2026-2027

LAKEWOOD RANCH HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK

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Table of Contents

Section 1: Student Rights & Responsibilities 1

Notice of Nondiscrimination 1
Pledge of Allegiance 1
Mission Statement 1
Vision Statement 1
School Spirit 1
Alma Mater 2
Fight Song 2
Parent Support Tips 2
In Loco Parentis 2
Freedom of Expression 3

Section 2: Attendance 4

Attendance Policy 4
Notifying Absence 4
Sign-In/Out 4
Assignments from Absences 5
Skipping 5
Activity Eligibility 6

Section 3: Policies & Procedures 7

Bus Transportation 7
Cafeteria Rules 7
School Care 7
Change of Address 8
Records, Transcripts & Withdrawal..... 8
Tardy Policy 8
Delivery of Items to School 9
Hall Passes 9
Student Debt Collection..... 9
Medication Guidelines 10
Discipline Code 11
Breach of Conduct 11
Harassment & Hazing 12
Hazing 13
Smoking/Tobacco/Vaping/Nicotine 13

Student ID Information..... 13
Suspended Students 15
Video Surveillance 15
Dress Code 16
Prom & Homecoming Info 17
Parking Lot Information 17
Driving and Parking Information 18
Section 4: Technology Information 20
Technology Policy 20
Network Guidelines 20
Cell Phone Policy 22
Electronic Devices 22
Multimedia 23
Section 5: Academics 24
Graduation Requirements 24
GPA 24
Grades 25
Progress Reports & Exams 25
LRHS College and Career 25
Financial Aid & Scholarships 26
Honor Code 27
National Honor Society 28
Plagiarism 29
Schedule Change Policy 30
Testing 30
Section 6: Athletics & Clubs 32
Athletic Teams 32
NCAA Clearinghouse 32
Athletic Policies 32
Athletic Eligibility 33
Athletic Questions/Concerns..... 34
Injuries 34
Student and School Responsibilities 34
Athletic Training Rules.....35
Cut Athletes.....35
Athletic Suspension.....35
Quitting Team/Squad.....35
Criminal Offenses.....36

Athletic Awards.....37
Summer Participation.....37
Student Clubs/Activities 37

Section 1: Student Rights & Responsibilities

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The School Board of Manatee County does not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on race, sex, sexual orientation, color, religion, age, national origin or disability. Written complaints of discrimination or harassment may be filed with the Human Resources Department at the School Board of Manatee County, P.O. Box 9069, Bradenton, FL 34206 or call 941-708-8540.

Pledge of Allegiance

F.S. 1003.44 requires the Pledge of Allegiance be recited at the beginning of each school day. When the national anthem is played or the pledge is recited, students and all civilians shall stand at attention, men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious reasons. When the pledge is recited, students shall stand with the right hand over the heart. With a written request by a student's parent or guardian, a student will be excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing the right hand over his or her heart. When the pledge is given, unexcused students must show full respect to the flag by standing at attention. When the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Color Guard presents the colors for the national anthem or Pledge of Allegiance at a school or district function, the audience is asked to rise before the procession begins from the back of the room. The audience remains standing after the pledge or anthem and during the entire time the Color Guard walks to the back of the room. The audience remains standing until the Color Guard is dismissed.

Mission Statement

Lakewood Ranch High School, with the support of staff, parents, and the community, will strive to inspire each student to recognize and achieve his or her maximum individual potential through academic excellence, personal integrity, and responsible citizenship.

Vision Statement

The vision of Lakewood Ranch High School is provide students a rigorous educational experience that equips them for college or career readiness in a global job market.

School Spirit

School spirit may be divided into three categories:
COURTESY - toward school staff, fellow students, the officials of school athletic activities, and participants in school assemblies and pep rallies.
PRIDE - in everything our school endeavors to accomplish and has already accomplished.

SPORTSMANSHIP - the ability to win and lose gracefully. A loyal student supports his/her school and does the utmost to keep his/her scholastic and activity standards at the highest possible level.

Alma Mater

To Lakewood Ranch we stand and sing, and praise to alma mater bring.
Ever will our hearts to thee be pledged in love and loyalty.
Friendships true and memories dear will live throughout each coming year.
Through the years we'll always stand and pledge our hearts to Lakewood Ranch.

Fight Song

Go Lakewood Ranch High. Break right through that line.
With our colors flying,
we will cheer you all the time.
Go Mustangs!
Go Lakewood Ranch High.
Fight for victory!
Spread far the fame of our fair name. Go you Mustangs win that game!

Parents Can Help Students Be More Successful By…

- encouraging students to attend school daily and be on time
- identifying a specific time and place to study every day
- encouraging students to complete homework and school assignments in a thorough and timely manner
- encouraging students to get involved in a variety of school activities
- supporting school and classroom policies and procedures
- communicating with teachers and staff before a problem arises
- fostering respect, integrity, and personal responsibility
- monitoring student technology use

In Loco Parentis

In Loco Parentis State and federal law recognizes that teachers and school administrators have a need to stand in the place of parents over children entrusted to them at school. This is a concept called in loco parentis. This concept is reasonable for the fact that school personnel can search without a warrant based on reasonable suspicion and are not held to the higher standard of "probable cause" by which law 1/29/26 2026-2027 CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT | 5 enforcement is bound. It is also responsible for the fact that school personnel can interrogate a student without providing him or her with Miranda warnings or allowing the student to call a parent or attorney. (F.S. 1003.31)

Freedom of Expression

The free expression of student opinion is an important part of education in a democratic society. Students' verbal and written expression of private opinion is encouraged as long as it does not disrupt the educational process or interfere with the rights of others in the unique circumstances of the educational environment. Student(s) may be subject to disciplinary actions if there is a disruption to the academic environment.

- Distribution of written material, oral expression, or any other expressive activity (including the wearing of symbols, clothing, accessories, hairstyle or other personal effects) may be restricted where a disruption of the educational environment/process is likely to result, or does result from such activity. Disruption includes:
- inability to conduct classes or school activities, or inability to move students to/from class or other activities
- breakdown of student order
- widespread shouting or boisterous conduct
- physical violence, fighting or harassment of any kind among students
- intimidation, harassment, or other verbal conduct (including swearing, disrespectful or insulting speech to students, teachers, administrators or school personnel) creating a hostile educational environment
- defamation or untrue statements
- Statements that attack ethnic, religious, gender or racial groups, or that tend to provoke a physical response, including gang symbols or apparel, insults, or other fighting words that could reasonably be anticipated to provoke a physical or otherwise disruptive response will result in suspension.
- student participation in a school boycott, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out or similar activity
- Speech likely to result in disobedience of school rules or health and safety standards (such as apparel advertising alcohol, drugs, tobacco, etc.)

Official school publications (such as newspaper, social media, or yearbook) and student expression that occurs under circumstances where it is sponsored or endorsed by the school (such as speech at student assemblies or dramatic productions) are not private speech of students. Rather, they are public communicative activities of the school, over which the school retains control to the extent permitted by the First Amendment and state statute. Such speech shall be subject to regulation not only under the standards set forth in the paragraph above, but also for any other legitimate educational reasons as determined by the school. Students who violate the standards for verbal and written expression shall be subject to corrective action or disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Section 2: Attendance

Attendance Policy

Attendance is a critical component for your child's success in the classroom. Florida Law requires each parent of a child less than 18 years of age to be responsible for the child's school attendance. Lakewood Ranch High School will notify parents if their child is absent from school three or more days each semester. Continued absences could result in the child being brought before the Juvenile Court to explain his/her absences. Attendance and truancy information can be here: School Board Policies | School District of Manatee County.

Notifying the School of an Absence

When a student is going to be absent from school, Lakewood Ranch High School asks each parent or guardian to call the school. Documentation should be provided to the school within 48 hours of the student's return to school. There are three ways to call in a student's absence

- Uploading a note into the FOCUS parent portal.
- Email to LRHSattendance@manateeschools.net
- The attendance phone number is 727-6100 Ext. 32011 and is available 24 hours a day. When you call, please give all of the information requested.

State law requires all absences to be unexcused unless they fall into the following documented reasons:

- absence for religious instruction or for a religious holiday
- absence due to sickness, injury or other insurmountable condition
- absence due to participation in an academic class or program
- subpoena or a forced absence by any government agency
- appointment with a doctor or dentist
- A School Board-approved activity.

A parent or guardian may excuse nine (9) days per school year. When you have reached your limit, official documentation is then required for every additional absence.

Sign-In/Sign-Out Procedures

If a student arrives at school after 7:30am, he/she should go to the Attendance Office and sign-in. With the proper state-mandated documentation or with parent sign-in (limited to 2 per quarter), the student will be given a pass and sent to class. Two excused morning sign-

ins per quarter will be allowed with a parent call to Attendance prior to 7:30am, a parent note, or parent accompanying student.

Students who show up on campus and do not sign in, but simply go to class next period, will be considered skipping and receive the appropriate consequence.

Students needing to leave campus for appointments during the day must bring a note to the Attendance Office prior to 7:30 AM that morning to receive a release. The note must contain student name, grade, parent/guardian's name and signature, home phone, work phone, brief explanation of reason, date and time to be released, and parent/guardian signature.

It can be hard to locate students (during lunch or when classes are working in other areas) when parents show up without advance notice. Only the note before school guarantees a timely release of the student.

Sign-out with parent permission may only be done through the clinic or attendance office. Once a student leaves campus, he/she may not return that day unless accompanied by a parent.

Students may not leave prior to the school receiving parent permission. If a student leaves campus without permission and the parent calls after the fact, the student will be considered "Leaving Campus without Authorization" and the appropriate consequence will be assigned, including suspension/revocation of parking privileges

Assignments from Absences

Make-up work is the responsibility of the student.

Work assigned prior to the absence is due to the day the student returns. Major assignments are due on the original due date.

Work assigned during the student's absence is due no later than the length of time (number of days) of the student's absence. This includes absences due to suspension.

If a student has prior knowledge of an absence, classwork and homework must be turned in prior to the absence, unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher to do so upon return. It is the student's responsibility to make the arrangements with their teachers.

Skipping class

A student will receive a zero for all classwork, tests, quizzes or assignments missed and the appropriate consequences will be assigned.

An unexcused absence will be treated as a skipped class with the same level of consequence.

Any major assignments or projects are due on the date assigned unless prior arrangements have been made with the teacher. It is the responsibility of the student to have the assignment or project brought to school on the due date.

First semester makeup work should be done within 2 weeks in order for the class rank to be accurate.

Attendance Required for Participation in School Activities

No student will be permitted to participate in school activities on any day that he/she has been absent from school for more than one-half of the school day (4 periods = half the school day). Suspended students are not eligible to be on campus or participate in any school activities. These activities include but are not limited to athletics, tutoring, clubs, school dances, concerts, etc.

Section 3: Lakewood Ranch High School Policies & Procedures

Bus Transportation

Lakewood Ranch High School supports all bus drivers in their attempt to maintain a safe environment on the school bus. Any referral from a school bus driver will be dealt with according to the District Code of Conduct and may be subject to removal from the bus. Transportation | School District of Manatee County

Cafeteria Rules

- No cutting in line or saving a place in line allowed.
- Students must be in line or seated, not standing and talking.
- Pick up only the food you are purchasing; you may not get food/drinks for other students.
- No passing of food/drinks in the lunch line.
- No throwing of food/drink items.
- Keep the noise at a conversational level.
- Remove your trays and trash from tables, place them in the recycling containers.
- If you spill food or drinks, please clean up.
- Use proper table etiquette.
- Cafeteria area seating is first come, first serve; saving seats is not permitted.
- Cell phone usage does not permit making phone calls or videotaping.
- Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, lunch detail, lunch detention, time-out, work detail, Extra School or suspension.

School Care

A school building is not a school until it is occupied by students. When a building becomes a school, it takes on character and meaning and expresses itself to the student body and visitors. The respect students give a building is reflected in its appearance.

It is a matter of personal and school pride that every student makes a commitment to help maintain the appearance of our school and grounds.

This commitment includes using common sense. Trash belongs in trash cans, food is to be eaten only in designated areas, graffiti has no place on campus, and gum belongs in the trash, not on desks, floors, or sidewalks. Do not spit on the sidewalks or walkways. The furniture and equipment in our school are for your use, not abuse. Help keep costs down for your parents and other taxpayers by taking good care of our school. Take pride in keeping the halls and grounds clean.

Change of Address

Any student who has a household move during the school year must record the change of address with the Registrar. Any change of telephone number should also be corrected in the same manner. The school uses FOCUS to communicate with families. The school must have up-to-date contact information.

School Records

Many records concerning student personnel are kept by the office. Federal law prohibits revealing this information to anyone without the student's permission. However, recommendations are frequently requested from teachers and administrators who are aware of the content of the student's record. A copy of your school records will be sent upon your request.

Transcripts

In all cases where students have transferred to Lakewood Ranch from another school, the office accepts only the transcript that is mailed directly from the office of the school previously attended.

A student graduating or withdrawing will be furnished a final transcript without cost. Transcripts may be requested with 5 days prior notification. Each transcript, other than the final one, will cost $3.00.

Withdrawal Procedures

If a student needs to withdraw from school, the enrolling parent or guardian must come to school and sign a withdrawal form. This cannot be done by telephone or by sending the form home. The parent must come to school in person.

Tardy Policy

Tardy to class results in lost instructional time for the student and an interruption of the teaching and learning activities for others. The two-minute warning bell signals that students should be moving toward class. Students are expected to be **in** the class ready to learn by the start of the period bell.

Tardy Procedure

- When the tardy bell rings, teachers will close and lock doors.
- Tardy students who have been locked out must immediately proceed to the discipline office and will be issued a Tardy Detention slip.
- Students return to class with a Tardy Admit.

- Students who do not follow the procedure within 5 minutes will be considered skipping and will receive an additional consequence.
- Unexcused Tardies are cumulative, not per class.

Student tardies are monitored on a quarterly basis and result in progressive consequences.

- Up to 4 unexcused tardies in a quarter result in (1) detention consequence issued on the 4th tardy.
- Every additional set of 4 tardies thereafter results in 1 day of In-School suspension.
- Continued habitual tardiness may lead to further administrative consequences as determined by the school administration.

Early morning tardies (arrival before 7:45 AM) are not included in the tardy totals referenced above. Parents can excuse 2 early morning tardies each quarter. Early morning tardies are tracked separately and are addressed through a different process.

Hall Passes

Students in the halls during classes must carry an authorized signed pass or colored clipboard authorizing them to be out of class. Students sent to the Discipline Office must have a pass from the teacher. If a student is in the hallway without a pass, the student will be sent to the Discipline Office. No hall passes will be given during the first 10 minutes and the last 10 minutes of a class period.

Delivery of Items to School

Lakewood Ranch High School policies and procedures DO NOT allow delivery of any items to the school during regular school hours. Food share delivery services will not be accepted. These items include, but are not limited to, floral deliveries, food service, clothing, or athletic equipment. It is the responsibility of the students to bring everything needed for the school day.

If a parent needs to drop off an item, there is a space in the front office where a parent can leave the item. The front desk will not interrupt instruction by calling down a student for an item. The student can obtain a pass from a teacher, or use passing time to gather the item. Passes for tardiness will not be given.

Student Debt Collection

Students are financially responsible for all class, club, or team materials issued to them. They are expected to reimburse the school immediately when they owe money. Teachers will notify students and the parents that another book or equipment will not be issued until the debt is paid. If payment for any debt is not paid within five school days, the student will be referred to an Administrator.

Textbooks are issued to students at the beginning of each course. From time to time, a check on the condition of the books is made. Any book which is lost, mutilated, or damaged must be paid for by the student. Students do not receive diplomas until all textbooks assigned to them have been returned or paid for. If books show abuse, a reasonable charge is made. Any book assigned to a student MUST be paid for if lost or stolen.

ANY SENIOR OWING SCHOOL DEBTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND GRAD NITE OR PROM NOR WILL THEY BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY AND OTHER SUCH EVENTS UNTIL DEBTS ARE PAID.

Medication Guidelines

Philosophy: Medications for acute (active disease) or contagious illness should not be given in schools. Children should be at home under these conditions. Whenever possible medication schedules should be arranged so all medication is given at home. A student may possess and use a medication to relieve headaches while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a physician's note or prescription if the medication is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to treat headaches. A student must have the Authorization to Carry and Self Administer Over-the-Counter Headache Medication form completed and on file in order to carry any headache medication. The form can be found here: Authorization to Carry and Self Administer Over-the-Counter Headache Medication.

- All prescription and over the counter medications must be accompanied with a completed School District of Manatee County and Manatee County Health Department School Health Services Medication Authorization Form.
- Medication must be delivered by a parent or guardian to school in the container in which it was purchased or dispensed.
- If medication is taken at home and at school, a separate supply must be kept at school. Medication will not be transported between home and school on a daily or weekly basis. Please ask your pharmacist for a second container with a prescription label.
- The label must indicate the student's name, name of medication, physician's name, dosage amount and time or frequency.
- If the medication requires equipment for administration (i.e. spoon, cup, dropper) the parent is responsible for supplying the articles labeled with the student's name.
- A new Medication Authorization Form is required each school year or with any change in medication.
- When medication is discontinued or at the end of the school year, medication not taken home by the parent will be destroyed.
- Self Medication: Students who have a history of severe allergic reactions or asthma attacks may self-medicate and carry medication on their person if they have a

completed School District of Manatee County and Manatee County Health Department School Health Medication Authorization Form.
- Periodic backpack checks will be done throughout the school year. These guidelines were developed to meet Florida Statue: 232.46 and School Board Policy 508.01.

Discipline Code - Disciplinary Actions

All students must comply with the School District of Manatee County Student Code of Conduct, issued by the School Board. Lakewood Ranch High School expects all students to come to school and learn in a safe school environment. The staff will make every effort to work with students to accomplish this goal. Student discipline will be fair and consistent given the breach of conduct. Parent contact will be made at every opportunity to assist with any problems that may occur. Students must fulfill the disciplinary consequence. You can find more detailed information on discipline using the district website School Board Policies | School District of Manatee County.

Serious Breach of Conduct

When a student commits a serious breach of conduct, immediate suspension is permitted and expulsion may be recommended. The offenses listed below are some examples of those that constitute a serious breach of conduct by a student.

- Disorderly conduct resulting in the necessity for SRO intervention.
- Assault and/or battery on student or School Board employee.*
- Defiance of School board employee's authority.
- Contraband - any student who possesses, uses, handles, transmits or deals with contraband is subject to suspension and expulsion.
- Unauthorized possession, use, or a transfer of drugs and/or alcoholic beverages.*
- Knowingly possessing, using, displaying, carrying, storing, concealing, transmitting, intimidating with, or threatening to use, any firearm (or reasonable facsimile), knife, explosive or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the student while on school grounds, School Board property and facilities, building, school buses, motor vehicles on school or adjacent grounds or at any school-sponsored functions or School Board sponsored organized activity.*
- Sexual acts. A written or verbal proposition to engage in sexual acts.*
- Activating a fire extinguisher or fire alarm system.*
- Fighting/Extortion/Drug Selling/ Stealing/ Larceny/ Trespassing/ Bomb Threats/ Vandalism or any other illegal act.*
- Computer tampering
- Entering an unauthorized area.

Harassment

No one should be subjected to harassment or bullying at school for any reason. It is expected that all students will deal with all persons in ways that convey respect and consideration for individuals, regardless of race, marital status, national origin, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability.

Harassment in the form of name-calling, taunting, gestures, intimidation, conduct, jokes, pictures and slurs are prohibited. Such conduct referencing or directed at an individual or group that demeans the person/group on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, creed, age, disability or other extraneous factors is prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action for students guilty of harassment will be dependent upon, but not limited to, the student's attitudes, intent, the effect on other students and/or staff, mitigating circumstances, and the student's disciplinary history. Based on these factors, discipline may be imposed, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Racial harassment in the form of name-calling, taunting, gestures, intimidation, conduct, jokes, pictures and slurs is prohibited. Such conduct referencing or directed at an individual or group that demeans that person/group on the basis of race or ethnicity is prohibited and shall be grounds for disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion.

Sexual harassment includes all unwanted, uninvited and non-reciprocal sexual attention as well as the creation of an intimidating, hostile or offensive school or work environment.

This can include:

- sexually suggestive looks or gestures
- sexual jokes, pictures or teasing
- pressure for dates or sex
- sexually demeaning comments
- deliberate touching, cornering or pinching
- attempts to kiss or fondle
- threats, demands or suggestions that favors will be granted in exchange for sex or tolerance of sexual advances

Disciplinary action for students guilty of sexual harassment will be dependent upon, but not limited to, the student's attitudes, intent, the effect on other students and/or staff, mitigating circumstances, and the student's disciplinary history. Based on these factors, discipline may be imposed, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Law enforcement may be contacted.

Parents should monitor student technology use to ensure academic and behavioral expectations are met.

Hazing

Students shall not participate in or conspire for others to participate in harassing acts that may injure, degrade, disgrace, or put others at risk in any way. Hazing may result in suspension or expulsion.

The School Board of Manatee County does not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, age, national origin or disability. Written complaints of discrimination or harassment may be filed with these individuals at The School Board of Manatee County, P.O. Box 9069, Bradenton, FL 34206 or call 941-708-8540.

Smoking/Tobacco Products/Vaping/Nicotine Products

Smoking and the possession of tobacco or other smoking products (including, but not limited to, vapes, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco or electronic cigarettes) is prohibited on School District property. Items or contraband will be confiscated and law enforcement will be notified. Reasonable suspicion is needed for a search. Students must comply with all searches. Failure to fully comply may be grounds for school administration to infer that you are in possession of illegal items with consequences that follow.

In Loco Parentis State and federal law recognizes that teachers and school administrators have a need to stand in the place of parents over children entrusted to them at school. This is a concept called in loco parentis. While this power is not equal to a parent's power over a child, it permits school personnel to exercise a degree of supervision and control over students that could not be exercised over free adults. This concept is responsible for the fact that school personnel can search without a warrant based on reasonable suspicion and are not held to the higher standard of "probable cause" by which law enforcement is bound. It is also responsible for the fact that school personnel can interrogate a student without providing him or her with Miranda warnings or allowing the student to call a parent or attorney.

Student ID

Purpose

> The purpose for a "student ID card" policy is to ensure each student is readily identified as a Lakewood Ranch High School student and to identify and exclude those individuals who have no legitimate business on LRHS grounds during school hours. The wearing of the student ID card is MANDATORY during school hours.

Displaying

The ID card shall be worn around the neck and should not be obstructed by any garment, bag, etc. The card shall be worn on a lanyard. Failure to display an ID badge at any time will result in disciplinary action. All violations will be documented on a Quick Referral; students will be sent to discipline and given the following disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Actions:

1st violation – Verbal Warning - Call Parent - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
2nd violation –Call Parent – Detention - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
3rd violation – Call Parent – Detention - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
4th violation – Call Parent Issue 1 day ISS - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
5th violation – Call Parent Issue 2 days ISS - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
6th violation – Call Parent Issue 3 days ISS - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
7th violation – Call Parent Issue 4 days ISS - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)
8th violation – Call Parent Issue 5 days ISS - Issue Replacement ID (Cost $5.00)

Lost/Stolen ID Cards:

It is solely the responsibility of the student to account for the whereabouts of his/her ID card. Any lost or stolen card should be immediately reported to the discipline office. A new ID card will be issued at a cost of $5.00 payable to the bookkeeper. Lanyard is $1.00.

Defacing ID Cards:

The ID card continues to be the property of Lakewood Ranch High School and shall not be defaced. No pictures, writings, stickers, markings, drawings, etc. are to placed anywhere on the card. Depending on the amount of damages to the card, a new card may be issued at a cost of $5.00. In addition, disciplinary actions may be applied.

Non-Transferable:

The ID card is non-transferable and cannot be shared. Disciplinary actions shall apply, if a student uses the ID card of another student.

Restrictions:

All students must wear their LRHS ID cards in order to:

- Be in class
- Move between classes and to the restroom
- Buy lunch

- Borrow library books
- Obtain early dismissal
- Participate in school day campus activities

Suspended Students

Students suspended from school are not allowed to be on campus or attend off campus school related activities during the time of their suspension. Additional days of suspension may result or trespass charges may be filed.

It is the responsibility of the student to contact teachers to receive work during the time of the suspension. The student can call, email, or check the teacher's Schoology page. A student has the same number of days to complete work upon his return as his/her original suspension. For example, if a student is suspended for 3 days he/she will have 3 days upon their return to submit all work missed. This includes making arrangements and taking all missed tests/quizzes or a zero will be posted for those assignments.

Any major assignment or project is due on the original due date; students must make arrangements with teachers by the due date on major assignments.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities who are suspended for a total of 10 days (cumulative or single Level 4 incident) in a school year may not be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for a period of up to 180 calendar days.

A student may appeal the extra-curricular suspension in writing to the principal and athletic director. The appeal process will take into consideration the student's attendance, grades, discipline, teacher comments, any other pertinent information, and student interview during a parent conference. Should the suspension from extracurricular activities be changed to a period of time less than 180 calendar days, the student will be on probation until the conclusion of that time period.

Video Surveillance on School District Property

In order to maintain a safe environment for students, staff and the public and to control vandalism and criminal activity on school district property, the District has installed and will use video surveillance systems on school district sites. Closed circuit television cameras for the video surveillance system are located in open public spaces, on buses and possibly in classrooms under appropriate circumstances. Any request to view footage by a parent or guardian must be done at their expense. In some cases

NOTICE: Security cameras are in use at Lakewood Ranch High School in common areas, both inside and outside the buildings. Surveillance video may be used to determine appropriate student disciplinary actions, including suspensions, expulsions and legal proceedings.

Dress Code

Under F.S.1006.07 each district school board shall adopt a dress code policy that prohibits a student, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment. The dress and appearance of district students shall be neat and clean, promoting a safe and positive educational environment. Apparel that disrupts educational activities and processes of the school may result in the removal of the student from the regular learning environment until acceptable apparel can be secured for the student. Failure to comply with the dress code may result in disciplinary consequences outlined in state statute and the district discipline matrix.

Requirements for student dress in all schools are listed below:

- All shirts and blouses must cover the midriff, back, sides, and all undergarments, including bra straps at all times. All shirts, tops, and dresses shall have sleeves and cover the shoulders. Tops must extend below the waistband at all times. Clothing may not expose the midriff; no skin should be visible at the waist or abdomen.
- Shorts, skirts, skorts, and dresses are allowed. They must be mid-thigh length or longer.
- All trousers, pants, or shorts must completely cover undergarments and worn at the waist.
- All clothing, or body art, tattoos, nail art, shall not have: profanity, violent images, weapons, wording or suggestion; sexually suggestive phrases or images; alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or advertisements for such products.
- Students are not permitted to wear any items or display markings that are offensive, suggestive, indecent, or associated with gangs as identified under the Florida Gang Prevention Act of 1990 or as outlined in Florida Statute 874.
- Any jewelry or accessories that pose a safety risk may be required to be removed at the discretion of the principal or designee if concerns arise.
- Safe and appropriate footwear must be worn Inappropriate footwear includes, but is not limited to, roller skates, skate shoes, and bedroom slippers.
- Form-fitting leotard/spandex type clothing (to include shorts and leggings) are allowed with proper garments that cover to mid-thigh length or longer.
- See-through or mesh fabric clothing may only be worn over clothing meeting requirements.
- Sleepwear shall not be worn as outer garments.
- Blanket/blanket type items are not permitted to be on school grounds.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside unless a parent provides a doctor’s note to the school. Field trips are an exception.
- Hats or other head coverings may be worn during outside P.E. activities and may not be worn during any portion of the regular school day without the expressed permission of the principal.

Prom and Homecoming Dance Dress Code

Females

- Dresses are not to be shorter than mid-thigh. Slits higher than mid-thigh will not be permitted.
- Backless dresses are permitted as long as the back doesn't dip below the natural waistline.
- Keyholes or peek-a-boo openings are not acceptable.
- No part of the skin should be exposed in the midriff area.

Males

- Tie, dress slacks, and dress shoes are required. A coat is required for the Prom.
- No hats permitted.
- No denim clothing or shorts.

Prom and Homecoming Dance Guest Policy

LRHS students are permitted to bring 1 guest from another school to attend the Prom and/or Homecoming Dance. Guests must be registered as high school students or graduates under the age of 20, and they must have completed LRHS guest form prior to the designated deadline. There will be NO guest over the age of 20. LRHS administration has the authority to deny any student's request to bring a guest. No guest will be admitted at the door unless they have been approved through the guest form policy. Inappropriate or vulgar dancing and crowd surfing is prohibited.

All students and guests who attend the Prom and/or Homecoming dance must adhere to the LRHS Dance Dress Code Policy and rules, or they will not be permitted to enter the dance. Any student or guest that is suspected of being under the influence will be subject to removal and consequences.

Parking Lot Policy

The Manatee County School Board provides transportation for all students outside a two-mile radius from the school. Therefore, driving and parking on campus is a privilege. The following is a list of rules and regulations for Lakewood Ranch High School Junior and Senior student drivers.

1. Parking permits are required to park on campus. The application for a parking permit goes on sale in May. Check the school website for information. Permits are issued at the beginning of each school year. Funds from parking fees will be used to support our mission and vision as an Academic Powerhouse through the maintenance of, enhancements to, and the bolstering of academics, activities, clubs, and extra-

curriculars in regards to supervision, safety, security, campus beautification, equipment, technology, tutoring, conferences, celebrations, incentives, rewards, projects, supplies, furnishings, materials, copies, repairs, replacements, and transportation.

2. Along with a valid driver's license, insurance, and registration, a one-time payment is required to receive a parking pass. Permits are non- transferable.
3. All students must have any debt cleared before being approved for a parking permit
4. Students must park in designated LRHS student parking. Any student parked in an unauthorized area will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
5. Obey all traffic rules and regulations on campus and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. Follow the directions of the parking assistants. Reckless driving is unacceptable. Loud music is prohibited and may result in the suspension of the parking privilege.
6. We expect our student drivers to arrive at school on time, which means **being in the classrooms by 7:30**. Students should plan for additional time to go through the weapons detection system and to walk safely to class.
7. Once you park, you must enter the school building and go to the school courtyard. The school parking lot is not a "hang out". Students who linger in their vehicle and do not leave the parking lot in a reasonable amount of time will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
8. No one is allowed in the school parking lot during the day. If you sign out, a pass will be given to you.
9. Your car is not your locker. Passes will not be given to students to retrieve items from their car.
10. At the end of the day, when you go to your car, you are to leave campus immediately. Again, the school parking lot is not a "hang out". Students who do not leave the parking lot in a reasonable amount of time will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
11. Any problems in the student parking lot should be reported to the discipline office.
12. The school is not responsible for any damage or vandalism that occurs in the parking lot.
13. Students are not allowed to cross traffic anywhere on Mustang Alley. They must walk down to the end near the soccer fields to get to the parking lot.
14. Students must relinquish their pass if they refuse search of vehicle with reasonable suspicion or drive recklessly.

Driving - Discipline Consequences

Driving to school is a privilege not a right. Priority for parking is given to seniors and juniors. Students who drive on school grounds must show responsibility and maturity. Students will have their driving privileges suspended or revoked permanently for the following offenses:

- Excessive Tardies - any student who receives five (5) or more first-period cumulative tardies. Buses get here on time and those students who cannot drive must either ride a bus or find alternative transportation.

- LRHS student drivers who leave campus without permission may also have their driving privileges suspended according to the LRHS Parking Pass contract.
- Leaving Campus with Unauthorized Students - Any student driver who takes a student that is not authorized to leave will have their driving privileges suspended.

Driving Infractions may result in disciplinary action resulting in revocation of pass and/or other consequences.

- 1st Offense = 2 week suspension
- 2nd Offense = 30 day suspension.
- 3rd Offense = Pass is revoked permanently

Additional Parking Information:

Parking permits will be returned after the suspension from school is served.

Lost tags - A fee $5.00 be charges to replace a lost tag.

Auditorium Area - Assigned by administration.

Consult the discipline matrix for consequences related to parking in the wrong area.

The purpose of our sale is to support the school by raising money for funds that the school district cannot provide. Parking fee includes 7% sales tax. Funds raised from permit sales is under the principal's discretion and may be used to support student safety, student activities, school spirit, school supplies, scholarships, teacher leadership, professional development and training, student and faculty appreciation and recognition.

REFER TO THE STUDENT PARKING CONTRACT FOR ALL DETAILS NOT MENTIONED HERE

Section 4: Lakewood Ranch High School Technology

Technology Policy

Technology on Lakewood Ranch High School's campus is to be used for instructional purposes only. We ask that the following policies be adhered to so that the integrity of the school, the school's network, and the equipment will be maintained.

Altering grades and/or attendance records will result in student suspension or possible expulsion.

Installation of unauthorized software is prohibited. Copyright laws will be strictly enforced and observed.

Altering, deleting, or installing unauthorized software will result in student suspension.

Moving, reconfiguring or tampering with hardware will result in student suspension/ expulsion. Tampering includes but is not limited to the following: changing, altering, or deleting any setting, adding or deleting any programs or settings, adding passwords or other lockout devices, maliciously damaging any equipment such as removing keys, defacing hardware or disassembling a mouse.

To avoid viruses, any disks or files brought from home and/or off campus will be subjected to a virus check prior to being viewed on the school's equipment.

Manatee County's Internet Policies will be strictly enforced when accessing the Internet. Violations of the policies may result in denial of Internet use at school and/or expulsion.

Manatee County Network Information Services Guidelines

The school district is providing access for staff and students to electronic information services such as FIRN and the Internet. These services provide access to:

- electronic mail (e-mail) with the ability to communicate with people all over the world
- information and news from many sources
- public domain and shareware software of all types
- discussion groups on a wide variety of topics
- access to many college and university libraries, and the Library of Congress

The benefit for staff and students to such information access is obvious, but there are potential problems. There is the possibility of users finding material that may not be

considered to have educational value. District staff will continue to direct learners to appropriate material. However, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials.

The district believes that the valuable information available on this worldwide network far outweighs the potential problems, but parents need to be aware of the situation.

The following guidelines have been established for Manatee County schools. If any user violates any of these provisions, his or her access to electronic information services may be terminated and all future access could possibly be denied. Some violations may lead to disciplinary action, and if a criminal offense is committed, to prosecution under state or federal laws.

Acceptable uses of wide area computer networks are activities which support learning and teaching in Manatee County.

Unacceptable student uses of wide area computer networks include:

- Using network access to alter or destroy information belonging to others.
- Using profanity, obscenity, or other language which may be offensive to another user.
- Copying personal communications to others without the original author's permission.
- Copying software or other copyright protected material in violation of copyright law.
- Using the network for private business purposes.
- Using the network for any illegal activity.
- Spreading computer "viruses" deliberately, or by importing files from unknown sources.

The person who has a network account is responsible at all times for its proper use.

The network management accepts no responsibility for harm caused directly or indirectly by its use. Never consider electronic communications to be completely private. The school district does have the right to review the contents of any and all e-mail created and stored on school district equipment using e-mail systems operated by school district staff.

The Administration of LRHS recommends that parents have access to their child's technology. Parents should have all passwords and pass codes to student's cell phones, computers and multimedia devices. Parents should regularly check these devices for evidences of inappropriate use. Parents must monitor these devices for evidence of cyber-bullying. Parents should report questionable information found on these devices to school administration or local law enforcement officials.

Cellular Telephone Policy

Lakewood Ranch High School follows all State of Florida legislation regarding electronic devices. Cell phones are only permitted before school and during the student's assigned lunch period (only in the cafeteria area). During class changes and class periods, students must keep their cell phones off and out of sight unless approved by the teacher for instructional purposes only. This includes peripherals such as headphones and earbuds. Any violation of this policy will result in confiscation and may result in suspension in accordance with the SDMC Code of Student Conduct. Use of a cell phone for multimedia purposes will be considered inappropriate behavior, and the student will be suspended.

Students are not permitted to make or receive phone calls via cell phone. Any student may come to the Administration Office and ask to use the phone. All legitimate requests to use the office phone will be granted. Parents needing to contact their child may do so by calling the Administrative Office at 941- 727-6100 ext. 32012. Your child will not know if you call his/her cell phone, because it is required to be off during the school day. The school day ends with the dismissal bell.

Teachers have the authority to designate specific locations or procedures for storing devices during instructional time to minimize distractions and maintain an orderly learning environment.

Neither the school nor school staff is responsible for any cell phone that is lost, stolen, broken or damaged while at LRHS.

Technology usage as a medical device must be cleared through the clinic.

Any unapproved use of technology during an assessment will be considered cheating, and will result in disciplinary actions.

Electronic Devices

The use of electronic items such as, but not limited to the following: web cam, smart phone, smart watch, smart glasses, laptop, tablets, tape player/recorder, CD player, radio, camera, camcorder, television, MP3 player, iPod, pager, beeper, or games is an act that may result in discipline. If you are in possession of these electronic items at school, they are to be kept turned off and out of sight on school grounds unless an administrator or teacher gives written permission to do something else. If this rule is violated, an administrator my take the device from you and hold it until your parent comes to retrieve it. If the item is not picked up by the last day of the school year, items will be deemed abandoned. The school will determine what to do with the abandoned items. Neither the school nor school staff is responsible for any such items if they are lost, stolen, broken or damaged.

Multimedia

Technology on Lakewood Ranch High School's campus is to be used for instructional purposes only. Any multimedia devices, including the use of cell phone, web cam, laptop, tablet, used to record or transmit images or sound, without expressed written permission of the LRHS Administration, is strictly prohibited and will result in suspension and/or expulsion.

Photographing or using photographs of any person, without expressed written permission of the LRHS Administration may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

Neither the school nor school staff is responsible for any personal technology/electronic devices if they are lost, stolen, broken or damaged.

Section 5: Lakewood Ranch High School Academics

Graduation Requirements

Students must obtain a minimum of 24 credits; maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0, and pass appropriate grade level assessments (FAST, EOC's). ALL graduation requirements must be met for students to participate in graduation ceremonies.

Requirements for a 4 year standard diploma requiring 24 credits for students entering high school.

English	4 Credits
Mathematics	4 Credits including Algebra I and Geometry.
Science	3 Credits- one of which must be Biology I; Two of which must be equally rigorous science courses; Two or the three required credits must have a laboratory component.
World History	1 Credit
U.S. History	1 Credit
U.S. Government	.5 Credit
Economics w/Fin Lit	.5 Credit
Fine Arts/Performing Arts	1 Credit (Art, Dance, Drama/Theater, Speech & Debate, and Music)
HOPE	1 Credit
Electives	8 Credits electives
Total	**24 Credits**

Grade Point Average - GPA

The grade point average is calculated by assigning points to the letter grades earned each quarter and semester. The cumulative grade point average is calculated on semester grades only.

The weighted grade point average assigns extra weight for grades of D or better earned in Honors /AP/DE courses in accordance with State Statute and to closely align with Bright Futures and Florida's state universities.

Grades and Grade Points

The marks given at Lakewood Ranch High School are based on a five-letter system: A, B, C, D, F. Report cards are issued every nine weeks. Letter grades indicate the following numerical ranges.

A = 90 – 100 B = 80 – 89 C = 70 – 79 D = 60 - 69 F = 0 – 59

Student grades are posted on FOCUS: It is the school's expectation that grades are posted in a timely manner and that parents continuously monitor their child's progress by accessing the FOCUS grade book program. A password for FOCUS must be secured, by parents, in person, at the Registrar's Desk in the front office at Lakewood Ranch High School.

Progress Reports

All progress reports and report cards are viewable in FOCUS. Parents may request a printed copy of the progress report or the report card by contacting the school's registrar at ext. 32002.

Grades by Semester

Semester grades, for courses without an End of Course exam, are computed by averaging the Quarter 1 grade (40%) the Quarter 2 grade (40%) and the semester exam grade (20%). The average based on these weights is the semester grade. Semester grades for courses with an End of Course (EOC) exam are computed by averaging the Semester 1 grade (35%), the Semester 2 grade (35%), and the end-of-course assessment (30%). EOC course final grades will only be posted on the transcript at the end of the school year when EOC scores have been finalized by the state. Dual Enrollment courses follow the State College of Florida grading system.

Examinations

Each semester, all students will take a comprehensive examination covering the work of that semester. Grades received for the first quarter, the second quarter, and the semester examination will determine the semester average. If a course has a Florida-required End of Course Exam (EOC), the EOC will count for 30% of the entire grade. According to school board policy, **no early examinations may be given** in the school system.

LRHS College and Career

Students and families can join the LRHS College and Career Schoology group for up-to-date information about scholarships, internships, and other important information.

Minimum Course Requirements for Four-Year Universities

The following are required for those students planning on entering a four-year university. Individual university requirements may differ. Therefore, students should consult the university catalog for admission requirements:

English: 4 credits
Math - Algebra I and higher: 4 credits
Science: 3 credits
Social Studies: 3 credits
Foreign Language (Same Language, Sequential): 2 credits
Personal Finance and Money Management: 0.5 credits
Academic Electives: *3 credits

Please refer to LRHS website Home | Lakewood Ranch High for a list of approved academic electives.

Financial Aid

Anyone planning on attending college, vocational, or technical school should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This application determines the types of monies you'll be eligible to receive such as the Pell Grant, the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), the Federal Work-Study Program, and federal student loans. Students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov. The application will require your family's income tax return information. You cannot submit the application before January 1 of the calendar year that you will be entering a post-secondary institution. The deadline for Florida residents is usually mid-May but post-secondary schools often have deadlines earlier than May so be sure to check with the institution you plan on attending.

Scholarships

Scholarships, another form of financial aid, can be categorized into four types:

The State of Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program which includes the Florida Academic Scholars Award, the Florida Medallion Scholars Award, and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award. Refer to the website: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org for requirements.

Scholarships given by local and national organizations which Guidance will post and announce during the student's senior year (most have specific requirements in the areas of GPA, community service, area of study, family heritage, monetary need).

Scholarships given by organizations nationwide that can be accessed by the student either through scholarship resource books or web sites.

Scholarships available directly from the post-secondary institution which you will be attending. You should inquire into the availability of these scholarships with the Financial Aid director or Admissions Counselor. You may also be automatically awarded a school-based scholarship based on your need and/or merit.

Honor Code

Lakewood Ranch High School offers a quality education that not only ensures knowledge, but also cultivates the virtues of honor, courtesy and perseverance. Of these virtues, honor is of great importance, for it is personal integrity that will influence and finally determine many of our actions and beliefs. To help advance the development of such values, an Honor Code has been established. The code will exist in order to uphold and reinforce values and to prevent violations, such as cheating or plagiarism. This Honor Code encompasses all classes and all activities associated with Lakewood Ranch High School.

The Honor Code, stated is:

> Students shall be honor bound to refrain from cheating of every kind, including plagiarism. Students shall be honor bound to take actions to stop any and all violations of this Honor Code, which they see. Such actions include speaking directly with the offender, speaking privately to an adult (teacher, counselor, etc.), or filing an Honor Code complaint with the Administration.

Inaction implies that you condone inappropriate behavior. Living in a manner that is consistent with this code will produce an atmosphere of trust, freedom and integrity that should be found on American high school campuses.

Honors/Advanced Placement Courses

Courses designated as Level 3 Honors courses in the Course Code Directory are those courses containing more rigorous academic curriculum and performance standards as determined by the Florida Department of Education, pursuant to Section 1009.531 (3), F.S.

Full weight (1.0) will be given for all AP, IB, AICE, and DE courses. In addition, Honors level courses will earn a .5 weight.

Application must be made for the Advanced Placement program. Students must meet prerequisites and obtain teacher recommendation.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society (NHS) chapter of LRHS is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of The National Honor Society Constitution, a prestigious national organization. Application for membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NHS and have been revised to meet local chapter needs.

Students are selected for membership by a five-member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal during the second semester. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 can apply for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 unweighted scale. Those students who meet this criterion are notified and complete a form indicating their wishes concerning further evaluation for membership by their teachers and the Faculty Council. A history of leadership experiences, character, and participation in school or community service is required. Scholarship does not guarantee selection.

To evaluate the candidate, the Faculty Council uses three forms of input: first, school disciplinary records are reviewed; second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's character, leadership, and service. Third, students will have the opportunity to complete a student activity packet as evidence of character, leadership, and service. This information is carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. Four of the five members of the Faculty Council must agree to extend an invitation to the candidate. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined schedule. Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members will be assessed yearly chapter dues which will cover the costs of their graduation honor stole and cord. All members are required to attend at least on chapter meeting per month. All members are required to maintain/exceed the same level of performance in all four criteria that led to their selection by exhibiting exemplary character and continuing to participate in LRHS National Honor Society service opportunities.

Any member who falls below the standards of scholarship, leadership, character, or service may be dismissed from the chapter. If a member's cumulative unweighted GPA falls below 3.5, he/she will be given written warning and a time period for improvement. If the cumulative GPA remains below 3.5 at the end of the warning period, the student may be dismissed for the chapter. Seniors who, in the eighth semester, fall below a 3.5 GPA will lose the privilege of wearing an NHS stole and honor cord at the graduation ceremony. Violation of criminal law, school regulations, or the school's code of conduct may also be grounds for dismissal.

In the case of pending dismissal, the member will receive written notification of the reason for possible dismissal and a conference will be held with the advisor. A hearing with the Faculty Council will be offered in accordance with due process. The Faculty Council will then vote on dismissal. Dismissed members will receive notification in writing and may appeal the Faculty Council's decision to the principal. When a student is dismissed or resigns, he/she is no longer a member and may never again be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.

If you have any questions regarding this information, or would like a complete copy of the General Selection Guidelines, Dismissal Policy, or the by-laws for the Lakewood Ranch Chapter of the National Honor Society, please contact the chapter advisor.

Plagiarism Statement

Research and borrowing from sources can support and add credibility to your writing, but you must always give credit to all sources you use or you will be guilty of plagiarism. Simply, plagiarism is stealing. It is deliberately representing someone else's work or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism involves the use of another's work without giving full and proper acknowledgement. Artificial Intelligence (AI) will be considered cheating via plagiarism. Students should be responsible if AI used does not violate the Student Code of Conduct.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: If a student uses material or ideas or expressions from a newspaper, magazine, encyclopedia, a book, a movie, Cliffs Notes, a book jacket, song lyrics, the Internet, computer software, another student's writing (past or present, including siblings), parents, or even notes taken in class; this material must be acknowledged or the student is guilty of plagiarism. If a student copies homework from another student, even if the copier puts the material into his own words, he is guilty of plagiarism if he does not provide clear, written acknowledgement of the source of the material. If a student copies or paraphrases the summer reading assignment from a present or past student, the copier is guilty of plagiarism.

Also, any student who cooperates in plagiarism is equally guilty. If someone writes material for another student, both are guilty of plagiarism. If one student gives his work to another student to copy or put into his own words, both students are guilty of plagiarism.

Acknowledgement means the sources of all borrowed material, expressions, and ideas must be clearly identified. In general, it is better to say too much about your sources than too little.

Please note: LRHS supports a zero-tolerance policy on any form of cheating or plagiarizing. A student who submits work that is not original, in part or whole, will receive no credit and possibly a consequence. That includes work that resembles a classmate's or anything available in print or on the Internet.

Schedule Change Policy

The registration process and the development of student schedules take place in the spring, at which time faculty and staff counsel with students. The process includes input from students, parents, teachers, counselors, and administrators. The master schedule is then built around the registration requests.

Students are expected to honor their commitments and to attend and complete the courses for which they register during the registration period. Requests for schedule changes will be considered only for the following reasons:

- If a student has already earned credit in the course.
- If a student has failed the prerequisite for the course.
- If a student is scheduled for too many or not enough classes.
- If there was a clerical error.
- If there is a District directive regarding course progression,

Testing

The SAT and ACT are college entrance exams required for admission into a four year college or university, and for Bright Futures. Registration packets are available in the Guidance office or students may register online at: SAT - www.collegeboard.com, ACT - www.act.org. It is recommended that students take one or both for the first time by early spring of the junior year.

The PSAT/National are Merit Scholarship Qualifying Tests. This examination is given during the fall of the junior year which automatically enters the student into the National Merit Scholarship Program. Students are recognized as either “commended” students or “semi-finalist” who then go on to compete for “finalist” recognition. Sophomores and freshman may take the PSAT for practice but are not eligible to enter the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Florida has instituted End of Course exams for select courses. A final grade issued in one of the EOC exam courses may be interpreted differently based on district policies in effect at the time of enrollment and/or completion, and specific requirements per Florida Statute.

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) has contracted with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to develop and administer new statewide assessments. These assessments will provide parents, teachers, policy makers and the general public with information regarding how well students are learning the Florida Standards. Parents can promote student success by staying involved in their child’s education, offering positive support, staying connected with the school and teachers, and taking advantage of online resources. Families are encouraged to take advantage of the information and resources

available on the Florida Standards Assessments portal (www.FSAssessments.org) and the FDOE website (www.fldoe.org).

Section 6: Lakewood Ranch High School Athletics & Clubs

Athletic Teams

The following sports are offered:

Girls	Boys
Fall Sports	
Golf- Varsity	Golf- Varsity
Cross Country - Varsity	Cross Country - Varsity
Volleyball - Varsity/J.V./Fresh	Football - Varsity/J.V.
Swim – Varsity	Swim – Varsity
Winter Sports	
Basketball - Varsity/J.V.	Basketball - Varsity/ J.V.
Soccer - Varsity/J.V.	Soccer - Varsity/J.V.
Cheer - Varsity/ J.V.	Wrestling - Varsity/J.V.
Weightlifting & Wrestling - Varsity	
Spring Sports	
Softball - Varsity/J.V.	Baseball - Varsity/J.V.
Tennis – Varsity	Tennis - Varsity
Track & Field - Varsity/ J.V.	Track & Field - Varsity/J.V.
Flag Football – Varsity/J.V.	Weightlifting - Varsity/J.V.
Lacrosse—Varsity	Lacrosse—Varsity
Beach Volleyball– Varsity	

NCAA Clearinghouse for Athletes

If you are planning to participate in collegiate athletics at a NCAA Division I or II school, you will need to complete a NCAA Clearinghouse form at the end of your junior year. Student must register on-line at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Please note: if you are being recruited as an athlete, you cannot visit any colleges or universities until you have received a valid SAT or ACT score.

Athletic Policies

Specific guidelines for participation in athletics can be found in the School District of Manatee County's Athletic Handbook.

General Guidelines

- A student on a team should be in attendance at every scheduled practice unless an emergency prevents this. The coach should be made aware of the reason for an absence so he/she will not be depending on that athlete that day.
- A student must be in attendance a minimum of one-half day, unless documented (doctor's note, field trip, subpoena, etc.), to practice or participate in a contest on that day unless approved by the athletic director or principal.
- All athletes should present a neat appearance at all school and athletic functions.
- Parents are responsible for the transportation of students to and from school practice sessions for school-related events, including athletics. Parents are responsible for the transportation of students to and from athletic events unless the principal determines transportation will be provided by the school. School personnel will not assist parents in arranging transportation when the school does not provide it. (SB Policy 8.11)

The principal will develop a plan for administrative coverage of home games and key away games.

Athletic Eligibility

High school interscholastic contests are governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) and all Manatee County high schools are expected to maintain a membership in this organization and comply with the rules and regulations set forth in the constitution and By-laws. The Manatee County School Board may adopt higher standards.

The FHSAA eligibility rules shall be followed in all cases. These rules will be explained to all athletes prior to the season.

When questions of eligibility arise that are not settled between the assigned school principal and the transfer school principal, the matter shall be reviewed by the Interscholastic Eligibility Appeals Committee (IEAC) that shall consist of the high school principals and the Director of High Schools. The Superintendent, any Assistant Superintendent, any principal, any coach, any activity sponsor, or any other party in interest may raise questions of eligibility at any time. A questioned eligibility shall be presented first to the principal of the school where the student's eligibility is questioned.

It will be the responsibility of that principal to demonstrate eligibility. If the person raising the question of eligibility is not satisfied, the questioned eligibility may be presented to the IEAC through the Director of High Schools. The person(s) bringing the matter to the IEAC shall state, in writing, the reason the student's eligibility is questioned.

The IEAC shall review each questioned eligibility to ascertain the student's eligibility under the Florida High School Activities Association By-laws.

The committee shall review the written documents questioning eligibility and hear testimony from any interested party.

The committee shall reduce its recommendations to writing and make copies available to all interested parties and the Superintendent.

The committee may refer the case to the FHSAA for a decision.

After reviewing the Committee's recommendations, the parties in interest may voluntarily agree with the recommendation and execute any documents necessary or, if dissatisfied with the recommendation, may appeal the questioned eligibility to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall review the matter, calling for additional information if desired, and shall either approve or deny eligibility for the student.

If a female athlete becomes pregnant, she is to be placed on the disabled list until a physician determines her level of activity. A written recommendation will be returned to the school and kept in the athlete's file. The purpose of this policy is to protect the mother as well as the fetus. It is not the intention of this policy to remove the athlete from her team because of pregnancy.

Addressing Athletic Questions/Concerns

If a student and/or parent have questions or concerns regarding a specific team, please do the following:

1. Meet with the coach to discuss the questions or concerns.
2. Meet with the athletic director if you still have questions or concerns.
3. Meet with the principal or designee if you still have questions or concerns.

Reporting Injuries

Athletic Injuries and Care. The coach is responsible for reporting all injuries of team members to school Athletic Trainer.

Athlete's Responsibilities

Any school-connected injury shall be reported to the coach and trainer. The Accident Report Form must be filed with the athletic trainer.

If an individual has any special medical problem, the athletic director must be informed.

Should an injury be discovered after the athlete has returned home, the athlete should go to his/her physician and report to coach and trainer prior to next participation.

School Responsibilities

In case of injury, school personnel should:

- Administer minor first aid
- If hospital care is necessary, call an ambulance.
- Notify parents or guardians.
- Accompany injured player to hospital if parent is not available. Coaches must follow medical staff recommendations concerning student injuries.

Athletic Training Rules

No use of tobacco products.

An athlete knowingly possessing, using, transferring, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind, or any facsimile regardless of content, on or off campus, will receive severe consequences.

Any action by an athlete that causes embarrassment to the team, athletic department or the school may result in disciplinary consequences.

Cut From a Team/Squad

A student who is not selected for a team is eligible to try out for another sport.

Students are selected for teams at the discretion of the head coach.

Athletic Suspension

Any athlete or manager who is suspended from a team is not permitted to go out for another sport while the original sport is still in season. The season is officially over when the team plays the last game of the season. A season is defined as the first day of practice through the last play-off game.

A student suspended from the team may not use any of the department's facilities or equipment until his suspension is officially terminated.

Quitting a Team/Squad

If a player quits a team, he/she shall not be permitted to try out for the next season's sport at the same school until the season ends in the initial sport from which the athlete quits. For example, Student quits FB to try out for BB. A season is defined as the first day of practice through the last play-off game.

Criminal Offenses

Criminal Offense: After a hearing with the principal, a student charged with a criminal offense may be suspended from extracurricular or co-curricular activities by the school principal until the charge is adjudicated.

Adjudication Withheld: A student who has been suspended from extracurricular activities because of a criminal charge may be reinstated at the principal's discretion if adjudication is withheld.

Felony: A student's conviction in "adult" court or judgment of "delinquency" in a juvenile court for any act that would have been felonious in "adult" court will mandate loss of eligibility to participate in any student activity for the duration of the years enrolled in a Manatee County public high school from the time of conviction. After one calendar year following conviction, the student may request a review of his/her eligibility by the principal.

Misdemeanors: A student's conviction in "adult" court or judgment of "delinquency" in a juvenile court for the following misdemeanors (assault or battery, possession of concealed weapons, lewdness or indecent exposure, theft, drug possession/sale) will mandate loss of eligibility to participate in any student activity for six months from the time of conviction. After three calendar months following conviction, the student may request a review of his/her eligibility by the principal.

It is expected that the student athlete will self-report arrests/convictions to his/her coach.

There shall be no team penalty for students charged with crimes, whether it is misdemeanor or felony. Sanctions as described herein will be attached only to the individual student.

<u>The FHSAA handbook states in 11.11.3</u>

"In matters pertaining to personal conduct in which interscholastic athletic competition is not involved, the member school which the student(s) attend shall be the judge as to whether the student(s) may play on its team."

Athletic Awards

The first time a student earns a varsity letter they will receive an emblem/pin indicating the sport. Second year varsity awards in a sport will consist of a metal service bar. Third year varsity awards consist of a metal service bar. The fourth year varsity award in a sport will consist of a metal service bar and a Mustang patch.

A student earning a varsity letter in more than one sport will receive only the one Mustang patch. However, the student will receive all the appropriate emblems and service bars.

Requirements for Student Athletic Award

The individual coach of each sport shall be responsible for the granting or withholding of awards. No athlete shall receive an award if they fail to finish the season due to dismissal from or quitting the squad.

Each school will develop criteria for awards and letters in each sport.

It is the coaches' responsibility to notify all athletes prior to the season of the criteria set for students to earn an award in that sport.

Summer Participation

Only athletes from the home school may participate in summer drills, workouts, and practices at school.

The county has a blanket insurance policy for summer drills.

Summer camps may be open to students from any county school.

The enclosed rules are minimum standards for Manatee County athletes. Schools may recommend to the superintendent additional policies that do not contradict or lessen the policies as listed above. All athletes shall be notified of these policies prior to the beginning of the season.

Student Clubs/Activities

Clubs/School organizations are established each year based on student interest and availability of club sponsors. New club requests will close after the first quarter progress report date.