

# FRANKLIN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2025-2026**

**FRANKLIN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
6215 SOUTH FRANKLIN ROAD  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46259  
P: 317.862.6646  
[FC.FTCSC.ORG](http://FC.FTCSC.ORG)**



[FCHS Facebook](#)



[FCHS Instagram](#)

# FRANKLIN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

## GENERAL INFORMATION

School Colors	Blue and White
School Athletic Nickname	Flashes
Name of School Newspaper	Pilot Flashes
Name of School Yearbook	Flashback

## SCHOOL SONGS

### FIGHT SONG

Onward Franklin, Onward Franklin,  
Fight right down that floor,  
Onward Franklin, Onward Franklin,  
Let's pile up that score.  
Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Fight 'em, boys, for our victory,  
Fight 'em for our fame,  
Fight boys, fight, fight,  
And we will win this game.

### ALMA MATER

Hail to thee, dear Franklin Central,  
School we love so well.  
Loyal we thy sons and daughter  
Now thy glories tell.  
In each heart, dear Alma Mater,  
Ever shalt thou dwell.  
Hand and voice we join serve thee  
And thy glories tell.

## FCHS VISITORS

**All Visitors Must First Register in the Office.** Students are not to bring visitors to school. Some events are open to the public. Other events, such as after-school dances, parties, etc. are not open to the public. Parents are always welcome, but are encouraged to make an appointment to see a teacher or the principal. Parents/legal guardians are welcome to visit classrooms following advanced consultation and approval from Franklin Central High School building administrators – generally two full business days notice. Parents should check in and receive a visitor badge on the day of their scheduled visit. Guests/Former Students may not visit Franklin Central High School during the school day. Visitation after school hours may occur with administrative approval.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Any person who will be in a position to supervise students must complete a background check - this includes but not limited to field trips (at all levels, including band and choir trips) or taking a group of students out of the classroom for remediation work. Background check forms can be found on the Franklin Township website under the heading volunteer information. There is a \$16 fee for a background check.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Before school, students may enter the building 25 minutes prior to the start of 1<sup>st</sup> period. At the conclusion of the day, all students must clear the building unless under the supervision of a teacher.

\*\*\*A regular class schedule is used except when the need arises for one of the other types of schedules. A change in class scheduling will be posted. Tardiness because of a schedule change is unexcused.

## ATTENDANCE

FTCSC no longer accepts phone calls for absences. If your student is going to be absent, **an absence request must be made via Skyward**. You can find detailed information on how to enter absence requests - [HERE](#). **Parents are encouraged to download the Skyward App.**

Failure to report a student absent within 24 hours will result in the absence being unexcused.

The School Board believes that the presence in the classroom enables the student to participate in instruction, class discussions, and other related activities. As such, regular attendance and classroom participation are integral to instilling incentives for the student to excel. Students are bound by the requirements of Indiana's compulsory attendance law. Attendance shall mean to be physically present in a school or at another location where the school's educational program is being conducted during regular school hours on a day in which the educational program in which the student is enrolled is being offered (including a mandatory videoconference, phone conference, or other virtual environment during virtual/e-learning days or as part of a continuous learning program). Academic engagement is the quality of students' participation or connection with the schooling endeavor and hence with activities, values, people, goals and places that comprise it, and encompasses the academic, behavioral, and emotional enrichment of each student. Attendance shall be required of all Corporation students, except those exempted under other provisions of State law, during the days and hours that the school is in session. Daily attendance will be appropriately recorded and reports will be submitted to the IDOE in accordance with IDOE guidance and formatting/submission requirements.

Content may be delivered onsite in person or off-site during instructional days in the academic school year. If the District conducts more than three (3) virtual days when at least 50% of the District's in-person enrolled students attend virtually or online, at least 50% of instructional time on any subsequent virtual days will consist of teacher-directed synchronous instruction. Where instruction is less than 100% teacher-directed synchronous instruction, the remainder of instruction will be asynchronous.

Exceptions to compulsory attendance are established in IC 20-33-2 and shall be recognized by the Corporation. For any of these exceptions a student shall be recorded as excused absent from school.

The superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student or an adult student who has been absent for any reason, a statement of the cause for each absence. The Board reserves the right to verify each statement and investigate each cause.

The Board considers the following for excused absences when accompanied by proper notification from the parent or adult student:

1. Service as a page for or as an honoree of the general assembly
2. Serve on a precinct election board or as a helper to a political candidate or to a political party on the date of each general, city, town, special, and primary election at which the student works
3. Subpoena to appear in court as a witness in a judicial proceeding
4. Ordered to active duty with the Indiana National Guard for not more than ten (10) days in a school year.
5. Member of the Indiana wing of the Civil Air Patrol who is participating in a civil air patrol for not more than five (5) days in a school year
6. Exhibiting or participating in the Indiana State Fair for educational purposes by a student or member of the student's household (I.C. 20-33-2-17.7). The student must be in good academic standing as determined by the district. Parents must request the absence in writing, it must be approved in writing by the principal, and it may not exceed five (5) days.

7. Illness verified by a note from the parent
8. Illness verified by a note from a physician
9. Recovery from accident
10. Professional appointments – Parents are encouraged to schedule medical, dental, legal, and other necessary appointments other than during school hours. When appointments are necessary during the school day, the student shall report back to school immediately after the appointment with a signed statement from the doctor, dentist, lawyer, counselor, etc.
11. Death in the immediate family or of a relative
12. Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
13. Maternity
14. Military connected families' absences related to deployment and return
15. Such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent or his or her designee or permitted by law

After 10 days of absence, a parent may be notified that all future absences must be accompanied by a doctor's note.

An unexcused absence is:

1. Any absence not covered under the definition of an excused absence,
2. An absence not covered under an exception to compulsory attendance
3. An absence in which the school does not receive proper notification from the parent or adult student.

An out-of-school suspension shall not be considered an unexcused absence.

Repeated instances of unexcused absences may result in disciplinary action up to suspension or expulsion of a student.

Truancy is defined as willful refusal to attend school as required by the compulsory attendance law.

The Superintendent or an attendance officer having jurisdiction shall report a child who is habitually absent from school to an intake officer of the juvenile court or the Department of Child Services.

The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences, to be in regular attendance for the program provided that s/he reports to such staff member s/he is assigned for guidance at the place or in the manner in which s/he is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop administrative guidelines for student attendance, virtual, and truancy.

The Superintendent also shall ensure that the Board's policy on attendance and the Corporation's administrative guidelines are made available to all parents and students.

#### **PREARRANGED ABSENCES**

Permission to participate in college visits, religious events, educational activities, trips with the immediate family, and other special activities that require a student to be absent from school for more than three (3) consecutive days may be granted if they are prearranged, fully documented in writing, and approved by the principal or designee. (Prearranged forms can be picked up in the main office). The principal's decision to grant permission for the student to be absent from school without penalty will be based on the following:

1. The overall attendance record of the student
2. The overall academic record of the student
3. Is the absence at a time convenient for both the student and the school?

These absences must be arranged well in advance by the parent/guardian and fully documented before they can be approved by an administrator. Prearranged absence forms can be picked up from the main office.

***Prearranged absences will NOT be granted during weeks before and after fall, winter and spring recesses if such absences include the day before or after either holiday period. NO prearranged absences will be granted during the week of final exams.***

### **THE MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT**

The McKinney-Vento Act provides certain rights for homeless students. They include waiving certain requirements such as proof of residency when students are enrolling and allowing categorical eligibility for certain services, such as meals and textbooks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kelly Anderson

District McKinney-Vento Liaison

317-803-5420

kelly.anderson@ftcsc.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND SUPPORT: [HERE](#)

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR STUDENTS EARNING HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS**

Franklin Township Schools encourages all students to attend school daily. The Indiana Department of Education defines a "model attendee" as a student whose attendance rate is greater than or equal to 94%. Students who fall below 90% attendance are considered habitually truant. Student attendance will be reviewed frequently by the Administration. Appropriate consequences may be issued if a student's attendance rate falls below 90%, which may include a loss of credits. Student attendance will be reviewed by the Administration and a meeting will take place between the student and the Assistant Principal or Dean to discuss strategies for improving attendance. Appropriate consequences may be issued at that time. Students that continue to accumulate absences will need to provide documentation and there may be a loss of credits.

### **LATE TO SCHOOL**

Arriving late to school is disruptive to the educational process and is considered to be a serious matter. Whenever a student arrives late to school, s/he should report directly to the attendance office. Students are to sign in on the late arrival form located in the attendance office and will receive a pass to class.

A student who arrives late to school four (4) or more times (PER NINE-WEEKS) will begin to receive disciplinary consequences. Some examples of unexcused reasons include: car trouble, missing the bus, headaches, not feeling well, oversleeping, school closing assumptions, personal business, power outage and transportation related issues, etc. Medical issues that result in a child being habitually tardy for school would require medical documentation from the attending physician to be marked as excused.

- If tardiness exceeds three (3) in number during the NINE WEEKS, the school will submit a warning notice to the parent/guardian.
- On the fourth (4th) and fifth (5th) tardiness to school during the NINE WEEKS, an After School Detention (ASD)

will be assigned.

- On the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) tardiness to school during the NINE WEEKS, a Friday Night School (FNS) after school Friday will be assigned.

Failure to respond to these measures (continued tardiness) may result in out-of-school suspension.

### **TARDINESS TO CLASS**

A student is considered tardy to any class when s/he arrives after the passing period bell, without a valid excuse, and within the first 10 minutes of class. Arrival after 10 minutes will be considered excessive tardiness and may result in further disciplinary actions.

- If tardiness exceeds three (3) in number during the nine weeks and the teacher has applied corrective measures, the teacher will submit a tardy referral to the attendance office showing the number of tardies, the dates of the tardies, and the corrective measures which were attempted.
- After the student has been properly referred, the student will be assigned a detention for each of the fourth (4th) tardy and fifth (5th) tardies. For each of the sixth (6th) and seventh (7th) tardies, the student will be assigned a Friday School, ISI, or OSS

Failure to respond to these measures (continued tardiness) may result in out-of-school suspension.

### **TARDINESS OF STUDENTS WHO DRIVE OR RIDE TO SCHOOL**

Students who provide their own transportation to school or ride to school with others who are tardy will be required to correct the problem. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in loss of driving privileges and/or suspension from school.

Car problems, bad weather, oversleeping and difficulties of a similar nature will NOT be excused. It is the responsibility of the students to assure that they arrive to class on time.

### **PROCEDURE TO LEAVE SCHOOL**

A student is expected to be in school all day and to do a full day's work. However, there may be times when you need to pick your student up from school early. **When a student is going to leave early, it is highly recommended that parents use the Skyward Family Access application.** To add a partial-day absence, uncheck the box for 'All Day' and enter the start and end times for the absence (see [HERE](#) for information on how to enter partial-day absences). Please note that we cannot call your student down until you present a valid picture ID. FTCSC will release your child to anyone listed in Skyward with 'Allowed Student Pickup' by their name. You can review who can pick up your child by going to the Skyward Parent Portal and navigating to 'OnlineForm' and 'My Online Forms History.' Checking your annual student update from the current school year will indicate who can pick up your child. Any updates to this information should be done using the Update Emergency Contacts Form in the Skyward Parent Portal. A record will be kept of the student's name, date, the time leaving school, and the time the student returns to school. In case of an emergency, the main office will notify the teachers.

### **DENTAL AND MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

When a student has a dental or medical appointment, parents must enter the appointment using the Skyward Family Access application. The student, upon return to school, must bring a note from his/her health care provider verifying the appointment. Medical and dental notes must be turned in to the attendance office in order to fully excuse the absence. Students must sign out/in through the attendance office.

### **MINIMAL ATTENDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES**

Students must be present at school a minimum of four (4) periods of the school day to participate in his or her next extra-curricular activities event. Truancy during any part of a school day is cause for loss of participation in extracurricular activities.

### **WEATHER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

Parents/guardians will be notified through [PARENTSQUARE](#) if we close or delay school. You could also listen to local radio and TV stations when inclement weather is predicted. All school closings, for any reason, will be reported to the local radio and television stations, as well as posted on the FTCSC Facebook and Instagram pages as soon as the decision has been made by the Superintendent of Schools. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency. Decisions of this nature are not made at the building level. Only the Superintendent has the authority to close schools for a regularly scheduled school day. The Superintendent may also decide to delay school for one or two hours instead of canceling the entire day. This information will also be reported over local radio and TV stations, as well as on the township's Facebook page and Instagram. Please remember that we are FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SCHOOLS CORPORATION (FTCSC) and NOT Franklin Community Schools in Franklin, IN. Every Franklin Township family should prepare plans for school delays, closing, or early closing of school due to an emergency. Working parents should make the necessary arrangements for the welfare of their children in the event that any of these scenarios would occur. If you do not wish to receive ParentSquare messages, you may notify the school district by calling 317-862-2411. It may take up to five business days to process the request.

### **HABITUAL TRUANT**

Students who fall below a 90% attendance rate or accumulate ten (10) or more unexcused absences in one school year are considered to be a "habitual truant." Habitual truants are ineligible for driver's license or learner's permits under IC 20-33-2-11. Habitual truants may also be expelled from school according to the FTCSC Student Conduct Code.

### **FINAL EXAMS**

Each student in attendance shall have the opportunity to take final exams. If a student misses a final exam due to an absence, a zero will appear on the report card for the final exam grade and the grade will be calculated accordingly. The student may come in to make-up the final exam. The teacher will then recalculate the grade with the final exam score. All final exams must be made up within five school days unless an alternative plan has been made with the individual teacher. No semester exams will be given early due to test security.

### **COLLEGE VISITS**

While FCHS encourages students to take advantage of college visitations, they should be planned for school breaks, holidays and/or weekends whenever possible in order to avoid school absences. Up to two college visits will be permitted each year for juniors and seniors. Once the college visit is complete documentation should be provided to the Attendance Office (within 24-48 hours) and the absence will be changed from excused to a field trip.

### **SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT**

The goal of the FTCSC Counseling Department is to provide a comprehensive, developmental counseling program addressing the academic, career and personal/social development of all students. The school counselors at FTCSC are professional student advocates who provide support to maximize student potential and academic achievement. The Counseling Department will make every effort to ensure that all students have a successful academic career by helping students overcome personal and social problems that interfere with student learning and school attendance. Counselors will facilitate communication with parents, teachers, students and community agencies to enhance student success.

The Counseling Department will serve students and parents through programs that address educational assessment, career development, scholarship opportunities and college selection. Counselors will meet frequently with students to help them take full advantage of school programs and activities, thereby allowing them to become the most sought after graduates by colleges, universities, and the world of work.

### **GRADING SCALE**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Scale</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>100-93</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>82-80</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>69-67</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>92-90</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>79-77</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>66-63</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89-87</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>76-73</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>62-60</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>86-83</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>72-70</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>59</b>

For purposes of eligibility, honor roll, and GPA, the following grade-point values will be used: A (4.0), A- (3.667), B+ (3.333), B (3.0), B- (2.667), C+ (2.333), C (2.0), C- (1.667), D+ (1.333), D (1.0), D- (.667), F (0). For GPA and weighted semester grades of C- or better will gain an additional .667 grade points.

### **HONOR ROLL**

Honor Roll is determined each grading period using the student's unweighted semester GPA. Students must be enrolled in five (5) solid subjects before being eligible for Honor Roll. Any grade lower than a C- disqualifies a student from Honor Roll.

High Honor Roll

A average for grading period

Honor Roll

B average for grading period

### **GRADE POINT AVERAGE**

GPA is calculated using a student's weighted semester grades. Weighted grades of C- or better receive an additional 0.667 grade points in these calculations. Students will receive a final GPA and after they have completed eight semesters of school and graduated.

### **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher after 3 semesters will be awarded Franklin Central academic numerals. Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher after 5 semesters will be awarded a Franklin Central academic letter - after 7 semesters students will be awarded a gold bar.

### **VALEDICTORIAN and SALUTATORIAN**

The valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class will be determined by grade point average at the end of seven semesters.

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

The FTCSC School Board acknowledges the educational validity of out-of-school assignments as adjuncts to and extensions of the instructional program of the schools. "Homework" shall refer to those assignments to be prepared outside of the school by the student or independently while in attendance at school.

### **CHANGE OF SCHEDULE**

Change of schedule days are assigned and given to students during the scheduling process. After early, Mid May approved schedule changes will be made only for the following reasons:

- computer error
- conflict in the student's schedule
- level placement error
- medical grounds
- other exceptions, as approved by an administrator

### **GRADUATION POLICY**

To receive a high school diploma, a student must have satisfactorily completed the graduation requirements as set forth by the Indiana Department of Education and Franklin Central High School. Seniors will be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony and receive a diploma ONLY if they have completed all graduation components as outlined by the Indiana Department of Education.

### **XELLO**

Xello is a college and career readiness program that helps students understand their learning styles, strengths and interests in order to find possible career matches. Xello provides students with current and relevant career information such as expected salaries and training needed. It also provides data on colleges and connects students to campuses all over the country through virtual tours. Through guided lessons and counselor interaction, Xello also helps students develop graduation plans that lead to employment, enlistment or enrollment in post secondary programs. Xello is an interesting and engaging tool for students and their parents/guardians to utilize.

### **CREDIT RECOVERY**

Students may be assigned to the Credit Recovery lab for the purpose of re-taking a course that they have previously failed. Assignment is given only with approval of the Franklin Central Counseling Department.

### **SUMMER SCHOOL**

When available, students may consider attending summer school for credit recovery or PE in order to keep the student on track to graduate. Students registering for summer school at another school must first obtain approval from their counselor before enrollment.

### **ON-LINE COURSES**

In certain circumstances, students may take approved on-line courses to apply toward their graduation requirements. Permission to take on-line courses must be granted by the principal/designee prior to taking the course.

### **SKYWARD FAMILY ACCESS**

All parents/guardians will be granted access to the Skyward Family Access Application where they can check attendance, grades, missing assignments, pay fees, and more. We encourage parents to download the Skyward App.

### **SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Your school is responsive and ready to meet the needs of unique learners who attend there. We have building-based intervention teams designed to coordinate the school staff in meeting the needs of all students. With guidance and support from the administration of FTCSC, our schools provide special education services as determined appropriate by the case Conference Committee. Although not every building with FTCSC provides the full continuum of special education services, FTCSC has the full continuum available within the district. If you have any concerns about your child or questions about their necessary special education services, please contact the building principal.

### **RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION TO A NON-CUSTODIAL PARENT**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 mandates that the school protect the privacy of its students and their educational records, however, a non-custodial parent shall be entitled to receive a copy of his/her child's report card and given access to the child's educational record, subject to the following conditions: the custodial parent has not provided the school with a copy of the divorce decree, which specifically prohibits the non-custodial parent from having contact with or information about the child.

### **ENROLLMENT/WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL**

Families new to FTCSC will need to sign up for and complete the new student registration form via our Skyward Family Access Portal. The Enrollment website can be found - [HERE](#). This enrollment information provides the school with valuable information and provides us a way to contact you in the event of a problem or emergency. If any change regarding this information occurs during the school year, please notify the school. We would appreciate you keeping us up-to-date on current phone numbers, addresses, etc. All students enrolling for the first time in an FTCSC school will need to provide the school with a birth certificate (a copy is acceptable) and up-to-date immunization records. Students **must** have immunization records on file. Additionally, families will need to complete an annual update form via the same portal. Per Board Policy C100, FTCSC does not accept the transfer of any student who does not have legal settlement within the township borders.

Parents who need to withdraw a child from school should give the school two days notice before the date of withdrawal. The student or parent must notify the appropriate school counselor so necessary preparation can be taken. All media center materials must be returned to the Media Center and any debts must be paid. In order for the school to forward a transcript to the school in which the student intends to enroll, it is necessary for parents to sign a release of information form before a transcript of grades can be released. Textbooks and rental devices will be returned to the designated school employee.

### **ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS**

A "student's record" consists of all official records, files, and data directly related to a student and maintained by the school, intended for school use, or to be available to parties outside the school. Such record encompasses all the material incorporated in the student's cumulative folder and includes but is not limited to general identifying data, records of attendance and of academic work completed, records of achievement in the school curriculum and on standardized achievement tests, results of other evaluative tests (including intelligence, aptitude, psychological, and interest inventory tests), school discipline and health data.

1. Students may obtain copies of their transcript at no charge through August of their graduation year from Parchment.com. Transcripts can easily be sent to any college, employer, coach, scholarship etc. with an email.
2. All non current Franklin Central Students will be charged a fee for a transcript. However Transcripts are free to current students.
3. Such records shall be the property of the school system. Access to, correction, and disposition of student records is governed by the following policy
  - a. Right of Access. A parent/guardian of a student who is under age of eighteen (18) years and is either currently enrolled in, or the student's records are otherwise maintained by, the school system, has a right to inspect and review such student's record or any part thereof.
  - b. Manner of Exercising Such Rights. Such rights shall be exercised by presenting a written request to the office of the superintendent or his/her designee. The request shall specify the specific records which the parents wish to inspect or examine. In the event the school cannot determine

the exact records as described, the designated school employee will immediately contact the parents by letter to determine the desired scope of records to be inspected.

Such inspection shall be made during reasonable business hours determined by mutual agreement between the school employee and the parents, but in no event shall be more than ten (10) school days after submission of the written request. A school official shall be present during any such inspection to assist in the interpretation of the records where they reasonably require professional interpretation.

- c. Records Involving More Than One Student. Where the records requested include Information concerning more than one student, the parents shall either receive for examination that part of the record pertaining to their child, or where this cannot reasonably be done, be informed of the contents of that part of the record pertaining to their child.
- d. Students Over 18 Years of Age. Whenever a student has attained eighteen (18) years of age, or is attending an institution of postsecondary education, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to parents under this policy, shall thereafter only be required of and accorded to the student.

### **STUDENT CUMULATIVE RECORD**

Franklin Township Schools maintain complete and up-to-date records on all students. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 deals with the right of privacy of student records.

1. It provides parental access to their children's records until the child is eighteen years of age.
2. It provides for a hearing in which parents may challenge the contents of such records.
3. It spells out who may have access to records without parental permission and when parental permission is required.
4. It allows student records to be sent from one school system to another.

### **SCHOOL FEES**

Parents and legal guardians are financially responsible for any fees and charges the school may assess for but not limited to lost books, repair or replace chrome books, charging devices/accessories, cafeteria fees, library books, extracurricular activities and fundraising. Parents and legal guardians are also responsible for all reasonable costs of the collection of this account, which may include but not limited to, late fees, client collection fees, collection agency fees, reasonable attorney fees and court costs on any outstanding balances.

### **EMERGENCY STANDARD AND RESPONSE PROTOCOL**

#### **Emergency Drills**

- Emergency drills will be held each month of the school year. Students are to follow the directions of the staff; every emergency drill must be regarded as the "real thing" by students and staff. The necessity of a drill is to form habits, which will avoid panic in case of a real disaster.
- The signal for evacuation, or an evacuation drill, is a continuous sounding of the fire buzzer until the building is vacated.
- When the evacuation alarm sounds, all persons must leave the building according to the building evacuation plan. Each student should know the proper exit from the classroom to the outside for every room in which he/she has classes. Directions for drills are posted in every room.
- At the first sound of the fire buzzer, students must form into lines and clear the building as quickly as possible. Students will walk, NOT RUN, when leaving the building. Silence should be maintained during the fire exit to permit proper instructions.

- Teachers should designate a responsible student to close all windows and turn off lights in the classroom. Teachers are expected to check for clearance from their areas and evacuate the building with the students. Classroom doors should be closed but not locked. Teachers should take a class roster with them when leaving the building so attendance can be taken when students are reassembled outside.
- Upon leaving the building, classes should move away from the exits a distance of at least 100 feet where conditions allow. This will prevent the blocking of exits and will allow room for the operation of firefighting and other emergency equipment.

#### **Tornado Drills/Shelter**

- The signal for a tornado warning is a distinct siren warning sounded through the P.A. system. Each student should know the proper exit from the classroom to the evacuation area for every room in which he/she has classes.
- Rules governing tornado drills are as follows:  
Students are to be quiet when leaving the room and remain quiet until they arrive back in the room.
- Students are to walk in single file to their destination.
  - Teachers are to direct their class to their designated area and remain with them.
  - Teachers will make sure there are no students located near glass.
  - Students are to assume the American Red Cross Tornado Safe Position.
  - Students are to walk back the same way as they came from the room.

**Other Disaster Drills** - Other emergency drills may be conducted throughout the school year.

**Restraint & Seclusion** - Every effort will be made to prevent the need to restrain or place students in seclusion. However, FTCS recognizes that at times it may become necessary for employees to use restraints and/or seclusion when there is an imminent risk of serious physical harm to the student or others. FTCS's full seclusion and restraint plan can be found under board policies - [HERE](#).

#### **HEALTH SERVICES CLINICS**

Health services include programs, services, and activities that provide for a healthy environment, thereby promoting and protecting the health, learning, and well-being of all students. The school nurse clinics are available for emergencies, injuries, and illnesses that arise while the child is at school, in addition to management of chronic illnesses and special needs. Each FTCS clinic is staffed with a Community Health Network nurse (RN or LPN), provided at no cost to the school district. Nurses do not make medical diagnoses. Nurses are skilled in assessment, data collection, planning, intervention, evaluation, wellness promotion, health education, prevention, emergency care, referral, and communicable disease surveillance.

School nurses may provide non-emergency first aid treatment, emergency care, and conduct health screenings to any student. A Consent to Treat form is available during both the new and returning student online registration process. The Consent to Treat form must be filled out for any additional medical services, including medication administration, chronic health management, additional medical services not listed. The Consent to Treat form is also available on the FTCS website under "Health Services." Please speak with the nurse at the school if you have questions about the consent form or if you require a paper copy. If a parent does not wish for the nurse to provide services to a student, a letter must be provided to the clinic opting out of services.

The clinics are open daily during school hours. Students must have a pass to enter the clinic. Those without a pass will be sent back to class to obtain a pass unless there is an emergent need. The student will be asked the nature of the complaint, may have his/her temperature taken, and may be allowed to rest for a short period of time. Please remember that time in the clinic is time out of class and instructional time is being lost. The nurse will send students home who display outward signs of illness. The nurse will call the phone numbers on file if the nurse feels the student is too ill to be

at school, or if a symptom of illness below presents during the school day. It is essential that phone numbers provided to the school are current and up to date. If the nurse is unable to reach a contact, the student will be sent back to class, unless there are signs of a contagious illness. If the student has an emergent or urgent health need and/or the parent or other contact cannot be reached, EMS may be contacted.

### **ALLERGY PRECAUTION**

Due to allergy precautions, latex balloons and latex gloves are NOT to be utilized within any FTCSC building.

### **ILLNESS**

General guidelines for illness follow the guidelines, laws, and recommendations of the IN Department of Health, the Marion County Health Dept., Community Health Network, and Indiana Code to prevent the spread of communicable disease. When the nurse calls the parent to pick up the child, it is in accordance with these laws and directives and the public health setting of school. Parents should make every effort to come to the school to pick up their students in a timely manner. Bus transportation cannot be utilized if the child exhibits symptoms of a contagious illness.

Please do NOT send your child to school if one or more of the following symptoms are present: diarrhea, vomiting two or more times in a 24-hour period, undiagnosed body rash, sore throat with swollen lymph nodes, severe coughing, eye discharge and redness, or fever of 100 ° or more. Please do NOT send the child back to school until he/she has been fever-free (without fever-reducing medications) and with no vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours. Antibiotics prescribed for eye or throat infections must be given for 24 hours before the student returns to school. The school nurse will contact a parent/guardian for pick up from school if any of the above are present during the school day. The school nurse may request a doctor's note to return to school if there are symptoms of communicable disease. This will help prevent the spread of infection to others and ensure that the student is feeling better to learn. Students who have had surgery, may be asked to provide a doctor's release to return to school.

### **INJURY**

Students who are injured at school should report to the clinic to be assessed at the time of the injury. If a student has a deep laceration, cannot walk, has extreme swelling or pain, obvious deformity, head injury, or any other sign of an emergent/urgent need requiring further evaluation, the nurse will determine the best course of action for the situation. This may include a call for a parent/guardian to pick up, or a call to EMS.

The clinics possess wheelchairs for emergency response by school staff only. FTCSC cannot provide a wheelchair or any other medical supplies or devices which may be necessary for student injuries or recuperation from surgeries, this includes: crutches, dressing supplies, wraps, splints, etc. Parents should contact their healthcare provider or insurance carrier if these devices are needed beyond the school's initial response.

### **MEDICATIONS**

Medication given for the academic success of students, or other medications given for acute or chronic conditions may be administered by the school nurse. All medications must be provided by the parent/guardian. Any medication that is to be administered during the school day must be brought to the clinic by a parent or guardian. Students are not allowed to transport medications unless they have a consent to self-treat form on file for emergency medications. Medication administration forms are available at the school and online and must be filled out for each medication. Medication forms must be filled out and signed by the parent before a medication may be administered by the nurse. Medications that are prescribed for once, twice, or three times daily administration should be administered at home when all possible. Consult with your nurse if it is necessary for these medications to be administered during the school day. Prescription medications must have the current prescription label with the student's name attached to the medication.

Per Indiana Code, all medications must be in the ORIGINAL containers. For the safety of your student, medication received in a baggie or envelope cannot be given. More than a 4-week supply of medication should not be brought to the school, as controlled substances are counted daily by nurses, and upon receipt in the clinics. Expired medications and prescriptions with a label more than a year old will not be accepted.

Over-the-counter (OTC) medications provided by the parent may be stored in the clinic to be given by the school nurse. A signed medication consent form must be filled out for each medication. The label on an OTC serves as the guideline for dosing and frequency, including appropriate duration before a doctor is consulted. If the parent desires a dose or schedule that is different from the label, a physician's order shall be necessary for administration. If cough drops are needed, we suggest supplying a hard candy to be substituted for the same effect. This allows the student to remain in the classroom during educational time.

Students less than 12 years of age must have age-appropriate children's medication. Aspirin cannot be given to students, due to risk of Reye's syndrome—please check labels of various pain relievers and stomach medications to make sure aspirin, salicylates, or bismuth are not ingredients. Supplements, Vitamins, Non-FDA approved medications, and essential oils are not appropriate for school and will not be dispensed by the nurse. Medication policy is available online.

A physician's order and signed permission to self-carry form is necessary in order for an emergency medication prescribed for life-threatening conditions to be carried and administered by a student during the school day. Examples are Epi-pen and Albuterol. We recommend keeping an additional supply in the clinic in case of student need. Emergency medications that are controlled substances will be kept in the clinic.

### **LICE**

Students who exhibit scratching or evidence of live bugs in the hair may go to the school clinic for evaluation by the school nurse. The school nurse will examine the student's hair and scalp in a confidential manner.

If live lice (crawling bugs) are visualized, the parent/guardian shall be contacted by phone. Factors such as the severity of infestation, child's age, or other health concerns influence professional judgment regarding parent pick up and recommendation of treatment options.

If nits only are visualized, the student may remain in school and the parent will be notified of need for treatment by the end of the school day. Nits closer than ½ inch from the scalp may be viable and require parental action at home.

Once confirmed, students with live head lice must be cleared by the nurse in order to return to school. Students should be brought to the clinic by the parent after treatment to be cleared prior to their return to the classroom. School Nurses may offer educational assistance with strategies for prevention and ways to enable the student to return to school as soon as possible.

### **MISCELLANY**

In the event that Indiana Poison Control is consulted, the instructions received shall be absolutely followed by nurses/school personnel, to include emergency transport.

It is the parent's responsibility to provide any student-specific supplies that are needed on a regular basis at school. This includes dressing supplies for injuries beyond initial first aid, supplies of clothing, hygiene items, equipment/supplies/food for any type of special need, etc. No outside food is allowed in the building during the school

days - this includes any food deliveries.

Immunization records are reviewed at the time of enrollment and throughout the school year to keep accurate compliance rates in the school. Per Indiana state law, students must be up to date with required immunizations prior to the first day of school. Parents will be informed about changes in state laws pertaining to immunizations prior to the start of each school year. All students must meet state requirements for immunizations. Students may be excluded from school if immunizations are not up to date. Please contact your building nurse for further information.

All students are expected to be independent in caring for their toileting needs, and will be given the necessary items to clean themselves in case of an accident. Parents of young students are encouraged to provide spare items in the student's backpack.

Extra clothing will be provided when available and should be laundered and returned to the school when lent out. If clothing is not available, the nurse will contact the parent to provide clothing.

Vision (grades 1, 3, 5, 8) and hearing (grades 1, 4, 7, 10) screenings take place during the year and are performed by the school professional staff, eye doctor, or health department. Referrals for follow-up are mailed to the home. Parents should make every effort to act promptly if a referral is received, as vision and hearing deficits greatly impact educational performance. The handbook shall serve as notice that screening will occur. Check buildings' calendars for specific dates.

#### **PERMANENT BUS STOPS**

- Permanent bus stops will be established by the Franklin Township Community Schools and are subject to change by (FTCSC) Transportation Office. Bus stops will be published annually and made available to the community via the FTCSC website. Bus stops will be located on publicly serviced roadways. Buses will NOT load/unload students at businesses, parking lots, or areas deemed unsafe by the Transportation Department. Students must use the bus stop assigned to them.
- FTCSC cannot send buses into new neighborhoods under construction until buses can get through safely.
- Students and parents are required to ensure the safety of all individuals to and from the bus stop and while waiting for the bus.
- Students that do not reside in a neighborhood but reside off of a main roadway will be picked up at their driveway.
- ***Bus drivers are not authorized to change, edit, or add bus stops to their route. Please do not approach the driver at the bus stop. Requests or concerns are handled by the FTCSC Transportation Office.***
- Students need to be at their scheduled bus stop at least 10-minutes prior to the time scheduled.
- Addresses must be kept updated with registration at the student's home school. Transportation cannot change addresses.

#### **CUL-DE-SACS/COURTS/DEAD END ROADWAYS**

- FTCSC will not allow its buses to travel down cul-de-sacs, courts, or dead end roads due to inherent risk. Exceptions are made for special needs buses.
- Buses will not use driveways to turn around.

#### **BUS ROUTES AND CHANGES**

The change must be permanent and a consistent daily pick-up or drop-off location (no variant day/week locations will be approved). In order to provide a safe and secure experience for our students, **FTCSC is unable to temporarily alter a student's scheduled stop location** and or route. This ensures that all students will be picked up and dropped off at the

appropriate time and location. In addition, this allows FTSCS to maximize bus capacity and routing efficiencies. Transportation can only provide rides to and from the assigned bus stop. Please do not send notes to the school, give notes to the drivers, or contact the transportation office with requested changes as they will be unable to assist and may create confusion. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

- Bus routes will be designed to utilize the maximum capacity rating for each bus. Routes will be designed and built for students to ride to and from their assigned stop based on their home address or daycare provider.
- If you are using a daycare provider please use the **Pick-up/Drop-off Information Form**, which is available at school offices, CTEC (Administration Office on Franklin Rd), and on our school web page. This form may be turned into the school office, faxed to the Transportation Office at 317-803-5070, or emailed to [transportation@ftcsc.org](mailto:transportation@ftcsc.org). Changes may take 3-5 days to process. Parents/guardians should have a backup plan in place until services are altered to accommodate request. **No changes may start until approved, authorized, and scheduled by the FTSCS Transportation Office.** Once a request is approved, the Transportation Office will notify the bus driver and parent/guardian of the student with start date and routing information.
- Due to bus capacity and routing efficiencies students will **NOT** be able to use multiple bus stops or day variant scheduling. **We do not issue bus passes or honor requests from parents.**
- There may be times routes may need to be consolidated to account for shortage of drivers or situations unforeseen by the transportation office.
- In the event the transportation department changes a bus route and the times are altered more than +/-10 minutes students and parents will be notified via letter indicating the schedule changes at least 3 days prior.
- One week prior to school starting bus route information will be available on the FTSCS website - [HERE](#). Use the login and passwords provided on that page. In the event of last minute changes may be made it is recommended to double check the night before school starts.
- [FTSCS TRANSPORTATION](#) utilizes the StopFinder App for all bus information. We encourage parents to download the StopFinder App.

### **BUS STOP ETIQUETTE**

The bus stop is considered school property. Students and parents are to respect the property where the bus stops are located. Individuals are not to damage or vandalize the property where the bus stops are located. Failure to comply may result in a loss of riding privileges. While we discourage parental/guardian interaction with bus staff at the bus stop, we also recognize that it does occur from time to time. Most bus stops are at a public location so parental/guardian interaction at the bus should be courteous and respectful. Abusive language (threatening, profanity, etc) and elevated voice level above a conversational level is unacceptable behavior and could/will result in a loss of riding privileges.

### **LOADING AND UNLOADING SAFETY**

- Students are to wait at least 10 feet away from the curb and in a straight line while waiting for the bus.
- Students that are required to cross the street must cross in front of the bus, **ONLY** after the driver has activated the red warning lights, stop arm, and they are indicated by the driver that it is safe to cross.
- Students are **NOT** to cross behind the bus. Due to the severity of the safety risk, students that cross behind the bus may lose riding privileges.
- Students are to be at their bus stop ready to board the bus at least 10 minutes prior to scheduled pick-up time. Students that are not at the bus stop and visible to the driver may be missed. Buses will not be sent back to retrieve students that missed the bus.
- If a student misses the bus they are **NOT** to chase, follow, or board the bus at any other location other than their assigned bus stop. Doing any one of these can be extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury or death. Students chasing buses or boarding at a different stop will receive a one-day suspension.
- Students at the bus stop should not engage in any horseplay. Pushing, shoving, chasing, etc.

### **CONTACT**

In order to maintain bus routes running in an efficient and timely manner, we request that all communication be handled through the Transportation Office and not at the bus stop. In the event you need to get a hold of your child's bus driver to discuss a disciplinary concern, bus times, or items related to the bus ride please contact the Transportation Office (317-862-2314) and a message will be left for the driver.

### **BUS SAFETY DRILLS**

Throughout the school year students will participate in bus safety drills. The dates will be posted online. This program is to help assist students in the education process of understanding their role and what to do in the event the bus needs to be evacuated.

- Students will be taught how to evacuate, where to evacuate, and how the emergency exits operate.
- Students shall dress accordingly on these dates as they will be evacuating out of the bus through the front, middle, or rear exits.

### **CARRY-ON ITEMS**

Carry-on items must fit the following criteria:

- Fit on top of student's lap
- Sit below the lower window level
- Are not to interfere with other students sitting in their seats.
- Must keep the aisle and emergency exits clear; per state law.
- Students are not to bring toys, speakers, collectible cards, laser pointers, balloons, or other distracting items to school or onto the bus. Headphones must be used when listening to music on an electronic device. Students must have one ear uncovered to hear info from the bus driver. Any items needed for a school project, etc. should be kept in the students' back pack. Items that do not fit in the backpack or do not meet the above criteria, may not be transported. Students are asked not to bring blankets on the bus to school. FTCSC is not responsible for loss, damage or theft of electronic devices or other items brought onto the bus. Drivers may have additional policies per their own discretion. Videos and photos are NOT to be taken on FTCSC buses.

### **BUS RULES**

The bus is an extension of the school therefore students are expected to follow the same rules that apply in a classroom. In addition, students are expected to follow the Bus Discipline Plan listed below: Failure to follow the Bus Discipline Plan may result in a loss of bus riding privileges:

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR RIDING A FTCSC BUS**

- Follow directions first time given
- Treat other riders with respect and consideration to safety
- Be at the designated stop prior to the bus arrival
- Go straight to the assigned seat and remain seated while the bus is in motion (use seatbelt if applicable).
- Keep all items in a bag that is small enough to be held in the lap. All items must be maintained in the space of your child's seat and may not be in the aisle or impede into the space of others.
- If allowed at your school electronic devices, food, gum or drinks are to be kept in the backpack.
- Be responsible for your belongings; items that could be lost, damaged or stolen are not the responsibility of FTCSC.
- Ask before putting windows down.

- Keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself and inside the bus.
- Be respectful of others by using kind words and gestures, speaking with an appropriate classroom level voice.

### **INFRACTIONS THAT WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION FROM THE BUS**

- Verbal or physical abuse of students or staff including but not limited to
  - Profanity
  - Hoseplay
  - Throwing of any object
- Destruction or vandalism
- Possession of sprays, combustibles, tobacco, e-cigarettes/vapes alcohol, drugs or weapons (guns, knives, lighters, etc.)

### **BUS DISCIPLINE ACTION PLAN**

Please be aware that the following is just a guideline. Serious infraction may dictate a more severe action. When able, the driver will verbally warn the student and or move seats. After that the driver is instructed to follow the discipline plan as outlined:

1. Coaching - Driver will talk to the student about their behavior and its impact on bus safety and instruct as to the appropriate behavior he/she wants to see in the future
2. Verbal Warning - Driver will talk to the student and document that the conversation took place. Parent will be notified either via phone call or email
3. Written Warning - Driver will discuss behavior and future consequences if the behavior does not change. Driver/monitor will document the conversation and send home a written warning to be signed and returned by the student and parent.
4. Suspension - Driver will discuss behavior and consequences, document the conversation, call the parent to communicate consequences and time off the bus. Students will go through several suspensions, each one longer than the previous, up to 10 days off the bus. Length of suspension will be based on several factors. All suspensions will be approved by a member of the Student Management team.
5. Bus Expulsion - Up to the remainder of the school year off the bus. Documentation of this action will be sent to the home electronically and via the US post office.

Transportation department staff will make every effort to speak directly to a parent or guardian regarding disciplinary concerns with their child. If voicemail is not set up an email will be sent to each parent/guardian listed on the students contact list in Skyward. Please respond to these efforts to discuss student behaviors with the best time to contact you. FTCSC staff will use all means possible to investigate complaints. We will speak with students and review videos as necessary to document student behavior. Video is available to drivers/monitors, student management team, transportation director and assistant director, as well as school principals/deans and appropriate FTCSC staff. If a parent would like to view a video of their child please contact student management staff in the transportation department at 317-862-2314 to schedule a time. To protect the privacy of other students their faces will be blurred out.

### **STAR EXPRESS CHILD NUTRITION MEAL PROGRAM**

Go to Child Nutrition's website - [HERE](#) and [WEB-BASED MENUS](#) to find a more complete list of what your Child Nutrition program is doing for your students. Also available: menus, meal prices, nutritional data and requirements, payment options, charge procedure, allergy management, free & reduced meal application, Summer Servings, wellness policy, and contact information.

As a result of the USDA Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch, five meal components are offered daily with a

variety of choices in each category. Of those five components (Meat/meat alternative, grain/bread, fruit, vegetable, and milk), the students must choose at least 3 different components. Each student is required to take either a fruit or vegetable serving as part of the reimbursable meal and may take up to two fruits and/or two vegetables as part of their meal. Star Express offers breakfast daily and provides a variety of entrees that are whole grain-rich and packed with essential vitamins and minerals needed for everyday function. Four food items from 3 meal components are offered each day at breakfast. Of those four food items (Meat/meat alternative, grain/bread, fruit, and milk), the students must choose at least 3 different items. Each student is required to take the fruit or juice serving as part of the reimbursable meal.

Federal regulations require that meals are priced as a unit and no reduction is given if a student takes less than the offered items. Students are encouraged to take all of the items offered. In addition, a la carte items are available for purchase. The Child Nutrition department uses a computerized meal payment system. The district uses multiple options for student meal checkout including but not limited to; pin numbers, barcode scanners, class rosters, and biometrics. The system allows a student to make payments into his/her own personal account. Prepayments for meals are encouraged to reduce the need for frequent deposits and daily cash handling; however, he/she may still pay cash daily. Either cash or checks will be accepted for deposit. In addition, online payments can be made through [EZSCHOOLPAY.COM](https://EZSCHOOLPAY.COM) with a debit or credit card. EZSchoolPay is accessible through the district website. An account balance cannot be shared by different children in the same household. Money in a student's account may be used for complete meals and a la carte sales. The system allows one student meal for breakfast and one for lunch. All other purchases will be charged at a la carte pricing.

If a household chooses not to use EZSchoolPay, students paying by check/cash may drop off their deposit to the main office dropbox or to the Child Nutrition office by 9am Elementary students are to bring checks or cash in an envelope marked with the child's name and teacher's name on it and submit it to the classroom teacher each morning. Deposits are also accepted on the line. We request that you write the child's name on checks. Checks should be made payable to Franklin Township Food Service (FTFS). In order to expedite the line speed, a "no cash back policy" has been implemented at all schools. Any remaining cash paid at the register will go into the student's account instead of refunding it to them.

Eligible students may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Applications are available online at the FTCS Child Nutrition website. Applications need to be completed annually for each school year.

Students may charge a full reimbursable meal (entrée, up to two fruits and/or two vegetables and a milk). Charges are not permitted for a la carte items.

Students/Parents are informed of low account balances by three different methods: (1) Verbal reminders from the cashier, (2) Text and Email reminders sent home bi-weekly, (3) Parents can sign up with EZSchoolPay to receive low balance reminders, free of charge. Utilizing EZSchoolPay is highly encouraged by the Child Nutrition department. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the maintenance of their students' accounts. At the end of each semester, any account that is greater than (-\$20.00) will be sent to RMP Credit for collections.

Funds remaining in the students' meal account at the end of the school year will be applied to the students' balance for the next school year.

Inactive accounts (withdrawn or graduated students) are eligible for refunds with a written request to the Child Nutrition department or by submitting the request via the form on the Child Nutrition department's web page. The request must be submitted 30 days after the end of the school year, or 30 days after the date the student leaves the district.

If your student has a diet restriction/food allergy that requires monitoring, please contact your school's Community Health Network RN. The district procedure can be found at: <https://ftcsc.org/health-services/forms>

If you have any questions regarding the meal program, please contact the Star Express manager and/or visit our website:

[CHILD NUTRITION WEBSITE PAGE](#)

[WEB-BASED MENUS](#)

email: [StarExpress@ftcsc.org](mailto:StarExpress@ftcsc.org)

Follow us on Facebook and X! @FTStarExpress

### **CAFETERIA**

1. Students may bring lunch from home, but all students MUST eat in the cafeteria unless authorized by a teacher or administrator.
2. Students are to enter by the cafeteria doors and proceed immediately to a seat or lunch line. Students will be released by a cafeteria supervisor to ensure an orderly transition in and out of the cafeteria.
3. After students' finish lunch they should return their tray and any cartons, napkins, straws, wrappers or other papers to their proper disposal areas when directed to do so. Students should leave the area at the table clean and tidy, ready for the next student.
4. No food or drink is to be taken from the cafeteria. Students should never play with, or throw food items.
5. Arrangements can be made to go to the restroom during the lunch period.
6. Students should be courteous to cafeteria personnel, teachers, and other students.
7. Students that do not meet behavioral expectations may be removed to another setting outside of the cafeteria.

### **AID FOR QUALIFIED FAMILIES FOR FEES AND FREE OR REDUCED PRICE LUNCHES**

Indiana Code, Section 20-8.1-3.28 provides that parents of a child or children who do not have sufficient means to furnish their child with books and instructional fees shall have such rental fees supplied by FTCSC and FTCSC will secure reimbursement for the same from the state.

- Additional information and applications are located - [HERE](#) website. In the operation of these procedures, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color or national origin.
- The superintendent's office has a copy of the complete policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

### **MEDIA REQUESTS FOR STUDENT PHOTOS AND NAMES**

FTCSC is often asked by local newspapers, television stations, and web news sites to supply photographs and names of students involved in a variety of activities, clubs, and special events. We release this information to those outlets unless a refusal is on file for the current school year. You have the right to request that the school not disclose any or all information. If you do not wish for your child's name and/or identifying information or photo to appear in any school or school related publication or announcement, you must notify your child's principal in writing within 14 days of the start of the school year or within 14 days of enrolling your child. If submitted after the first 14 days of school or enrollment the school will make an effort to withhold publications, but no guarantees will be made due to productions that may have occurred prior to the request.

PARENTS: We respectfully ask that you refrain from using your camera or smart phones to take pictures of children other than your own while at school or at school related functions. We like to respect the privacy of all of our students and families.

### **INTERNET, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND E-MAIL**

We are pleased to offer the students of Franklin Township access to the Internet and other secure telecommunication

services. Access to the Internet will enable students to explore thousands of libraries, bulletin boards, and other computer networks for educational purposes. Families should be warned that some material accessible via the Internet may not be appropriate for students' use. We understand the risk involved but believe the benefits to students in the form of information and opportunities for collaborations exceed any disadvantages. We will work to educate our students on appropriate use of the network. However, it is ultimately parents and/or guardians of minors who are responsible for seeing and conveying the standard their children should follow when using media and information services.

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY**

We seek to provide a productive and positive learning environment for our students. An increasing part of this environment includes technology. Students agree to read and follow all guidelines set forth in the board-approved student responsible use policy (RUP). The most current version is available on the FTCSC Information Technology website located - [HERE](#).

### **DISCIPLINE**

The Board believes that the education of each student can be achieved only in an orderly and disciplined environment. The superintendent shall establish reasonable rules and regulations for student behavior that promote the attainment of educational goals set by the Board. The superintendent shall make these written rules and regulations available to students and parents at least annually. When students choose to conduct themselves in such a way that they are in violation of established rules and regulations they shall be disciplined in an appropriate manner.

The superintendent shall establish, implement, and support discipline procedures appropriate to the age and the misconduct of the student. These procedures shall also include a process whereby a principal may remove such students from school and, at the time, ensure that these students' rights to due process are not violated.

### **NEW STUDENTS**

The Principal or designee shall review the attendance and discipline records of a newly enrolled student from the student's previous school(s) and shall treat documented absences or misbehavior as if they had occurred in FTCSC.

### **FCHS DISCIPLINE PHILOSOPHY**

A major purpose at Franklin Central High School is to establish a climate in which all students are able to learn with a minimum of disruption and interference; consequently, all students at Franklin Central High School are expected to behave in a way that does not disrupt or interfere with the education of fellow students. The guidelines for student conduct contained in this handbook have been established to set a standard of student behavior, which will allow our school to accomplish, with maximum effectiveness, its primary purpose—the provision of the best educational opportunity for each student.

Administrative decisions in disciplinary matters will reflect the laws of the State of Indiana and the student behavior codes established by Franklin Central High School. The seriousness of the offense committed by each student and the degree to which the offense interferes with the educational function and purposes of the school will determine the type of disciplinary remedy which is applied.

The jurisdiction of Franklin Central High School to enforce these codes and guidelines extends to any activity for which Franklin Central High School is responsible, whenever and wherever it occurs. Students are also subject to this jurisdiction while traveling to and from any school-related activity, whatever the form of transportation may be.

## **STOPit SOLUTIONS**

FTCSC encourages the use of the STOPit app. STOPit is an anonymous way to report information quickly. You can include text, images or video and only take a few minutes. Users can report bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, violence, threats or weapons possession as well as alcohol and drug related issues and discrimination. Parents and students are encouraged to download the [STOPit APP](#).

## **FTCSC EXPECTATIONS**

In order for each FTCSC student to have a clear understanding of what is or is not expected from him or her, the following guidelines for student behavior are outlined. For each offense there will be disciplinary action taken which may include suspension or expulsion from school. Withholding of information concerning student(s) infractions is a violation of this code. The administration will determine the severity of disciplinary actions to be taken for any offense.

### **WHERE?**

The following infractions could take place:

- A. In the school building or on its grounds
- B. Traveling to or from school
- C. Off school grounds at a school function
- D. Traveling to or from a school function

### **WHEN?**

The following infractions could take place:

- A. Before, during, or after school
- B. Before, during, or after any school function
- C. Any time at school
- D. Before, during, or after school or school function, riding a bus
- E. Before, during, or after school or school function, riding in a car

### **WHAT?**

1. **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT** - Including but not limited to:
  - a. **CHEATING** - Use of any unauthorized assistance, or giving unauthorized assistance to another student, in the completion class assignments/tests.
  - b. **PLAGIARISM** - Claiming to be the author of material that someone else actually wrote or the use of another's production without crediting the source.
2. **ALCOHOL** - Knowingly possessing, transmitting, being under the influence of or withholding information about an alcoholic beverage.
3. **ATTENDANCE**
  - a. **Tardy to School**: Any student late to first period/late to school.
  - b. **Tardy to Class**: Any student who is late to class.
  - c. **Truancy**: Any student who is unexcused from school.
4. **BATTERY** - Battery is considered one of the most severe offenses within the school setting, involving intentional

and unlawful physical contact or harm against another person.

5. **BULLYING** - Bullying is prohibited by FTCSC. Students who commit any acts of bullying are subject to discipline, including but not limited to suspension, expulsion, arrest, and/or prosecution. Policy C200 can be found on the FTCSC website. "Bullying" is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically); physical acts committed; aggression; or any other behaviors committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student, creating for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:
- places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or property;
  - has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
  - has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
  - has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by the school.

**Reporting:** Anyone who believes that a student has possibly been or is the victim of bullying is encouraged to immediately report the situation to an appropriate staff member such as a teacher, school counselor, or administrator (including FTCSC's Lead Administrator). All staff, volunteers and contracted service providers who observe or receive a report of suspected bullying shall notify a designated school administrator in charge of receiving reports of suspected bullying within the same day. If a staff member does not know who to make a report to, he or she should report directly to the building principal or FTCSC's Lead Administrator. Bullying reports to the Department of Child Services and/or law enforcement must be made as required by law, such as when a staff member believes that a student is the victim of abuse or neglect. Any person who makes a report of bullying and requests to remain anonymous will not be personally identified as the reporter or complainant to the extent permitted by law. FTCSC will act appropriately to discipline staff members, volunteers, or contracted service providers who receive a report of bullying and fail to initiate or conduct an investigation of a bullying incident and for persons who falsely report an incident of bullying. FTCSC will act appropriately to discipline students, staff members, visitors or volunteers who make false reports of bullying.

6. **BUS REFERRAL:** The bus and bus stop is an extension of the school therefore students are expected to follow the same rules that apply in a classroom. Failure to follow bus rules potentially will result in removal from the bus.
7. **CHRONIC / HABITUAL OFFENDER** - Being a chronic or habitual offender. A review of a student's behavior and academic record will be made by the administration at the 10th violation of the discipline code (fewer if offenses are of a serious nature).
8. **DEFIANCE**
- Classroom** - Failing to comply with classroom rules or a staff member's directions while in the classroom setting
  - Non-Classroom** - Failing to comply with school rules or a staff member's directions while in a non-classroom setting. This includes being out of an assigned area or misusing a pass.
  - Cutting Class** - Unexcused absence from one or more classes.
9. **DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY** - Including but not limited to breaking or vandalizing any property or aiding or assisting another student in, vandalizing any property belonging to students, teachers, administrators, substitute teachers, student teachers, guests in the building, security people, support staff, any vehicle, school grounds, or the school itself.

10. **DRESS CODE VIOLATION:** Failure to comply with the expectations outlined in the “Dress Code Standards”.
11. **DRIVING VIOLATIONS:** Driving in an unsafe manner or breaking any laws having to do with driving, not limited to destruction of school property. Driving, riding or transporting students without permission. For more information, reference [Driving and Parking Regulations](#) found in the FCHS Handbook.
12. **DOCUMENTATION PURPOSES ONLY:** Student actions that result in a staff member communicating with student and parent - infractions do not result in a disciplinary consequence.
13. **DRUGS:** Possessing, transmitting, being under the influence of or withholding information about:
- Marijuana
  - Someone else’s prescription medication
  - Non-prescription drugs, unless properly authorized
  - Narcotics
  - Amphetamine
  - Hallucinogen
  - Inhalant
  - Barbiturate
  - Intoxicant of any kind
  - Lighters or matches
  - Paraphernalia for drugs or tobacco
  - Any other substance that is controlled/illegal, or represented to be
  - Improper use of prescription drug

Withholding of information about student(s) possession, use and/or transmission of drugs, paraphernalia, and look-alikes is a violation of this code.

14. **EXPLOSIVES** - Possessing, selling, transmitting or giving away any explosives, fireworks, or incendiary devices or objects, for example:
- Smoke bombs
  - Firecrackers
  - Stink Bombs
  - Poppers
  - Chemical explosives

Withholding information about such items is a violation of this code.

15. **FALSE REPORTING / EQUIPMENT TAMPERING** - Setting off a fire alarm, calling in a false alarm (fire, bomb, or shooting), encouraging or helping another student set off or call in a false alarm (fire, bomb or shooting), or spreading rumors of a fire or bomb. Setting fires at school or any threat to the school, staff, or students.
16. **FIGHTING (NOT BATTERY)** - Engaging in a physical contest or struggle with one or more persons, in the course of which punches are thrown or any part of the body is used either aggressively or in retaliation for the purpose of restraining or inflicting injury or pain upon another. The definition of self-defense per Franklin Township Community School Corporation is a reasonable and non-aggressive way to defend oneself against an aggressor.
17. **GAMBLING** - Any form of gambling by students is strictly prohibited. Students are also prohibited from the unauthorized selling, buying and trading of ANY items including to/from school.

18. **GROSS INSUBORDINATION** - Continued refusal to obey a teacher's or staff member's order or direction in an emotionally charged or volatile situation, or involving the safety of people. Failure to comply with a reasonable request may be considered gross insubordination.
19. **INTIMIDATION / HARASSMENT (Student/Staff)** - Placing another person in fear of physical harm through actions or words.
20. **PHYSICAL AGGRESSION** - Physical aggression refers to any intentional act using force or violence to cause harm, discomfort, or physical injury to another person. Physical aggression includes, but is not limited to, hitting, kicking, pushing, biting, throwing objects with the intention to harm, and any other acts that could physically hurt others.
21. **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT** - Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and any other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by any student to another person. Engaging in improper sexual conduct, either with part of the body or with an object. Also, sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form, including the contents of a cell phone or other electronic device.
22. **TECHNICAL MISUSE**
- a. Technical Misuse: Any misuse or abuse of telecommunications privileges, including but not limited to acceptable use privileges, access, etiquette, security, disk use, and vandalism determined by the Internet use committee; using a device in any manner other than its intended educational purpose.
  - b. Cell Phone Violation: Use of these devices is prohibited. Items are to be turned off during instructional time unless there is an instructional reason. Refer to Wireless Device guidance.
  - c. Students are prohibited from using ECDs to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using an ECD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal.
  - d. The use of cellular telephones and other ECDs that contain built-in cameras is prohibited in locker rooms, classrooms, bathrooms and/or swimming pool.
  - e. Recording, possessing, and/or transmitting any images of a violation of the school handbook policies is considered a violation of this code.
  - f. Where reasonable suspicion exists, school officials may examine electronic devices for evidence of student conduct code violations.
23. **THEFT** - Breaking into belongings, stealing from, or aiding or assisting another student in breaking into belongings, stealing any property belonging to students, teachers, administrators, substitute teachers, student teachers, guests in the building, security people, support staff, any vehicle, school grounds, or the school itself.
24. **TOBACCO** - Possession/use of smoking materials, tobacco products or vaporizers (i.e. cigarettes, chewing tobacco, lighters, electronic cigarettes, nicotine, or other vaporizer paraphernalia, etc.).
25. **VERBAL AGGRESSION DIRECTED (STUDENT/STAFF)** - The use of foul, lewd, or offensive language or gesture

against a student or staff member.

26. **VERBAL AGGRESSION NON-DIRECTED** - Use of profanity, offensive language, or inflammatory actions that could create a disturbance:
- Swearing/ Cursing
  - Using degrading racial, ethnic, religious or sexual words or phrases
  - Obscene gestures, noises, gang signs/signals
  - Wearing clothing that is profane, sexually suggestive, advertising or alluding to drugs or alcohol, or any attire that is inappropriate for the school setting
27. **TRESPASSING** - Going into or being in or on the school or grounds without proper supervision or permission.
28. **SAFETY VIOLATION:** - A safety violation occurs when a student acts in a way that could potentially endanger their safety or the safety of others. This includes falsifying passes and school records such as attendance, parent contact information, etc. into Skyward.
29. **SUBSTANTIAL DISRUPTION TO THE SCHOOL PROCESS** - A violation of any school rule which causes a substantial disturbance to the learning environment or safety of students, staff, or others.
30. **WEAPONS - (IC 20-33-8-16)** In Possession of, Transmitting, Selling and/or using Weapons; Being with someone who has, transmits, sells or uses a weapon; or Knowledge of Deadly or Dangerous Weapons...for example, including but not limited to:
- Knife
  - Blackjack
  - Gun
  - Toy Gun
  - Water gun of any type
  - Pellet Gun
  - BB Gun
  - Bullets
  - Brass Knuckles
  - Mace/Pepper Spray
  - Any chemical spray propellant

Because the FTCSC believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of deadly or dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the school administration. Failure to report such knowledge is a violation of this code.

#### **WIRELESS DEVICES**

(IC) 20-26-5-40.7, "wireless communication device" means any portable wireless device that has the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communications between two or more parties, including a (1) cellular telephone; (2) tablet computer; (3) laptop computer; or (4) gaming device.

- **Requirements:** Under IC 20-26-5-40.7, each school corporation and charter school shall adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that **prohibits a student from using a wireless device during instructional time**, with exceptions.

- A teacher may allow a student to use a wireless communication device for educational purposes during instructional time.
- A student is permitted to use a wireless communication device in the event of an emergency or to manage the student's health care.
- The policy may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time if the use of the wireless communication device is included in the student's: Individualized Education Program (IEP), or 504 Plan.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS REGARDING CELL PHONE CONTENT AND DISPLAY**

- The Child Abuse/Neglect Law requires school personnel to report to law enforcement or child protective services whenever there is reason to believe that any person/student is involved with "child exploitation" or "child pornography" as defined by Indiana Criminal Statutes.
- It is "child exploitation," a Level 5 felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(b), for any person/student (1) to exhibit, photograph or create a digitized image of any incident that includes "sexual conduct" by a child under the age of 18; or (2) to disseminate, exhibit to another person, or offer to so disseminate or exhibit, matter that depicts or describes "sexual conduct" by a child under the age of 18.
- It is "child pornography," a Level 6 felony under I.C. 35-42-4-4(c), for any person/student to possess a photograph, motion picture, digitized image, or any pictorial representation that depicts or describes "sexual conduct" by a child who the person knows is less than 16 years of age or who appears less than age 16.
- "Sexual conduct" is defined by I.C. 35-42-4-4(a) to include sexual intercourse, exhibition of the uncovered genitals intended to satisfy or arouse the sexual desires of any person, or any fondling or touching of a child by another person or of another person by a child intended to arouse or satisfy the sexual desires of the child or other person.
- The Indiana Sex Offender Registration Statute at I.C. 11-8-8-7 and the Sex Offender Registry Offense Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-11, as of May 2009, require persons convicted of or adjudicated as a juvenile delinquent for violating the Child Exploitation Statute at I.C. 35-42-4-4(b) to register as a sex offender.

Because student cell phones have been found in a number of Indiana school districts to have contained evidence of "sexual conduct" as defined above, it is important for parents and students to be aware of the legal consequences should this occur in our school system.

**DRESS CODE STANDARDS**

Students are expected to maintain an appearance that is appropriate for school and conducive to the educational atmosphere. Whenever a school official considers a student's appearance to be inappropriate, immodest or distracting to the educational environment, a conference will be held and the student will be asked to make the necessary accommodations. The following are examples of clothing or items that are considered to be inappropriate:

- Clothing and/or any adornment displaying messages not appropriate for school. Examples would be messages containing profanity, sexual innuendo, depicting violence, and references to drugs, alcoholic beverages or tobacco products. Clothing revealing bare midriffs, shirts and tops must be able to be tucked in
- Clothing which reveals undergarments or the lack of undergarments
- No brimmed hats or hoods allowed except those worn for religious purposes, may be worn. Other requests must be submitted in writing to the principal. Hats are not to be carried or displayed. Examples of headwear would be sweatbands, scarves, bandanas and earmuffs.
- Heavy winter or long coats should be stored in a locker when appropriate.
- House slippers and gloves
- Sagging pants or shorts worn more than two inches below the hips

- Shorts, pants, skirts and dresses need to be of an appropriate length. The guide to use is the length of the fingers as the arm hangs down the side
- Strapless, spaghetti strap, or tank tops. Studded or spiked items, chains, or any item that might cause a concern for student safety
- Blankets are not allowed at school. These items are to be placed in a locker or backpack.

\*Students who violate the dress code may face disciplinary action. The administration reserves the right to determine appropriate dress or attire.

### **VIOLATION OF THE DRESS CODE**

Upon seeing a student in violation of the dress code, teachers or staff members will submit a referral in Skyward for the student. First Offense – a disciplinary referral will be logged and parent contact will be made. Second Offense (and all thereafter) – a disciplinary referral will be logged and the offense will be considered a failure to comply with school rules (see rule #7) and the appropriate consequence will be assigned.

### **CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS**

The School Board of FTCSC prohibits criminal organization (commonly known as “gang”) activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property, on school buses, and/or at school-sponsored functions on and off school grounds, prohibiting reprisal or retaliation against individuals who report criminal organization activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or other people with reliable information about an act of criminal organization activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior.

The following definitions apply to this policy:

- A. Criminal Organization means a group with at least three (3) members that specifically:
  1. either promotes, sponsors, assists in, participates in; or
  2. requires as a condition of membership or continued membership; the commission of a felony or an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult or the offense of battery.
- B. Criminal Organization Activity means a student who knowingly or intentionally participates in a criminal organization, or a student who knowingly or intentionally solicits, recruits, entices, or intimidates another individual to join a criminal organization.

### **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Disciplinary action taken by officials at Franklin Central High School will be in accordance with guidelines set forth in IC 20-33-8. Such action may occur in the following forms:

- **AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION (ASD)** - mandatory study hall held on Wednesdays after school. Students must bring study materials. Failure to serve a detention without prior permission will result in a Friday School, In School Intervention, or Out of School Suspension. Detentions will not be rescheduled without permission of the dean’s office, and such rescheduling will only be considered upon parent request prior to the originally scheduled detention. Failure to cooperate while in detention will result in Out of School Suspension. A no phone day may be offered as an alternative to detention. Students are responsible for transportation home from after school detention.
- **FRIDAY NIGHT SCHOOL (FNS)** - mandatory attendance for one and a half hours on Friday afternoon. Failure to serve Friday School without prior permission will result in an In School Suspension. Students must bring study materials. Students will not be allowed to attend Friday School without sufficient study material. Students will not be allowed to go to their lockers after they arrive at the school site. Failure to cooperate in Friday School will

result in one day of In School Suspension.

- **IN-SCHOOL INTERVENTION (ISI)/REDIRECTION CENTER** - denial of permission to attend regular classes. Students will be placed in the In-School Intervention room for a period of time, depending upon the severity of the offense. This time will be considered excused from class. During In-School Intervention, students will be required to complete assignments and a self-evaluation of behavior problems. Failure to cooperate in In-School Intervention will result in Out of School suspension.

**Students are not allowed to attend or participate in any after school activities on the days they are assigned to ISI or OSS.**

**On a second a suspension (OSS), FCHS will submit a loss of driving privileges through the BMV.**

- **OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION** - denial of permission to attend classes for a designated period of time. The period of suspension may range from one class period to ten days, depending upon the severity of the offense. Suspensions will be served out of school. Parent/guardian may request assignments assigned while a student is suspended out of school. To receive credit for the work, the student must complete and turn in all work at the beginning of class on the day the student returns to school. Quizzes and tests will be administered upon return to school. Students on suspension are prohibited from returning to school campus or any school activity prior to their official return to school. Violators are subject to a charge of trespass or further disciplinary action, per IC 35-43-2-2 Criminal Trespass, Sec. 2 (a) A person who: (1) not having a contractual interest in the property, knowingly or intentionally enters the real property of another person after having been denied entry by the other person or that person's agent. VIOLATION OF THIS DIRECTIVE AND STATUTE not to return to Franklin Township Schools properties and/or activities MAY RESULT IN ARREST.\*
- **EXPULSION\*** – Expulsion means any disciplinary action whereby a student is expelled from school attendance for violation of a school policy or regulation for a period in excess of ten days or is separated from school attendance for the balance of the current semester or current year unless a student is permitted to complete required examinations in order to receive credit for courses taken in the current semester or current year Expulsion - denial of permission to attend classes for a period of time greater than ten days. The procedures outlined in the Indiana Student Conduct Code will be followed.
- **ALTERNATIVES** will be sought by the administration in cases where the above actions are deemed inappropriate. Additional disciplinary actions authorized under IC 20-33-8-25 include:
  - Assignment of up to 120 hours of Community Service.
  - Counseling with a student or group of students.
  - Conferences with a parent or group of parents.
  - Assignment of additional work.
  - Rearrangement of class schedules.
  - Restricting extracurricular activities.
  - Removal of a student from school sponsored transportation.
  - Assignment to a special course of study, alternative education program or alternative school
- **DRUG DIVERSION PROGRAM-** FTCS may provide an option for service to designated students who violate school rules involving drug or alcohol abuse. Referrals will be limited to first-time offenders and non-providers.
- **REVIEW OF STUDENT'S BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC RECORD** - A review of a student's behavior and academic record will be made by the administration at the 10th violation of the student conduct code (fewer if offenses are of a serious nature). At that time, a recommendation for expulsion from school may be made.
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT INTERVENTION** - Students may be arrested and/or ticketed if local, state and/or federal laws are violated.

- **SOCIAL PROBATION** - Any student who has been involved in an infraction of school rules, or has been found to be in academic non-compliance, may be placed on Social Probation by the principal, or his/her designee, in addition to, or in lieu of, other disciplinary action. Social Probation will be for a definite time period during which critical examination and evaluation of the student's progress should take place. During the probation period, the student may be denied the privilege of participating in or attendance at all extracurricular activities (including field trips). If the student is further involved in an infraction of school rules during the probationary period, he/she will be subject to whatever disciplinary action is set forth in the probationary agreement. The parent/guardian will be notified that the student is being placed on Social Probation, including the length of the period, the terms of the probation, and the possible consequences of suspension/ expulsion if the student is found in further violation of school rules during probation (I.C. 20-33-8-27).

#### **AUTHORITY TO REMOVE STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

The Board of School Trustees authorizes administrators and staff members to take the following actions:

1. Removal from Class or Activity - Teacher: A teacher may remove a student from that teacher's class for a period of up to one (1) school day if the student is assigned regular or additional work to be completed in another school setting.
2. Suspension from School - Principal: A school principal (or designee) may deny a student the right to attend school or take part in any school function for a period of up to (10) school days.
3. Expulsion: In accordance with the due process procedures defined in this policy, a student may be expelled from school for a period no longer than the remainder of the current semester plus the following semester, with the exception of a violation of IC 20-33-8-16.

#### **INDIANA CODE GRANTING SCHOOLS THE AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND AND EXPEL STUDENTS**

IC 20-33-8-8 Duty and powers of School Corporation to supervise and discipline students:

Student supervision and the desirable behavior of students in carrying out school purposes is the responsibility of:

1. a school corporation; and
2. the students of a school corporation.

In all matters relating to the discipline and conduct of students, School Corporation personnel:

1. stand in the relation of parents to the students of the school corporation;
2. have the right to take any disciplinary action necessary to promote student conduct that conforms with an orderly and effective educational system, subject to this chapter; and
3. have qualified immunity with respect to a disciplinary action taken to promote student conduct under subdivision (2) if the action is taken in good faith and is reasonable.

Students must:

1. follow reasonable directions of school personnel in all educational settings; and
2. refrain from disruptive behavior that interferes in any way with the educational environment.

IC 20-33-8-14 Grounds for suspension or expulsion:

1. Student Misconduct
2. Substantial Disobedience

The grounds for suspension and expulsion apply when a student is:

1. On school grounds immediately before or during school hours, or immediately after school hours, or at any other time when the school is being used by a school group.
2. Off school grounds at a school activity, function, or event.
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function or event.

IC 20-33-8-15 Unlawful activity:

In addition to the grounds specified in Section 14 (above), a student may be suspended or expelled for engaging in unlawful activity on or off school grounds if:

1. The unlawful activity may reasonably be considered to be an interference with school purposes or an educational function.
2. The student's removal is necessary to restore order or protect persons on school property; including unlawful activity on weekends, holidays, other school breaks and the summer period when a student may not be attending classes or other school functions.

IC 20-33-8-16 Possession of firearms, deadly weapons or destructive devices:

A student who is:

1. Identified as bringing a firearm or destructive device to school or on school property; or
2. In possession of a firearm or destructive device on school property, must be expelled for a period of at least one (1) year, with the return of the student to be at the beginning of the first semester after the end of the one (1) year period.

IC 20-33-8-17 Student's legal settlement not in attendance area: A student may be expelled from school if the student's legal settlement is not in the attendance area of the school corporation where the student is enrolled.

**SUSPENSION PROCEDURES (IC 20-33-8-18)**

When a principal (or designee) determines that a student should be suspended, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A meeting will be held prior to the suspension of any student. At this meeting, the student will be entitled to the following:
  - a. The student will receive a written or oral statement of the charges,
  - b. If the student denies the charges, a summary of the evidence against the student will be presented; and
  - c. The student will be provided an opportunity to explain his or her conduct.
2. The meeting shall precede suspension of the student except where the nature of the misconduct requires immediate removal. In such situations, the meeting will follow the suspension as soon as reasonably possible following the suspension.
3. Following the suspension, the parents or guardians of suspended students will be notified by mail, in writing. The notification will include the dates of the suspension; describe the student's misconduct, and the action taken by the principal.

**EXPULSION PROCEDURES (IC 20-33-8-19)**

When a principal (or designee) recommends to the superintendent (or designee) that a student be expelled from school, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The superintendent (or designee) may conduct an expulsion meeting, or may appoint one of the following persons to conduct the expulsion meeting:
  - a. Legal counsel
  - b. A member of the administrative staff who did not expel the student and was not involved in the events giving rise to the expulsion.
2. An expulsion will not take place until the student and the student's parents are given notice of their right

to appear at an expulsion meeting conducted by the superintendent or the person designated above. Failure by a student or a student's parents to appear at this meeting will be deemed a waiver of rights administratively to contest the expulsion.

3. The request to appear at the expulsion meeting will be in writing, delivered by certified mail or by personal delivery, and contain the reasons for the expulsion and the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
4. At the expulsion meeting, the principal (or designee) will present evidence to support the charges against the student. The student or parent will have the opportunity to answer the charges against the student, and to present evidence to support the student's position.
5. If an expulsion meeting is held, the person conducting the expulsion meeting will make a written summary of the evidence heard at the meeting, take action found to be appropriate, and give notice of the action taken to the student and the student's parent.

### **SEARCH AND SEIZURE**

FTCSC recognizes that students maintain their rights of privacy while attending school and that those rights include the right to be free from unreasonable searches by school personnel. These rights will not be disturbed unless it is necessary to do so to enforce the law or school rules. In all circumstances, students shall be treated with dignity and respect. In order to clarify the rights of the students and the responsibilities of the school, FTCSC adopts the following policy:

1. **General.** Certified school personnel may search a student's person, locker, or vehicle if there are reasonable grounds for that search. As used in this policy, reasonable grounds for the search exist if the circumstances would cause a reasonable person to suspect that the search may turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or the rules of the school. Periodic unannounced searches, incorporating metal detection devices, and/or narcotic detection dogs, will be conducted to help ensure the safety and well-being of all students and adults on the FTCSC campus.
2. **Search of Student's Person.** A search of a student's person may occur if reasonable grounds exist for the search. Generally, searches of a student's person shall be limited to searching the pockets of the student; searching any objects in the student's possession such as a purse or backpack; and a "pat down" of the student's clothing.
3. **Search of Student Lockers.** Under IC 20-33-8-22, a student who uses a locker that is the property of a school corporation is presumed to have no expectation of privacy in that locker or its contents. An administrator (designee) may search a student's locker and the locker's contents at any time. If requested, law enforcement officers may assist a school administrator in searching a student's locker and its contents.
4. **Search of Motor Vehicles.** A student will be denied the privilege of bringing a motor vehicle onto school premises unless the student, the owner of the vehicle, and the parent of the student consent to a search of that vehicle when there is reasonable grounds for that search. FTCSC reserves the right to enter any vehicle when, in our judgment, that vehicle may contain anything which might be dangerous to the welfare of any student or staff member

### **CENTRAL NINE STUDENTS**

Franklin Central students arriving late to school, missing the Central Nine bus, will be placed in the media center (or other designated area per administration) through period 4. This will result in an unexcused absence periods 1-4 at Central Nine.

If a student is removed from Central Nine Career Center for any reason, the student will also be removed from all classes at Franklin Central. Suspensions initiated by either school will be in effect for both schools. (this includes expulsion from school). Students who choose to withdraw from Central Nine will also be withdrawn from classes at Franklin Central.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements is our way of communicating necessary information from the administration, faculty and student organizations to both teachers and students. Announcements will be provided daily via FCTV.

1. Content needs to be submitted 24 hours in advance to a school administrator or the media center director.
2. Only notices of interest to a large number of students will be made over the public address system.
3. School information will also be provided on the televisions throughout the building
4. Up to date pressing information can be found on the school and district social media account

## **DANCE GUESTS**

A student requesting to bring a guest or friend to Prom who is not a Franklin Central High School student must complete the "School Dance Guest Request Form" and return it to the main office before the end of school on the day prior to Prom. This form requires the signature of the principal or administrator of the guest's school and approval of FCHS administration. The minimum grade level for all guests is ninth grade and the maximum age is twenty. **There are no outside guests allowed at the Franklin Central Homecoming Dance.**

Franklin Central High School Prom is open for attendance by currently enrolled Franklin Central Students and their guests. All guests attending prom who are not Franklin Central students must be under the age of twenty-one and be able to provide verification they are a student in good standing at another high school, a college or university or a member of the Armed Services.

## **DRIVING AND PARKING REGULATIONS**

**Driving to school is a privilege reserved only for juniors and seniors who meet the required qualifications**

1. All vehicles parked on the school grounds must be registered with the school and must display the current permit on the rear view mirror, number facing towards the front of the vehicle.
2. Students must have earned at least a "C" (2.0) average during the last grading period and have not had any disciplinary issues.
3. Parking is strictly limited to the student parking areas.
4. All students must be licensed and covered by insurance. The school is not responsible for the automobile or its contents.
5. There is to be no loitering or unauthorized visitation to the parking lot.
6. There will be no speeding over 15 miles per hour, or any form of reckless driving on or around school properties.
7. Vehicles are subject to search if there are reasonable grounds to believe that drugs, alcohol, stolen property or other contraband might be present in the vehicle.
8. Parking regulations are strictly enforced. It is considered a privilege to park on school grounds. Suspension from school may occur when violations of these regulations occur.
9. All driving regulations and laws set by the State of Indiana apply to driving on school grounds unless otherwise noted.
10. At the conclusion of the school day, students are to leave the parking lot by the exits onto Franklin Road.
11. SEAT BELTS MUST BE WORN IN VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES.
12. Upon a student's 4th tardy to first period, driving privileges may be revoked for the remainder of the semester. If the 4th tardy occurs within the last two weeks of a semester, driving privileges will be revoked for the following semester.
13. Bicycles and scooters are not approved as transportation to school.
14. Students who leave the school building without permission from an administrator will forfeit their parking permit for the remainder of the year, in addition to other school discipline procedures.

15. Student driving privileges may be revoked for disciplinary issues, poor attendance, excessive tardiness, or academic performance. **Parking tags are non-transferable and will be revoked if students share these tags.**

Students who fail to comply with driving and parking regulations may have their cars towed at their own expense and be denied the privilege of driving to school, in addition to other disciplinary actions.

### **FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

Every member of the school community, including students, parents, and school staff, has the responsibility to promote regular attendance at school, orderly conduct and behavior, freedom from fear of insult or injury, and maximum opportunities for learning on the part of each student. Freedom of expression may not be used to present material or actions, which tend to be obscene, profane, suggestive, degrading, slanderous, or to defame character, or to advocate violation of federal state, and local laws, or official school policies, rules, and regulations. Students may present complaints to the administration in an orderly fashion.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

All articles, such as watches, billfolds, purses, glasses and clothing apparel should be taken to the main office or bookstore and students may inquire about them there. To protect personal items, students are encouraged to leave them (e.g. cell phones, headphones, earbuds, etc.) at home if possible. Students are responsible for taking appropriate measures to ensure all items are secured during the day. FCHS is not responsible for lost or stolen items

### **LOCKERS**

All lockers are the property of FTCS and are for the purpose of storing supplies and personal items necessary for use in school. Lockers will not be used to store items, which cause, or can reasonably be foreseen to cause, an interference with school purposes or an educational function (For information on expectation of privacy/ Policy on Search and Seizure see pg. 34, #3). For the safety and security of all concerned, students should not share lockers, or tell combinations to other students. The school cannot be responsible for property stolen from lockers. Each student is responsible for any damages to his or her locker.

### **INDIVIDUAL PROHIBITED FROM OBTAINING A LICENSE OR PERMIT**

Indiana Code (IC 9-24-2-1) states: "The bureau shall suspend the driving privileges or invalidate the learner's permit of an individual less than eighteen (18) years of age who meets any of the following conditions:

1. Is a habitual truant.
2. Is under least a second suspension from school for the school year.
3. Is under an expulsion from school.
4. Is considered a "dropout."

### **INVALIDATION OF LICENSE OR PERMIT**

Indiana Code (IC 9-24-2-4) states: "If a person is at least fifteen (15) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age and is a habitual truant, is under a suspension or an expulsion, or has withdrawn from school, the bureau shall, upon notification by the person's principal, suspend the person's driving privileges until the earliest of the following:

1. The person becomes eighteen (18) years of age.
2. One hundred twenty (120) days after the person is suspended,
3. The suspension, expulsion or exclusion is reversed after the person has had a hearing under IC 20-33-8.

For purposes of the invalidation of a license or permit, the principal shall notify the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles in the following circumstances, with each notice indicating the last day of the semester in which the student returns to school:

- a. The student receives a second suspension from school in any one school year; or,
- b. The student is expelled from school for any reason.
- c. The student is a habitual truant.
- d. The student is considered a dropout under IC 20-33-2-28.5.

Should any such second suspension or expulsion be reversed after the student has utilized the procedures under Indiana Student Due Process Code (IC 20-33-8), the principal shall notify the Indiana BMV in writing.

### **ATHLETICS**

The athletic program at Franklin Central High School is organized with definite objectives for the participant, the school and the community. The program provides for many varied interests for girls and boys. The sports activities for girls may include basketball, cross-country, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track, and volleyball. The program for boys may include baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, and wrestling.

All students are subject to the rules and regulations set forth by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA).

**Scholarship:** To be eligible scholastically, students must have received passing grades at the end of their last grading period in school in at least five full credit subjects or the equivalent and must be currently passing in at least five full credit subjects or the equivalent. SEMESTER GRADES TAKE PRECEDENCE.

**Enrollment:** In order to be eligible for athletic competition during any semester, a student must have entered some high school within the first fifteen (15) school days of the semester in which the contest occurs.

**Age:** Students whose twentieth (20th) birthday occurs before the state championship of a particular sport are ineligible for inter school athletic competition in that sport.

**Conduct:** Contestants' conduct, in and out of school, shall be such as (1) not to reflect discredit upon their school or the IHSAA, or (2) not to create a disruptive influence on the discipline, good order, moral or educational environment in the school.

Special Note: It is recognized that principals, by the administrative authority vested in them by their school corporation, may exclude such contestants from representing their school.

A physician's and parent's certificate must be on file in the school office for the current school year before the athlete may participate in an organized practice.

### **FTCSC'S NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

FTCSC does not discriminate or tolerate harassment on the basis of a protected class including but not limited to race, color, national origin, sex, gender [including sexual orientation and transgender identity], age, religion, genetic information [collectively, "Protected Classes"] or disability in the programs or activities which it operates or the employment therein or admission thereto. This commitment applies to all FTCSC operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment. This policy applies to unlawful conduct occurring on school grounds immediately before, during, or immediately after school hours; in any school program or activity taking place in school facilities, on school transportation, or at other off-campus locations, such as at school-sponsored field trips or a training program; or using property or equipment provided by the school, including school-owned computers and the school's computer network.

FTCSC has designated several staff members as coordinators of non-discrimination and anti-harassment. The identity and contact information for these staff members are listed below. The coordinators are responsible for monitoring and

ensuring compliance with all non-discrimination and anti-harassment laws. The coordinators shall document all reports of discrimination or harassment and establish a protocol for recordkeeping. Nothing in this procedure shall supersede or substitute an employee's other mandatory reporting obligations including, but not limited to, reporting suspected child abuse and neglect and bullying.

<p><b>Title VI Coordinator</b> (Race, color, national origin) Jill Britt jill.britt@ftcsc.org 317-862-2411</p> <p><b>Section 504 Coordinator</b> (Disability) Kelly Anderson kelly.anderson@ftcsc.org 317-862-2411</p>	<p><b>Title IX Coordinator</b> (Sex, including sexual harassment/sexual assault, gender discrimination) Jill Britt jill.britt@ftcsc.org 317-862-2411</p> <p><b>Non-Discrimination Coordinator</b> (All other forms) Jill Britt jill.britt@ftcsc.org 317-862-2411</p>
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**Anyone who believes that a student or staff member has possibly been the target of discrimination or harassment is encouraged to immediately report the situation to an appropriate staff member such as a teacher, counselor, administrator, or coordinator based on the form of harassment or discrimination. Any employee who observes, suspects, or is notified of discrimination or harassment must report the behavior to his/her building level leader.**

**FTCSC POLICE DEPARTMENT**

FTCSC and FTCSC School Board are committed to maintaining a safe environment in all of the FTCSC schools. Online resources for additional information regarding school safety can be found at [HERE](#).