check out personally with the attendance clerk. All students, regardless of age, must follow the rules and regulations stated above. In order for a student to check out during the hours of 11:30-1:00, someone on the students' check-out sheet must be physically present to check the child out of school. Students will not be allowed to check out for lunch via phone request. If a student is checked out via a phone conversation, they will not be allowed to return to the school that day without some form of official documentation, which could include a doctor's note, court documentation, etc. Students must have the principal's permission to sign the check-out sheet and must sign out with the attendance clerk before they leave. Students may not sign out without administrative permission. A student who is eighteen years of age and still residing with his/her parent/guardian must abide by the same rules as those

students who are seventeen or younger. If the above procedures and/or guidelines are not followed, the student must remain at school.

STUDENT DRIVERS

Students must hold a valid, non-restricted driver's license. Students parking on campus must have a current school issued parking permit displayed at all times. Immediately upon arrival at school, students will park vehicles (between parking stripes) in their designated parking spot and leave the area. No student may return to the student parking lot during the day without special permission from the high school principal's office. If a student receives permission to return to the parking lot to their vehicle for any reason throughout the day then school personnel will escort the student to and from the vehicle as a safety precaution. Students are expected to park in the student parking areas of LHS. If a student chooses to park in another parking lot then the student will NOT be allowed to return to the vehicle for any reason. Students are expected to drive in a safe manner by obeying the posted speed limit at all times and to make no excessive noise with exhausts, wheels, or car stereos while on the school campus. If a student is restricted from driving on campus, the car is also restricted from campus unless it is driven by a parent or guardian. Failure of any student to abide by these policies will result in the loss of campus driving privileges.

VEHICLES

Operating a motor vehicle on campus and driving to school is a privilege. Any student that cannot or will not operate a vehicle in a safe manner will not be allowed driving privilege at all district schools. All students must comply with the following:

- Students must have a valid Arkansas driver's license.
- Students must operate a properly licensed and insured vehicle.
- Driving permits must be obtained from the Principal's office and visible at all times in the vehicle..
- The vehicle must be parked at the designated parking place issued by the office and left there.
- Reckless driving will result in the suspension of driving privileges.
- Students *will not* sit in parked vehicles on campus. Immediately upon entering the campus, student drivers will park their car and leave the car to go into the school.
- Students will not visit their vehicles without expressed permission from the school office and will be *escorted to and from vehicles by school personnel*.
- Lamar Schools is not liable for damage to student vehicles while on school property.
- When a student exceeds 6 unexcused absences, he or she shall lose all driving privileges for the remainder of the semester.
- **Driving to school and parking on the school campus is an extracurricular activity.**

ANY VIOLATION OF THE STUDENT DRIVING POLICY MAY RESULT IN THE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF DRIVING PRIVILEGE.

HEALTH POLICIES

Emergency Procedure

All emergencies are dealt with according to the School Health Services Program of the Arkansas Department of Education. If at all possible parents will be notified before the student is transported to an emergency medical facility.

All infectious diseases and/or contagious diseases are dealt with according to the School Health Services Program of the Arkansas Department of Education and in conjunction with the Johnson Health Clinic.

Immunization Records – All students are required to have all immunizations as specified by state law. Students are to be immunized in accordance with the Arkansas Department of Health Immunization Schedule against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Red Measles (rubella), and German Measles (Rubella). Failure to produce records within two weeks of date of entrance will require the student to begin an immunization program or be suspended from school. **4.57- IMMUNIZATIONS**

Medications

Medications will be distributed according to the regulations required by the State Department of Education. Students will not be allowed to transport medication. All medications will be delivered to school by the parents in the original container. Parents will be responsible for bringing refills to the office. Students will not be sent home with containers for refills.

Notification will be sent home when the student's medications are almost gone. To reduce the number of trips to and from school, a larger supply of medication should be left at school. These guidelines will be strictly enforced. Your child will not be given medication at school unless it is brought to the school office by the parent and the appropriate paperwork is completed.

Medication changes will only be accepted by a physician's note. Notes from parents concerning dosage changes will not be accepted.

TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

To ensure the safety of students and staff, educational personnel who provide school health services must receive appropriate training and be supervised by a school nurse, as deemed necessary. The school nurse must document the training and any ongoing observation and/or supervision provided. Once the staff member(s) learns to provide the school health service, the procedure should be demonstrated in the presence of the school nurse at a proficiency level.

SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Arkansas Act 1146 guidelines state that any school age child who has a "medically fragile condition in which the absence of immediate special health skill care threatens the life or health of the student, is required to have a health care plan. A medical protocol is required to ensure the student's safety. The condition is considered long term and unchanging overall. Anyone who has knowledge that a student may require a special health care plan should initiate a referral to the school principal or the special education supervisor.

According to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, a free appropriate public education means the provision by the school district for special education and the related services that students need to make their schooling possible.

Related services must also include health services. In addition, there are students who require school health services who are not in need of special education. It is the responsibility of the school to provide school health services for these individuals as well.

In order to provide school health service which will enable these individuals to participate in the educational process, as well as better ensure the safety of all students and staff, the district has set forth administrative policies and procedures in accordance with Arkansas Act 1146. This act requires the management of children with special health care needs.

Although the terms “medical services” and “School health services” sound similar, they have very different meanings in the law. Medical services are defined as services that must be performed by a physician. Educational personnel should never perform these tasks. School health services are provided to permit a student to benefit from his or her educational program. School health services may include administering medication, performing clean, intermittent catheterization, suctioning tracheostomy tubes, providing tube feedings, diapering, or monitoring medical support systems. The school district will provide a particular health service when it is necessary to enable the student to attend school, can be performed by a school nurse or some other qualified person, is not unduly expensive, or does not require constant attention by a staff person.

The administrative policies and procedures for the Lamar School District regarding students with special health care needs address each of the following areas:

Provision of services/training of personnel	Transportation
Special administrative considerations	Right to privacy and health information
Medication	Infection control

DISCIPLINE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR

All students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will contribute to the best interest of the school system and not infringe on the rights of others. The following activities are considered improper conduct and a violation of school rules. Each infraction, depending on level and severity, will subject the student to disciplinary action. *Any infraction not listed in this handbook will be handled with an administrative response ranging from a conference and warning to expulsion. For all levels of infractions, consequences may vary as determined by the dean of students, principal, or designee. Depending on the actions of the students involved, the dean of students, principal, or supervising staff may choose the class of each infraction.* Any student who is suspended on two occasions during the same school year may be recommended for expulsion. Any student being suspended during the school year shall not attend any school activity during the term of suspension. The School Resource Officers will cite students based on infraction as deemed appropriate by the School Resource Officers.

Parents/Guardians will be contacted by the Dean of Students, Principal, or supervising staff regarding discipline. A discipline slip will be issued to the student for signature by parent/guardian as well describing the infraction and discipline step taken.

CLASS III INFRACTIONS

*Possession of a weapon including, but not limited to: a knife with a blade of greater than 2 inches, razor, ice pick, explosive, rifle, shotgun, pellet, gun, airsoft gun, paintball gun, pistol, pepper spray, or any other object or substance that reasonably can be considered a weapon or dangerous instrument may result in criminal charges.

*An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools. No student in the Lamar School District shall or shall intend to possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, attempt to distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who; is on or about school property; is in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to campus; is en route to or from school or any school-sponsored activity. Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to, alcohol, any alcoholic beverage, inhalants, or any ingestible matter that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond, LSD, or any other hallucinogen, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or any other narcotic drug, PCP, amphetamines, steroids, "designer drugs," look-alike drugs, or any controlled substance. Selling, distributing, or attempting to sell or distribute, or using over-the-counter or prescription drugs not in accordance

with the recommended dosage and/or appropriate use is prohibited. Any possession of drug paraphernalia and/or related articles is included.

*An attempt to cause physical injury, threaten, or behave in such a way that could cause physical injury to a school employee or student may result in the filing of criminal charges (Act 706), as well as other school disciplinary procedures.

*Communicating a death threat

- All Offenses: Mandatory 10 day suspension with possible expulsion.

CLASS II INFRACTIONS

*Any act of disrespect toward school personnel or fellow students (including social media postings that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff)

*Bullying **See policy 4.43**

*Committing an act of defiance, either in language or action, against a teacher or employee of the school district

*Fighting- all parties participating in the fight, including bystanders who are urging them on or recording the fight, will be subject to disciplinary action and possible criminal charges.

*Forging, falsifying, altering, or illegally possessing district forms or using forged notes or excuses, or forging, falsifying, altering, or interfering with district policies or procedures

*Hate speech or related actions that engage in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

*Insubordination

*Sexual harassment is against the law, deemed unacceptable conduct in the school environment and will not be tolerated. "Sexual Harassment" is defined as any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other inappropriate verbal, visual, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Punishment can include, but not be limited to, written warning, corporal punishment, suspension, or expulsion so the infraction can be upgraded to a Class III as deemed by administration.

*Tampering with fire-fighting equipment or emergency alarm systems (Act 567)

*The use or possession of tobacco products and/or lighters, electronic cigarettes or vapor cigarettes during school (See 4.23)

*Truancy, including skipping school, cutting class, leaving campus without proper authorization, not following check out procedures, and/or being in any area of campus during school hours without proper authorization

- 1st Offense: In-School Detention – three to five (3-5) days
- 2nd Offense: Suspension - three (3) days
- 3rd Offense: Suspension - five (5) days

The following Class II infractions involve ISD and restitution.

*Destruction of school property

*Theft, depending on severity, could be classified as a Class III offense

- 1st Offense: three (3) days In-School Detention and restitution
- 2nd Offense: suspension – three (3) days and restitution
- 3rd Offense: suspension – five (5) days and restitution

CLASS I INFRACTIONS

*Use of profanity, obscene or vulgar language

*Not following directions

*Public display of affection in the halls or on school grounds

*Possession of laser devices on school grounds

*Gambling in any form

*Misuse of school issued chromebooks

*Horseplay

- 1st Offense: Parent contact and In-School Detention- one (1) day
- 2nd Offense: In-School Detention – two (2) days
- 3rd Offense: In-School Detention – three (3) days

The following Class I infractions have different disciplinary actions.

Referral by Substitute Teacher:

Students are expected to follow directions even when the regular classroom teacher is absent. We are fortunate to have substitute teachers who are professional and fair in dealing with students. If a student is referred to the office and written up by a substitute teacher, the following consequences may apply:

- 1st offense: 1 days In-School Detention
 - 2nd offense 2 days In-School Detention
 - 3rd offense 3 days In-School Detention
- Consequences may vary 1 through 3 depending upon circumstances.

Cell Phone Violation:

- 1st Offense: Phone is collected and secured in school office until end of day to be picked up by student and parent contacted
- 2nd Offense and on: Phone is collected and parent/guardian must pick phone up from school

Failure to Follow the Student Driving Policy:

- 1st Offense: Parent contact and In-School Detention- one (1) day
- 2nd Offense: Loss of driving privileges for one week
- 3rd Offense: Loss of driving privileges for two weeks

Any additional offenses after the 3rd will result in additional consequences determined by the principal, dean of students, or designee which could include loss of driving privileges.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Searches will be conducted in a discretionary manner and only when there is reasonable cause that there may be items on a person or in his possession that would hinder or disrupt the normal education process of the school.

Items seized during a search will be in the control of the school and will be transmitted to the appropriate authorities when necessary. In most cases items will not be returned. In no instances will items be returned before appropriate disciplinary action has been taken and a parent conference held or parent contacted by phone.

Student Search

A search of a student will be limited to situations where the school administration has reasonable cause to believe the student is concealing evidence of an illegal act, contraband, controlled substance, or has violated a school rule. Law enforcement officials may be requested to assist in a property search. Property searches will be conducted in a private place by the principal or her designee and under her supervision. An adult witness (school employee) will be present at all times during searching proceedings. Student permission will be requested before a property search is conducted.

LUNCH DETENTION

For repetitive discipline issues, students could receive lunch detention. Lunch detention will consist of students eating their lunch in a supervised designated area separated from regular lunch activities. This may vary in length from 1-5 days depending upon the discretion of the Dean of Students and or Principal or their designee. Teachers will not assign lunch detention.

IN-SCHOOL DETENTION

Report to the ISD room no later than 7:50 a.m. No loitering in the cafeteria or hallways.

Follow the school's dress code.

No gum or fast food.

Immediately and courteously obey direct requests or instructions of the ISD supervisor.

No communication at all, with anyone, without permission.

Bring all books and supplies, even those that may not be used every day.

During the assigned ISD time, participation in school activities during the school day is not allowed without specific permission from the principal.

Sleeping in class is not permitted.

Students must remain seated, facing the wall, unless given permission to get up.

Consequences of Rule Violations:

- 1st Infraction - additional time assigned in ISD
- 2nd Infraction - Suspension from school

Students who are suspended from ISD must finish their assigned days when they return to school.

SUSPENSION (Out-of-School Suspension)

In some circumstances it will be necessary to suspend a student from school who are unwilling to behave in an acceptable manner or fail to abide by the district attendance policies. The principal, assistant principal, or dean of students may suspend students for up to ten days. Further action on suspension requires school board approval and may result in expulsion. Suspended students are prohibited from the campus and all school functions during the suspension time without prior administrative approval. Parents of the suspended student will be notified of the reason for and the duration of the suspension. (See 4.17, 4.30)

EXPULSION

Students that have numerous and habitual conduct code violations may be recommended for expulsion. (See 4.31)

REFERRAL TO LEGAL AUTHORITIES

Students that violate the law will be referred to local law enforcement agencies for consideration for prosecution.

DUE PROCESS

Every student is entitled to due process in every instance of disciplinary action for which the student may be subjected to penalties or expulsion. (Ark. Stat. Ann. 80-1516)

1. Due process is afforded to students in disciplinary cases of some magnitude.
2. The due process rights of students and parents are as follows:
 - a. Prior to any suspension, the principal or his/her designee, shall advise the pupil in question of the particular misconduct of which he or she is accused, as well as the basis for such accusation.
 - b. The pupil shall be given an opportunity at that time to explain his/her version of the facts to the school principal and his/her designee.
 - c. Written notice of suspension and the reason (s) for the suspension shall be given to the parent (s) or guardian of the pupil.
 - d. Any parent (s), tutor or legal guardian of a pupil suspended shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent of schools.
 - e. All school district board meetings entertaining appeals for expulsion shall be conducted in executive session if requested by the parent or guardian, provided after hearing all testimony and debate, the board of directors shall conclude the executive session and reconvene in public session to vote on such appeal.

DISCIPLINE OF HANDICAPPED STUDENTS

Handicapped students that are found to be in violation of the student code of conduct shall be subject to normal and regular school discipline provided that the discipline applied does not abridge their right to a free and appropriate education. The committee developing a handicapped student's individual Education Plan (IEP) shall take into consideration all aspects of the discipline code that will create an unfair environment for the student and include that information in the IEP. Handicapped students may be excluded from school but only in extreme cases and only for a duration of not more than ten (10) days. Students that habitually violate the student code of conduct shall be considered for a change of placement to a more appropriate environment. In the event that a handicapped student is suspended from school, the IEP committee shall meet to determine the cause and effect of the suspension with a view toward assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the student's placement and toward minimizing the detrimental effect of the suspension. Alternative educational programming will be offered to the student for the duration of the suspension.

STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE

Dress/attire must be appropriate for a school environment. All students are encouraged to exercise neatness and modesty in appearance and manner of dress and this should be the primary responsibility of the student and parents, with the school serving in a supporting capacity. Student dress and appearance should not be inappropriate, present a clear and present danger to the student's health and safety, cause interruption of the proper pursuit of learning, and/or create classroom or school disorder.

The following items are inappropriate during school hours:

shirts that expose stomach, chest, or cleavage including but not limited to tank tops, bare midriffs, muscle shirts, spaghetti straps, strapless tops; bare feet; caps or hats (any type apparel worn on the head); sunglasses; transparent or "see-through" apparel; bandannas; any attire that is deemed substantially disruptive; shorts, skirts, or dresses that expose bottom while student is standing, sitting, or bending over; clothing with inappropriate holes and/or tears above mid thigh face painting; any clothing or accessories deemed as being "gang related"; shirts or accessories promoting drugs, alcohol, tobacco, violence, racism, inappropriate language, and/or sexual references, orientation or innuendos. *The final decision regarding apparel will be determined by the principal, dean of students, or designee.*

FOOD AND DRINKS

Food and drinks are not allowed in the classrooms. Lunch food and drinks need to stay in the cafeteria. Water is the only drink allowed in the classrooms and it needs to be a secure container. Glass containers are not allowed at school. This is for the safety of the students.

OFF-LIMIT AREAS

Students are never to be:

- In the parking lot during the hours of 7:50 a.m. until 3:20 p.m. without authorization.
- On the gym floor wearing street shoes.
- In the hallways or at a teacher's classroom door before school or during class time without proper authorization or a written pass.
- Touching or adjusting any heating or cooling thermostats.
- Seated on table tops or desk tops
- In any unsupervised school area, before school, at lunch, or after school.

BUS CONDUCT

The Lamar School District provides student transportation to and from school and school activities. Students wishing to take advantage of this service, privilege, must comply with the Rules of Conduct.

- Students will respect and obey the bus driver's instructions at all times.
- Students must be at the bus stop at the designated time and must remain a minimum of ten (10) feet from the stopping point and remain until the bus door is open.
- Students must go directly to their seat and be seated when loading the bus.
- Students must remain seated until the bus door is open. Then, they must exit the bus in an orderly manner.
- Students may not go to the mailbox while the bus is present.
- Students must not put hands, arms, heads or bodies out of the bus window or yell at people outside of the bus.
- Students must not deface or damage any part of the bus. Students and/or Parents will be required to pay for repairs before bus privileges are returned.
- Students will ride their designated bus and be delivered to their designated stop, unless a written request to do otherwise is received from the parent.
- Students will not be allowed to listen to music devices without headphones, and the music level must not be at a level where others can hear it on the bus.
- Students will not be allowed to wear headphones that might hinder their safety when exiting a bus.
- Students will follow the general rules listed below while on the school bus.
 - 1** No bullying **2** No fighting, tripping, shoving, yelling, or horseplay **3** No cursing or abusive language

Consequences (Bus Discipline)

1st offense – The parent will be made aware of the problem, student conference, and review of the bus rules

2nd offense – In-school detention or bus riding privileges may be suspended up to three (3) days

3rd offense – Bus riding privileges suspended for five (5) days

4th offense – Bus riding privileges suspended for ten (10) days (Parent must meet with administration before student will be allowed back on a bus)

5th offense – Loss of bus riding privileges for up to the remainder of the year (At least 4 weeks)

The principal or dean of students reserves the right to override the sequence of consequences for behavior that is considered severe. Students cannot ride an alternate bus during the suspension. Riding a school bus is a privilege and that privilege can and will be removed if the student cannot follow the rules. The parent/guardian will be responsible for transporting any student who has lost their bus privileges. **(See policy 4.19)**

DRUG TESTING

The Lamar School District recognizes that chemical abuse or misuse is a significant health problem for students and that all students who represent the district in extra-curricular activities should be encouraged and supported in their efforts to develop a chemical-free lifestyle. (*Driving to school and parking on the school campus is an extracurricular activity and as such any student driving to school will be under the same policy of random drug testing as all other students who choose to participate in activities outside the regular curriculum.*) The board of education is determined to help students by providing another option for them to say “NO.” Chemical abuse includes, but is not limited to, the use of illegal drugs, alcohol, and the misuse of legal drugs and medications. Lamar School District is conducting a mandatory drug-testing program for students in all extracurricular programs grades 7-12.

Definitions

Third Party Administrator (TPA): (also referred to as a “service agent”), manages all or part of your company's non-DOT or DOT drug and alcohol testing program.

Chain of Custody Form: a form used in the process that tracks the movement of evidence through its collection, safeguarding, and analysis lifecycle by documenting each person who handled the evidence, the date/time it was collected or transferred, and the purpose for the transfer.

Medical Review Officer (MRO): a person who is a licensed physician and who is responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by an employer's drug testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.

Athletic Director: Lamar School District Employee over AAA events and other extracurricular activities

Extracurricular Activity: Any activity that meets the guidelines of the Arkansas Activities Association or any other organization and/or activity recognized by Lamar School. Activities may include but are not limited to: Band, Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cheerleading, Choir, Cross Country, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, Football, Golf, Trap Team, Softball, Track, Volleyball *May include others not yet formed or not yet listed.

School Year: From the first day of classes in the fall, unless the activity begins prior to the first day of classes, in which event from the first day of practice through the last day of classes in the spring.

Building Administrator: High School Principal, Dean of Students. or any administrator designated by the superintendent in the absence of the high school principal

Urinalysis: A urine drug test, or urinalysis, is a common way to find out if someone has recently used illegal drugs. You may need to take a urine test for an employer, sports team, or other reasons.

Illegal drugs: any substance, including alcohol, considered illegal by Arkansas Statutes or which is controlled by the Food and Drug Administration unless prescribed by a licensed physician.

Quantitative Drug Analysis: exact amounts confirmed by Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry (GCMS)

Purposes

1. To assist students to resist peer pressure to use drugs.
2. To establish a high standard of conduct for students who represent the school and the community.
3. To establish standards of conduct for students of Lamar Schools who are considered leaders among their peers.
4. To work cooperatively with parents/guardians by assisting them in keeping their children/students free from mood-altering chemicals.
5. To assist students who need to be referred for assistance or evaluation regarding their use of illegal drugs.
6. To support laws relative to the use of alcohol and controlled substances.

Scope

The provisions of this policy apply to students in the Lamar School District in grades seven through twelve. No student will be allowed to participate in any extracurricular school activity (any activity outside the regular curriculum) until the consent form has been signed by both student and custodial parent-legal guardian and returned to school. Positive screening results are considered cumulative and follow the student for the duration of enrollment of the Lamar School District.

Prescription Medication

The existence of lawfully prescribed medication in the student's sample is not a violation of this policy when taken in accordance with a physician's recommendation or prescription to a specific student. The parent/guardian will be responsible to obtain an MRO, if needed, to verify prescription medications. The parent/guardian will be responsible for the cost of the MRO.

Procedures

- Each student must have a signed student/parental/guardian consent form as a requirement for participation in any extracurricular activity and the drug testing program. Failure to provide the signed consent form will result in the student being prohibited from participating in such activities until the form is signed and submitted to the school.
- No student shall be penalized academically for testing positive for alcohol or controlled substances. The results of tests pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records.
- There will be four random drug screenings conducted each school year on students that have been determined to be involved in extracurricular activities in grades 7-12.
- The building administrator will provide an updated list of students identified as students

involved in extracurricular activities to the TPA. This will be updated before each of the random screening dates.

- The TPA will utilize their own software to randomly select 30 students
- The TPA will randomly select an additional 10 students as alternates, for those students that are absent
- All student test documentation and information will be confidential between the school district, the student, their parent/guardian, and the TPA.
- If a student is one of the 30 random selections, but is absent the day of the screening, another student will be pulled from the 10 alternates provided. The alternative will be taken from the top of the list with no exceptions.
- The building administrator and superintendent will be the only people notified of the date of the random screenings
- All students will be called to the cafeteria and will be worked with individually to complete their Chain of Custody Form
- Any student refusing to provide a urine sample will automatically be placed on probation for 30 days and will be required to test at the next random screening, as if they were positive. Students will not be allowed to check out once the names are called but may be moved to the front of the line to allow them to leave as quickly as possible. A student that leaves after the names are called, and are on the random list, will be determined to be refusing to participate in the screening.
- The TPA will have the student complete a Chain of Custody Form verifying their identification
- Student identification may be verified by student and the athletic director or the building administrator
- A urinalysis will be the method utilized to test for the presence of chemicals in the body.
- The student will be provided a sample collection cup and will enter a restroom alone to collect their sample
- The student will provide their sample of urine in the collection cup to the TPA
- The TPA will determine if the student has provided an adequate quantity or if they will have to wait to provide an additional sample.
- The TPA will pour the sample into a vial.
 - The TPA will ask the student if they are the person identified on the chain of custody form
 - Once verified a Tamper Evident Security Seal will be placed on top of the vial
 - The student will be required to initial the top of the seal to prove the process occurred
- All samples will be collected and stored safely until the TPA sends them off overnight to Quest Diagnostics
- The TPA will email all of the results to the building administrator, once the TPA receives results on “all” of the student samples collected.

Consequences of a Positive Test

First Offense

Any student, for a first offense, who has received a positive test result from the TPA/Quest Diagnostics, will be on probation for (30) thirty calendar days, effective the day the student is notified by the building administrator/athletic director/superintendent assigned designee. During probation, the student may not practice or participate in extracurricular activities. This includes driving to school and parking on school owned property. On the 31st calendar day, after the student received notification of the positive result, the student may return to normal extracurricular activities. The date of notification and the date of the student's return from probation will be recorded so that there is no question which day the student may return to normal activities. Once a student receives a positive result it will be mandated that they be retested at the next scheduled random testing. The student that has received the positive result will not be considered part of the random selection provided by the TPA.

Second Offense

A positive drug test for a student on probation or who has previously been on probation for a positive test will result in the student loss of participation privileges in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year or six months, whichever is greater.

Third Offense

A positive drug test by a student who has had two prior offenses will result in the student being prohibited from participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of his/her enrollment in the Lamar School District.

1. The district recognizes that there is the possibility of trace residual drugs in students who have previously tested positive. This will be taken into consideration when determining second and third offenses. Quantitative results will need to be obtained for proof and any outside cost for this proof will be transferred to the parent/guardian of the student with the positive result.
2. Any student refusing to submit to a drug test will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year or six months, whichever is greater.
3. Student drug test results will be maintained by the high school building principal in a secure location at the district office. Only the building principal, athletic director, and the superintendent, or a designated administrator by the superintendent, will have access to the files. Records will be destroyed within six months of the student's high school graduation.

Additional Notes: Lamar School District will no longer be requiring a negative result to return to the student's extracurricular activity at the end of the thirty days of suspension. Students that have received a positive result from Quest Diagnostics will automatically be pulled at the next drug screening date. If a student receives a positive result from the final drug screening for that

school year, that student will be pulled automatically at the first random screening in the following school year.

Appeals Process

All actions for student violations of the drug testing policy may be appealed by the student utilizing the district’s appeals process. If the appeal requires the use of an MRO or a quantitative drug analysis, the parent/guardian will be responsible for any additional cost to the Lamar School District. (See Policy 4.41F)

Lamar School District Positive Result Documentation Form		
Student Name		
Parent/Guardian Nam		
Phone Number		
	Date	Initial of Recorder
Random Screening		
Positive Result from TPA		
Notified Student and Parent		
30th Day of Probation		
Student's Return to Normal Activities		
Date Student Received Next Drug Screening		

ACADEMICS

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT PRACTICES

Grading practices should be fair, transparent, and aligned with learning objectives, focusing on students' mastery of content rather than compliance-based factors. Teachers are responsible for timely and accurate documentation of student progress in accordance with school guidelines. Lesson planning must be thoughtful, standards-driven, and collaborative—developed in partnership with PLC collaborative teams, with an emphasis on using student data to guide instruction, adjust pacing, and address learning gaps. The following grading system will be used by Lamar High School in accordance with the Arkansas State Law using the grading scale provided: 100-90- A, 89-80-B, 79-70-C, 69-60-D, 59-0-F.

No more than 50% of these grades will come from summative assessment such as tests and quizzes. Teachers will collect a variety of evidence, including classwork, performance tasks, formative checks, and summative assessments, all aligned to specific standards. All teachers will follow this unified grading approach to ensure consistent communication and equitable learning opportunities across the district.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The following system will be used to figure student grade point averages with respect to club, organization, and athletic participation as well as Honor status.

Advanced Placement/Concurrent -Grading Scale			Standard Credit Grading Scale	
90 -100	A	5.00	A	4.00
80 - 89	B	4.00	B	3.00
70 - 79	C	3.00	C	2.00
60 - 69	D	2.00	D	1.00
0 - 59	F	0.00	F	0.00

The cumulative grade point average (GPA) is quotient of the sums of the assigned grade equivalents and the classes completed. Exclude ALL physical education grades except for the PE/Health grades required in the 9th grade. GPA is calculated to the nearest hundredth.

HOMEWORK

Homework shall promote the development of students' independent study skills and work to be done outside the classroom which will reinforce and strengthen academic skills. Homework is assigned when individual or class needs can be best met through its use. Homework may be make-up work as a result of an absence. It may consist of additional assignments designed to help children work up to their abilities. Homework provides an opportunity for growth in responsibility and should not be viewed as punishment, but rather as an avenue through which learning is extended.

HONOR ROLL

To be considered for the honor roll in grades 9-12, students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average in all courses combined and be working toward completion of core curriculum classes.

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

Following excused absence(s), a student may be allowed one (1) school day per number of days missed from the date of the assignment or from the date of return to school to make up any missed assignment or examination. Approved school sponsored student activities may be considered excused absences. Students are responsible for scheduling make-up assignments and examinations with their teacher(s) on the first day of the student's return to school. If there are extenuating circumstances, written administrative approval may be given for an exception. Upon day 7 if the student is still missing work the student will be assigned Saturday School.

REPORT CARDS/ PROGRESS REPORTS/ PARENT CONFERENCE

Each student's progress is reported to parents at the end of each quarter. Grade reports will be distributed in a timely manner at the end of each grading period as determined by the district administration. Progress reports will be sent to parents during the fifth week of each quarter. Parent/Teacher conferences will be scheduled at least one time each semester per Arkansas Code. All parents are encouraged to attend.

TESTING

Students will not have semester tests unless the option is chosen for any AP or concurrent course. Teachers are allowed to give nine-week or cumulative tests but exemptions will not be given nor will tests be given any additional value of the student's grade. Students will be required to take district administered tests as needed.

STUDENT CLASS LOAD AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

The daily schedule of each student is on file in the principal's office. Schedules will be changed through the principal's office or the counselor's office only, and teachers will not accept changes without a schedule change slip that has been signed by the counselor or the principal. Class schedule changes will be limited to the designated time before school starts in the fall and up to the first week of school commencing, and changes for the spring semester will take place the last week of the semester in the fall before we leave for Christmas break.

COLLEGE DAYS

Seniors and juniors are allowed two days each school year to visit college campuses. Campus visits must be prearranged through the counselor's office. Documentation of visit is required.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All seniors will meet the LHS requirements of having passed 23 credits (Class of 2026-2028) or 22 credits with an additional 1(one) credit of Introduction to Business (Class of 2029 and on) with all state required courses that must be completed to participate in graduation exercises. If a senior fails a course required for graduation during the fall semester, the senior will be required to make up the failed course in APEX during the spring semester. If the senior fails a course during the spring semester, the senior will make up the failed course during the summer in APEX. The senior will not be allowed to walk in the graduation exercises. Students' attendance and grades will be closely monitored and evaluated throughout the year in order to guide and advise students and parents. (See 4.45.1 and 4.45.2)

HONOR GRADUATES

All honor graduates, including the valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s), will be determined based on the 5-point grading scale system provided in policy. (In the event it becomes necessary to distinguish grade point averages beyond the hundredths place to the right of the decimal, distinguishing for the top two rankings will be made by extending the grade point average up to five places to the right of the decimal point.) The student's grade point average will be based on eight (8) semesters of academic accomplishment, beginning with the first semester of the freshman year of high school.

In order to qualify for valedictorian, salutatorian, or honor graduate, or to qualify for membership in the National Honor Society or its equivalent, student must successfully complete the minimum core of courses recommended by the State Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education, pursuant to Arkansas Code Ann.6-61-217; Students who complete requirements for graduation at the end of their senior year are eligible to be honor graduates.

Honor graduates must have an overall grade point average of not less than 3.25 at the end of the 8th semester. The honor graduate with the highest academic grade point is designated the valedictorian and the second highest academic grade point will be the salutatorian. The student must have been enrolled in Lamar High School for all four semesters of their junior and senior years. Honor Graduate recognition cords for graduation will be based upon the following criteria:

- Tier 1: Distinguished Academic Honors – completed 4 or more AP/Concurrent Credit courses, 4.000 plus GPA. Cords will be Gold/Silver/Black (Tied)
- Tier 2: Superior Academic Honors – completed 4 or more AP/Concurrent Credit courses, 3.750-3.999 GPA. Cords will be Gold/Silver/Black
- Tier 3: High Academic Honors – completed 3 or more AP/Concurrent Credit courses, 3.500 GPA. Cords will be Gold/Silver
- Tier 4: Academic Honors – 3.250 and up GPA. Cords will be Gold

EARLY GRADUATION

Students interested in graduating early should submit a completed early graduation request packet to the LHS Counselor no later than April 1 of their sophomore year. A student must have completed 16 credits by the end of the sophomore year to be considered for early graduation. Courses will not be offered out of sequence for the purpose of graduating early. A conference will be held with the student, the student’s parent/guardian, the student’s counselor, and the high school principal to review the request. Students must agree and adhere to the guidelines of the early graduation application and meet all graduation requirements.

LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL REQUEST FOR EARLY GRADUATION

STUDENT NAME: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME(S): _____
REQUESTED GRADUATION DATE: _____

The following must be attached to this application:

- 1. Letter from student stating reason(s) why he/she is requesting early graduation from high school and how he/she plans to earn the required credits needed for early graduation.
- 2. Letter from parent/guardian in support of student’s request and plan to meet the requirements for early graduation from high school
- 3. All coursework must be completed by the requested date for early graduation. If coursework is not completed by that date, the student will be enrolled in a seven period schedule and will not receive credit until his/her regularly scheduled graduation date.

The student and his/her family agree to assume all financial obligations associated with the request for early graduation. A student who graduates early from Lamar High School will receive a transcript within five school days after proof of completion for all coursework is received in the counseling center. The student will receive a diploma in the spring of his/her regularly scheduled graduation year. The parent/guardian of a student who graduates early from Lamar High School assumes all responsibility for college transition. This includes, but is not limited to, college admission, financial aid, transfer credits, and NCAA Clearinghouse compliance. Any modifications to this agreement must be mutually agreed upon by the student, the student’s parent/guardian, and the high school principal.

***STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT AND SIGNATURES**

*I have read and understand the information concerning early graduation from Lamar High School. I have received a copy of this document, and I agree to follow its terms and conditions.

Student Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Counselor Signature Date

Principal Signature Date

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

CELL PHONE POLICY

Possession/Use of Cellular Phones

ACT 122

Students are not permitted to use cell phones or personal electronic devices while on campus during school hours (7:20-3:30). This policy is in compliance with [Arkansas Law](#) or the “Bell to Bell, No Cell Act”

The rise of cell phone and social media use by young people is leading to unintended and, at times, harmful consequences to the academic and mental well-being of young people; and students, parents, teachers, and education leaders are grappling with the tension between protecting students' safety, well-being, and learning experiences while allowing safe and reasonable access to new, innovative tools for communication. We need to offer solutions to the challenges posed by the use of cell phones and social media by young people in order to provide safe school environments that are conducive to learning while also protecting the rights of students and parents to freely and openly communicate.

Definitions

Emergency: a serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate action, including without limitation: an active fire; an active tornado or earthquake; an active shooter; an evacuation of school grounds; or a medical emergency.

Personal electronic device: without limitation a cellular telephone; paging device; beeper; mobile telephone that offers advanced computing and internet accessibility; digital media player; portable game console; tablet, notebook, or laptop computer; digital camera; and digital video or audio recorder; smart watch; and device that can connect and transmit data through Bluetooth technology.

School day: from the time students are required to be at school until the time students are dismissed from school.

By the 2025-2026 school year, Lamar School District shall establish a policy and exemptions concerning the possession and use by a student of a personal electronic device during the school day on school property and at a school-related function. Lamar School District shall submit its policy and exemptions concerning the possession and use by a student of a personal electronic device to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education for review and approval or disapproval. The policy shall, without limitation, **restrict the possession** and **prohibit the use** of a personal electronic device during the school day. **Exemptions for the possession and use** of a personal electronic device shall be made for a student who is required to use such a device for health reasons, after a school day for extracurricular activities, during an emergency, during the school day if the personal electronic device is issued to a student by Lamar School District. A policy adopted and implemented may include an exemption of the possession or use of a

personal electronic device by a student during a special event that occurs during the school day. DESE shall promulgate rules defining what constitutes a special event that occurs during the school day. A student shall not be prohibited from using a personal electronic device during the school day if the use of the personal electronic device is included in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) developed under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Plan developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or required for a student who is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at an institution of higher education in order to utilize two-factor authentication to access course work and resources for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course.

Lamar School District shall publish on its website its personal electronic device policy required under this section before the first day of the school year. If Lamar School District fails to adopt or enforce the personal electronic device policy required under this section, as determined by the division, it shall be cited for a violation of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.

Lamar School District shall not be liable for a personal electronic device that is confiscated under the public school district's or open-enrollment public charter school's personal electronic device policy required under this section if the personal electronic device is lost, stolen, or damaged.

Use and misuse of cell phones has become a serious issue that threatens the ability of the Lamar School District to properly and efficiently operate its education program. Below are some examples of how cell phones can adversely affect the classroom and detract from school safety and crisis preparedness.

Text messaging and social media has become a serious deterrent to student learning. Cell phones can be used to exploit personal information and compromise the integrity of educational programs. These phones can be used to take inappropriate photos of people, i.e. locker rooms, restrooms, etc. Cell phones have been used to cheat on tests in classrooms. Cell phone systems typically overload during a major crisis and usage by a large number of students at once could add to the overload and knock out cell phone systems more quickly than may normally occur. Since cell phones may be a backup communication for school administrators and crisis teams, widespread student use in a crisis could thus hamper crisis team emergency communication tools in a very short period at a critical time.

Lamar High School will follow Arkansas law and restrict student use and possession of cell phones, in an attempt to provide the best possible learning environment for all students. From the time the first school bell rings to the time the last school bell rings, students are forbidden from operating cell phones. Students may carry cell phones in their backpack as long as they are out of sight during unapproved times and silenced at all times. Phones are not to be out or in use during

transition to any classes or to and from lunch or in the restrooms. Exceptions may be made by the building principal or his/her designee for health or other compelling reasons. Students operating cell phones during prohibited times or misusing their cell phones during allowable times will have them confiscated. Confiscated cell phones must be picked up at the school's administration office by the student on the first offense or by the student's parent or guardian only on additional offenses.

Violations of this policy will result in the following repercussions:

*1st offense - Loss of phone/electronic device for the day and student may pick up phone/electronic device in office at end of day. Parent may be contacted.

*2nd offense and on - Loss of phone for the day and parents/guardians pick up the phone.

INTERNET USAGE

LHS students will have access to the Internet at school to help them learn and explore new topics. This access is provided through a secure computer account managed by the Lamar Public School District. Just like in the classroom, students are expected to behave responsibly and follow school rules when using the Internet. The school district monitors online activity to help keep students safe and ensure responsible use. To use the Internet, each student must have a signed computer-use agreement on file. This form must be signed by a parent or guardian. Internet access is a privilege, not a right—it comes with the responsibility to use it wisely.

CHROMEBOOKS/ COMPUTER USE

LHS students will be issued a chromebook at the beginning of school. Students are expected to follow the rules and regulations at all times. The devices will be used for assigned work, viewing email, and limited personal research. Students must only log in their school-issued login and password. **(See policy 4.47)**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Lamar School District will follow all Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) rules of eligibility. Any student in the District meeting age and grade requirements by the ADE and AAA may participate in extracurricular activities. Students may participate in a student organization when meeting the requirements for the organization. All students are encouraged to participate in those clubs and activities for which they have an interest.

In addition to the ADE and AAA rules of eligibility, each student must be given permission from each his or her teachers stating that the student/athlete is maintaining regular attendance and acceptable academic performance. Violations of the disciplinary code may result in suspension from extracurricular activities for a specified period of time. Students suspended for any reason will not be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activities and will not be allowed to participate in any field trips either associated with academic or extracurricular activities for the duration of the suspension. Students must provide a signed release form by the parents before being allowed to leave campus on any approved trip. (See policy 4.56)

ORGANIZATIONS AND CLUBS

Membership Rules

1. A student shall only be president, or its equivalent, of one club or activity. The president shall not hold any other offices.
2. A student shall not hold more than two offices without the permission of the sponsors of each club.
3. There shall be no limitations of the number of clubs or activities in which a student participates.

Student Council

The purpose of this organization shall be to develop attitudes of, and practice in, good citizenship; promote harmonious relations throughout the school; improve student-teacher relation; improve school morale; help in the management of the school clubs and organizations; and promote the general welfare of the school. The Student Council shall consist of 4 representatives from each class (9th-12th). The election of various class representatives shall take place approximately the third week of April before the start of the year for which the term begins.

Homecoming Queen

The girls will be selected from each class grades 9-12 by the student body. There will be three representatives from the senior class and two from all other classes. The queen will be selected

from the senior nominees, voted on by the student body, and the remaining girls nominated will serve as maids. The same girl cannot be elected queen of more than one event within the same school year. There is zero tolerance for campaigning and will result in withdrawal of nomination.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)

Purpose- The purpose of this FBLA chapter is to provide as an integral part of the instructional program additional opportunities for secondary students in business and office education to develop vocational and career-supportive competencies and to promote civic and personal responsibilities.

Membership – Active members shall be secondary students who accept the purpose of FBLA, subscribe to its creed, and demonstrate willingness to contribute to good school-community relations. Active members shall pay dues as established by FBLA and may participate in all events in accordance with the guidelines of the National organization.

Cheerleaders

Lamar School will have two cheerleading squads. One squad will be selected from Senior High students (grades 10-12) and one squad selected from Junior High students (grades 7-9). Each squad must be sponsored by an approved employee of the school and will operate under the constitution approved by the administration and other such regulations as may be designated by the sponsor and approved by the administration. To be eligible for tryouts, a student must follow the guidelines required by Arkansas Activities Association and have their parent's permission. The purpose of the organization is to promote school loyalty and pep and to set examples of conduct and spirit for the entire student body.

FFA (Future Farmers of America)

The Future Farmers of America is an organization for students who are enrolled in, or have been enrolled in, classes of Vocational Agriculture. The FFA is the national organization of, by and for students of vocational agriculture/agribusiness. Since the founding of the National FFA organization in 1928, it has been a program of vocational/agribusiness for students who are enrolled or have been enrolled in classes of vocational agriculture. The FFA chapter at Lamar was chartered in 1941.

FCCLA

FCCLA is an integral part of the home economics curriculum, established to expand educational experiences and provide opportunities for students beyond the classroom, with interrelated projects and activities. Leadership training is a primary focus of FCCLA. Any student presently enrolled or who has had one course of home economics previously and pays his/her dues to the home economics teacher will be an affiliated member. Affiliated members shall be eligible to hold office, make motions, vote, and participate in off-campus activities and fund-raising

campaigns. Non-affiliated members will be all members of home economics classes who choose not to pay dues but will participate in interrelated classroom projects and activities.

Senior Beta Club

The name of the organization shall be the Lamar High School Chapter of the National Beta Club. This chapter of the National Beta Club is an integral part of the central organization of the National Beta Club, and shall be governed by the academic and financial policies laid down in the National Constitution of the central organization of the National Beta Club. Its coats-of-arms, motto, colors, creed, and official insignia shall be those of the National Organization of the National Beta. The purpose of this organization shall be the promotion of scholarship, leadership, and good citizenship at Lamar High School. The membership of this organization shall be made up from among the students of 10-12 grades at Lamar High School who because of their worthy character, good mentality, creditable achievement, and commendable attitude, have been approved for membership by the licensed advisor of Lamar High School Beta Club, provided of course, that these students meet the requirements set forth in the by-laws of this organization:

- Hold a 3.5 cumulative GPA
- Be a leader by serving others and always acting with integrity

Beta Club members will be put on probation for one semester if their cumulative GPA drops below the 3.5 or if they receive ISD, suspension, or expulsion. If they receive ISD, suspension, or expulsion for a second time or do not bring up their GPA, they shall be removed as a club member.

Spanish Club

The purpose of the Spanish Club is to provide opportunities to enhance the students' knowledge of Spanish language and to further their understanding of the Hispanic culture. The only requirement for the club is the desire to learn about Hispanic culture.

F.A.C.E. Club

Friends Advocating Cheer & Encouragement Club is fitting for the club name.

The purpose of the club is to encourage the school body to be more uplifting towards all individuals; to spread kindness; to form bonds and relationships; to strengthen ties between faculty and students in the district.

Other Clubs

Christian Student Union (CSU), History Club, Literary Guild, Partner's Club, Science Olympiad, Theatre, Chess Club

- Each club has their own bylaws and possible fees.

SCHOOL SAFETY

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

Should it become necessary that school be closed due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions, the Lamar School District will attempt to notify the general public using the district's telephone messaging system as well as local media and social media.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

The Lamar School District has adopted a number of procedures that are designed to specify actions to be followed during specified emergency conditions. Drills will be conducted randomly once a month throughout the school year to familiarize students and staff members with appropriate procedures. **(See Policy 4.37)**

SCHOOL SAFETY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

LHS will practice procedures of the "I Love U Guys" Foundation's Standard Response Protocol (SRP), which is a safety framework adopted by schools nationwide to ensure clear and consistent communication during emergencies. It uses simple, action-based language to guide students, staff, and first responders to different types of threats or hazards, such as medical emergencies, external dangers, or internal threats. The standard response protocol is designed to be easy to understand and implement, helping to keep students safe and informed during critical situations.

Students and teachers will be trained in the protocols regularly and will engage in drills throughout the course of the year. For the safety of everyone on campus, all parents and visitors who are present during a school safety drill or emergency procedure are kindly expected to follow along and participate with staff and students. Your cooperation helps us ensure that everyone knows what to do and stays safe in any situation. We truly appreciate your support in keeping our school community prepared and protected