



FAHS Student Handbook
2026-2027

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School Contact Information

Department/Staff Name	Phone Numbers & Titles	Email Addresses
Administration	410.638.4120	
Mr. Collins	Principal	Joseph.Collins@hcps.org
Mr. Childs	Assistant Principal (10 & 12)	Theodore.Childs@hcps.org
Ms. Willhelm	Assistant Principal (9 & 11)	Laura.Willhelm@hcps.org
School Counseling Office	410.638.3542	
Ms. Piazza	Counselor: Students A - G	Jessica.Piazza@hcps.org
Mr. Costante	Counselor: Students H - O	Robert.Costante@hcps.org
Ms. Pomles	Counselor: Students P - Z	Amber.Pomles@hcps.org
Ms. Megan Myers	Administrative Assistant	fhs counseling@hcps.org
Athletic Director	410.638.4120	
Mr. Mull	Athletic Director	Patrick.Mull@hcps.org
Health Suite	410.638.4120	
Ms. Andrews	Nurse	FHSNurse@hcps.org
Ms. Reed	Nurse	FHSNurse@hcps.org
Administrative Asst. Staff	410.638.4120	
Ms. Smith-Humphrey	Main Office Lead	Shelly.Smithhumphrey@hcps.org
Ms. Digiorgio	Main Office	Kimberly.Digiorgio@hcps.org
Ms. Ginnever	Main Office	Angela.Ginnever@hcps.org
Ms. Baker	Main Office Attendance	Eleanor.Baker@hcps.org

Regular Daily Schedule		
7:00		Building Opens
7:25		Warning Bell - Cell Phones in Lockers
7:30 - 7:40		Homeroom
7:45 - 9:06		Period 1
9:11 - 10:32		Period 2
10:37 - 12:34	A Lunch: 10:37 - 11:04 B Lunch: 11:07 - 11:34 C Lunch: 11:37 - 12:04 D Lunch: 12:07 - 12:34	Period 3 & Lunches
12:39 - 2:00		Period 4

3-Hour Early Dismissal		
7:00		Building Opens
7:25		Warning Bell - Cell Phones in Lockers
7:30 - 7:40		Homeroom
7:45 - 8:45	A Brunch: 7:45 - 8:05 B Brunch: 8:05 - 8:25 C Brunch: 8:25 - 8:45	Period 1 & Brunches
8:50 - 9:30		Period 2
9:35 - 10:15		Period 3
10:20 - 11:00		Period 4

3-hour Delay Schedule		
10:00		Building Opens
10:25		Warning Bell - Cell Phones in Lockers
10:30-10:40		Homeroom
10:45-11:25		Period 1
11:30-12:30	A Lunch: 11:30 - 11:50 B Lunch 11:50 - 12:10 C Lunch 12:10-12:30	Period 2 & Lunches
12:35-1:15		Period 3
1:20-2:00		Period 4

Our Just Cause

All members of our community will feel **seen, heard, and valued**, in order to develop the skill and courage to *care for ourselves and one another.*

Our Mission

We empower amazing people who will go
and live extraordinary lives.

A photograph of the exterior of Fallston High School. The building is a two-story structure with a light-colored, textured brick or tile facade. A dark brown metal roofline runs along the top. The school's name, "FALLSTON HIGH SCHOOL", is mounted on the wall in dark, bold, sans-serif capital letters. To the left of the name is a recessed entrance area with a concrete overhang. A large, leafy green tree is on the right, casting shadows on the building and the foreground. A concrete sidewalk leads from the bottom left towards the building. The foreground is a green lawn with shadows from the tree and building. The sky is clear and blue.

FALLSTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Seen: Achievements and Passions

ACADEMIC LETTER AWARD

This award is presented to students for outstanding academic achievement. The criteria for earning an Academic Letter Award are based entirely on grade point average (GPA). Awards are given for the following semesters with the noted unweighted grade point average.

- Third semester (Sophomore year) of their academic career - GPA 3.7
- Fifth semester (Junior year) - GPA 3.6
- Seventh semester (Senior year) – GPA 3.5

The award shall consist of a letter and a pin and they are typically distributed during the fourth marking period of the school year.

HONOR ROLL

Each marking period students can earn 1 of 3 categories of honor roll:

- Honor Roll – students earning a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) with no grade lower than a C
- Distinguished Honor Roll – students earning a 3.75 GPA with no grade lower than a C
- Principal's Distinguished Honor Roll – students earning at least a 4.0 GPA Students who earn any form of honor roll will receive an achievement certificate.



DUAL ENROLLMENT

In partnership with Harford Community College (HCC), HCPS students may be reimbursed for up to 4 classes. HCPS students can attend Harford County Public Schools AND a College/Post-Secondary institution or attend a College/Post-secondary institution only. In these dual enrollment opportunities, students are earning college credits while enrolled as a high school student. For more information, click [HERE](#).

APPRENTICESHIPS

The HCPS Apprenticeship Maryland Program (AMP) is an opportunity for students to earn and learn while in high school in a career area of interest. This statewide program allows students to gain valuable industry experience by partnering students and employers together to create skilled labor through education, mentorship, and on-the-job training. Benefits to HCPS students who participate in an

APPRENTICESHIP program include: entering the workforce while still in high school, earning a salary, earning high school credit for completing the program and gaining marketable industry skills. Find more information [HERE](#).

THE FALLSTONIAN

To provide maximum learning experiences within the high school curriculum, an awards program has been established as an integral component of the total school program to emphasize school participation and community service by an individual student. Recognition of outstanding student accomplishments and endeavors in all phases of the school curriculum encourages and promotes a more meaningful and rewarding school career.

HONOR SOCIETIES

Students that demonstrate SCHOLARSHIP, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND CHARACTER may be eligible for membership in one or more national honor societies – Art, Business, French, German, Math, National, Science, and Spanish. See the club moderator for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Millions of dollars in scholarship money are offered to high school seniors around the county and state. Students are encouraged to talk to their school counselor about academic and merit scholarship options for post-secondary education and apprenticeship programs. Here is a link to the School Counseling [website](#).

VALEDICTORIAN

The graduating senior(s) with the highest grade point average (GPA) in the school is/are named the school's valedictorian each year.

Extracurricular Opportunities at Fallston High School

Athletics		
Fall	Winter	Spring
Cheerleading Cross County Field Hockey Football Golf Soccer Volleyball	Basketball Indoor Track Swimming Wrestling	Baseball Lacrosse Softball Tennis Track & Field
Music Programs - Band, Chorus & Orchestra		
Clubs & Organizations		
Academic Team	Anime	Art
Best Buddies	Voices of Equity	Criminal Justice
Drama	Dungeons & Dragons	Yearbook (Catamount)
Envirothon	Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)	Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
French/French National Honor Society	Freshman Class Council	GAR (Mascot)
Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)	German/German National Honor Society	Green Team
Junior Class Council	Mock Trial	Newspaper (The Print)
National Honor Society (NHS)	Peer Tutoring	Student Advisory Council (SAC)
Science National Honor Society	Senior Class Council	Student Government Association (SGA)
Sophomore Class Council	Spanish/Spanish National Honor Society	Speech and Debate
Varsity Club	Student Service Learning	Tech Crew (Drama)
	Pep Squad	

Extracurricular Opportunities at Fallston High School

SPECTATOR AND PARTICIPANT OPPORTUNITIES

Students have many opportunities to attend, participate in, or view events at Fallston High School. Opportunities include athletic events, drama productions, music concerts, dances, meetings, field trips, service events, etc. Within each of those opportunities, there are **expectations regarding how we will respect ourselves and those around us** (opponents, performers, hosts, sponsors, and guests). Here are some of those expectations:

COUGAR SPECTATORS

Attending events as spectators to support fellow Cougar students is highly encouraged. Spectators are expected to cheer and applaud all participants. We (Cougars) consistently support each other's talents and display good sportsmanship and respectful behavior. Inappropriate behaviors at events may result in removal from the event (refunds for entry fees will not be provided), school discipline, and/or banning from future events. Examples of inappropriate spectator behaviors include but are not limited to: using abusive language, negatively addressing individual participants and/or officials in the event, throwing items, using noisemakers or making inappropriate noises, demonstrating unsafe actions in any part of the venue, or violating any other school or HCPS policies (including dress code). All bags must follow the HCPS CLEAR BAG EXPECTATIONS.

Tickets to all athletic events can be purchased through [GOFAN](#).

Athletic Schedules can be found at County Sports Zone or by clicking [here](#).

CLEAR BAG REQUIREMENTS FOR ATHLETIC EVENTS

Beginning September 13, 2024

To enhance safety and security, all fans attending any HCPS spectator event on high school and middle school campuses should be aware of the new bag rules. All bags and purses that do not meet the requirements will not be permitted into stadiums and gymnasiums. Individuals will be denied entry for non-compliance.

APPROVED BAGS AND SIZES

One clear bag permitted per person.

Small bags



One gallon clear resealable plastic bag



Clear bag



Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and must have a maximum of one logo imprint not exceeding 4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide.

BOLSAS Y MEDIDAS HOMOLOGADAS

Solo una bolsa transparente por persona.

Bolsas pequeñas



Bolsa de plástico transparente con cierre de un galón



Bolsa transparente



Las bolsas deben ser transparentes y de plástico o de vinilo o PVC, y deben tener como máximo un logotipo que no exceda de 4 1/2 pulgadas de alto por 3 1/4 pulgadas de ancho.

Note: All bags and property are subject to search while on HCPS middle and high school campuses or attending an HCPS event.

www.hcps.org/departments/curriculum/athletics

DANCES

The school's student behavior and stated (formal or semiformal) student dress expectations will apply to dances and all approved school-sponsored activities.

Students are reminded that dances are school-sponsored events and as such, there is an expectation of appropriate behavior and dress code expectations. Dancing that replicates sexual contact and/or is unsafe in nature is inappropriate and will be addressed.

Want to participate in these cool clubs and events? Here's what HCPS & FAHS say about eligibility for participation:

HCPS ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES (Athletics, Clubs/Organizations)

Fallston High School believes that the monitoring of students' grades and behaviors which will determine their eligibility in school-sponsored activities are a vital and shared responsibility of teachers, sponsors, coaches, and the Eligibility Committee.

Students participating in school-sponsored activities are expected to maintain academic proficiency and to act as responsible school citizens. Failure to do so will result in a withdrawal or denial of participation privileges as established in the rules and policies which are explained in the following sections.

REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

1. MARYLAND PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETIC PROGRAMS. Under the authorization of the Maryland State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Schools has established regulations governing athletic programs for boys and girls in the public secondary schools of Maryland.
2. The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association supervises the athletic programs in the public secondary schools of the State. All public high schools in Harford County are members of the association and are governed by its actions.
3. Local school systems may supplement the State rules governing their athletic programs with more restrictive ones. Less restrictive rules may not be adopted.
4. HARFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION - The policies of the Board of Education of Harford County regarding the program of interscholastic athletics and notes clarifying their implementation are as follows:

To participate in curricular and extra-curricular activities in any Harford County Public School, students shall be officially registered and physically attending a Harford County Public School.

A student may be declared ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for reasons based on scholastic status and/or citizenship.

Scholastic

A student will be declared ineligible when:

1. The student has received a failing grade in any subject on a quarterly report card or the student has received a failing grade in any subject as a final grade.
2. The student is not able to meet graduation requirements within the normal four-year program based on final course grades and quarterly report card grades.

Starting and Ending Times: Removal from eligibility shall be effective on the first day of school following the distribution of report cards. Return to eligibility can be effective the first day after the quarter ends. Students must meet eligibility requirements to be reinstated. The principal will make the final determination.

At the end of the year, both scholastic rules shall apply.

Grades earned in summer school may replace failing quarter and final grades on the fourth quarter report card so that a student may become eligible for the start of the next school year.

Appeal: An ineligible student may appeal his/her ineligibility to a School Eligibility Committee. The student must make an appeal in writing within three school days after he/she has been declared ineligible. If the ineligibility occurs at the end of the fourth quarter of the school year, the appeal must be made before the beginning of the preschool meetings of teachers. All appeals for Fall sports will be heard before the first day of practice. (NOTE: Normally on or about August 15th based on MPSSAA guidelines).

The Eligibility Committee will make one of two recommendations to the principal.

1. If the student was unable to control the circumstances causing the failures, recommend to the principal that the student be declared eligible.
2. If the student was able to control the circumstances causing the failures, recommend to the principal that the student should remain ineligible.

The principal's decision is final in cases of appeals. An ineligible student may not participate until the principal renders a decision. The Eligibility Committee shall meet no later than the fourth school day after report cards are issued.

Valued: Respected, Prioritized, and Supported

EMERGENCY/EVACUATION DRILLS

At regular intervals, evacuation drills are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys instructions promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each class will give the students instructions. Emergency stairwells are to be used only during evacuation drills. They are not to be used during the lunch hour.

Other drill situations such as Hold and Secure, Evacuation, Shelter, and ACRT (Active Assailant Critical Response Training), will also be practiced throughout the school year. Teachers will provide specific instructions for each type of drill. Students should be attentive to these drills and always follow teacher directions for the safety of themselves and others.

Students involved in tampering with the fire alarm boxes and/or causing false alarms will be referred to the Superintendent of Schools for long-term suspensions and/or expulsion and reported to the Fire Marshal's office for prosecution.

HEALTH SUITE

All students have access to the School Nurses in the Health Suite. Unless it is a medical emergency, students are required to have their teacher call the Health Suite at 9-411 or 9-430 to determine availability. The School Nurse will advise the adult which Health Suite the student should go to be seen. You can contact the nurse at FHSnurse@hcps.org.

Medical Emergency: If a student is experiencing a medical emergency, they should let a teacher or adult know so the Health Suite can be called to either come to the student or give further direction. The adult should remain with the student.

If a student is directed to the Health Suite, they will be directed to either Health Suite 1 or Health Suite 2.

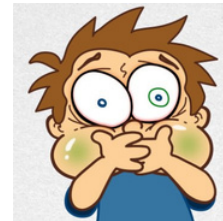
Health Suite 1 is the door on the Main Hall beside the Main Office. This office is used for students who are not sick, but need to be seen for some of the following reasons:

- Medications
- Injuries/Wounds - new or old
- Headache with no other symptoms
- Menstrual Cramps
- Stomachache with no other symptoms
- Eye issues such as contact lens care
- Skin Concerns
- Healthcare Provider Notes/Medical Questions/Concerns



Health Suite 2 is the door around the corner from door to Health Suite 1 and is in the hallway leading to World Languages classrooms. It is across from the Male Restroom. This office is where students are directed to come if they are sick, and need to be seen for some of the following reasons:

- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Cold or allergy symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, cough
- Fever or possible fever
- Dizziness
- Headache with other symptoms



The Health Suite provides a "self-serve" cart with band-aids, tissue boxes, and feminine products for students and teachers to take as needed. Please utilize this supply cart for these supplies.

Phone Notice: Please note- students are not to contact parents/guardians via text message or cell phone to leave school if ill; they are to report to the nurse to be evaluated prior to any dismissal from school.

LOST AND FOUND

Valued: Respected, Prioritized, and Supported

A Lost and Found Center is maintained in the Media Center Suite. All lost articles are kept there for not more than a two-week period. Students who have lost personal items are encouraged to check the Lost and Found promptly for missing personal property. **Students are strongly encouraged to label ALL of their belongings including naming their airpods/earbuds with first and last name.**

MEDIA CENTER

The Media Center is open from 7:00 AM to 2:20 PM. Teachers schedule class time in the center with the Media Specialist so that students may obtain materials and conduct research. Students have access to the center at other times throughout the school day provided they have a pass from a teacher. Students may check out books whenever the media center is open and if they have no overdue fines over \$1. Books are circulated for a three-week period, and magazines may be checked out for one week.

PAWS & WIN

PAWS (Media Center) is the Promoting Academic and Wellness Space. PAWS is available to all FHS students throughout the school day for students to independently access and utilize self-regulation strategies. Students may request to use the PAWS room for a short break from academics or for space away from the larger classroom setting to complete an academic task. Teachers and staff may also suggest the use of PAWS to students to offer a break and/or offer a space to complete or make up an academic task. In addition to the PAWS space, Room 119 is our designated WIN room (what I need), which will be staffed and available for students to use at the discretion of their teacher.

STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

The mission of the Student Services Team (SST) is to provide a continuum of programs and services that are designed to provide opportunities for all students to achieve maximum benefit from their educational experience. The goals of a Student Service Team are designed to provide for or connect students to academic, behavioral, social and mental health supports. The team is typically comprised of school counselors, school nurses, school psychologist, school administrator and the pupil personnel worker. Students that have personal concerns and/or concerns for their classmates, should reach out to their school counselor.

SCHOOL COUNSELING

The school counseling office addresses three (3) areas that include: academic development, career development, and personal/social development. School counselors will visit classrooms and meet with individual students throughout the school year.

Students wishing to visit a school counselor are to contact the secretary in the counseling office before school or after school to arrange an appointment.

The school counselors are assigned to the student body alphabetically, by last name. They are as follows:

Ms. Piazza – Last name letters: A-G – jessica.piazza@hcps.org
Mr. Costante – Last name letters: H-O – robert.costante@hcps.org
Ms. Pomles – Last name letters: P-Z – amber.pomles@hcps.org



In addition to those items noted above, the school counseling office also assists with student registration and student withdrawal, requests for transcripts and requests for mid-year and final grades. Requests for transcripts and grades require twenty-four (24) hours' notice and should be made in writing (email) to the appropriate school counselor or fhs counseling@hcps.org.

SCHOOL STORE

At this time the school system will be utilized for selling Physical Education uniforms through the P.E. Department.

TELEPHONES

In emergencies, students may use office telephones. Parents needing to get a message to their students, are asked to contact the school office @ 410.638.4120.

VISITORS

Fallston High School is open during the school day to visitors, such as parents, who have legitimate business at the school. All adult visitors are to register in the office. Parents wishing to meet with teachers, counselors, administrators, or other staff members should first call the school or send an email to arrange an appointment. School-aged students are not permitted to visit during the school day.

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

The success of any society depends on shared values, order, cooperation, and respect. Therefore, certain expectations must be stated, understood, and consistently adhered to by all.

The school rules have four main purposes so that members of the school community feel seen, heard, and valued.

1. To make your school experiences more enjoyable and meaningful through clear expectations.
2. To provide opportunities for you to learn as much as possible.
3. To protect your property and that of the school which is provided for your use.
4. To provide an atmosphere that promotes a cooperative and concerned relationship among all members of the school community.

Bring all attendance notes to the Main Office!

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Follow these procedures if an absence occurs:

A note from the parent/guardian is required to excuse any attendance event (absence, lateness to school) within three (3) days of returning to school. Fallston High School will accept up to five (5) parent notes for up to five (5) absences per semester. Additional absences will require notes from a physician or health care professional. Parents are to communicate with the grade level administrator, school nurse, or school counselor regarding further absences.

Student Responsibilities After an Absence

1. Submit a legitimate note to the Main Office to describe the date and reason for the absence(s) (Refer to HCPS Attendance Policy Statement for a definition of excused/unexcused absences)
2. Proper coding of the absence will be updated by the main office.
3. Communicate with each teacher to arrange to make up missed work and confirm the due date for the work.

Late Arrival/Tardiness

1. Students not in their assigned class at the sound of the bell are tardy.
2. Any student arriving at school after 7:30 A.M. must sign in at the Main Office.
3. All late arrivals must be explained in a legitimately signed note. The note must include the approximate time of arrival as well as the cause of the lateness.
4. Unexcused tardies will be addressed by a school administrator. Parents will be included in conversations and notified of consequences when excessive tardies occur.

Early Departures

1. For security and safety reasons, students may not be excused without a legitimate signed note.
2. Notes for early departure from school must be received by 7:25 that morning.
3. When leaving, the student must be signed out by a parent, guardian, or adult listed as an emergency contact or by permission of the principal or their designee.
4. Upon returning, the student must sign in at the Main Office. Students are encouraged to bring a doctor's note back, if applicable.
5. The student is responsible for making up class work and assignments during their absence.

Truancy

Truancy is defined as the action of staying away from school without good reason. Examples of truancy include:

- leaving school without being signed out in the office,
- being absent from classes without permission (skipping/cutting),
- obtaining a pass to go to a specified place and not reporting there,
- being ill and going home or staying in the restroom instead of reporting to the nurse's office,
- reporting to school but not attending scheduled class (es),
- participating in any planned or organized group absence, and
- absence without a parental note of explanation.

Students who plan to attend any school-sponsored athletics or social event (games, dances, plays, concerts, etc.) must be present all day the day of the event. If the event occurs on a Saturday, students must be present all day Friday. Any exception (for an excused absence) must be granted by the Principal or their designee in advance of the event. Students are to email Mr. Collins @ joseph.collins@hcps.org as soon as possible with the event in the subject line (e.g. volleyball match).

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

Waiver Students

Waiver students MUST use the QR code to sign out at the end of their school day.

Waiver students are expected to attend school on 3-HR Early Dismissal Days.

A copy of the Waiver Expectations can be found [HERE](#).

Students Not Living at Home

Unless a student is declared independent by going through official procedures, all correspondence pertaining to the student will be communicated to and through the student's legal guardian as indicated on school records. This includes students who turn 18 years of age during the school year. If a student is not living with a parent/guardian and has been declared independent, the student must meet with the Pupil Personnel Worker, school counselor and administrator to establish procedures for verifying absences, lateness, and early dismissal.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

The State of Maryland's anti-bullying laws include the following definitions of bullying, harassment, and intimidation:

"Bullying, harassment, or intimidation" means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct, or an intentional electronic communication, that:

1. Motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability;
2. Sexual in nature, including descriptions or depictions of a student with the student's intimate parts exposed or while engaged in an act of sexual contact; or
3. threatening or seriously intimidating; and occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school. MD. Cod Ann., ED 7-424 (2020)

Please note intentional electronic communication includes and is not limited to text messages, chat boards, and social media posts

Don't be a jerk!

Should you encounter a jerk:

- Block all access from that individual. Block texts, block social media, block contact. Block and remove yourself from the situation.
- Report to a parent.
- report to counselor if occurring during the school day.
- report to School Resource Officer (SRO) and/or law enforcement if happening outside of school.
- access the [Bullying and Harassment form](#) when needed.

CAFETERIA

The cafeteria provides a food and beverage service to students at the school. Lunch and breakfast meals are available to all. During lunch time, assigned students are to be in the cafeteria - presence in other areas of the building or property, without a pass from an administrator, is prohibited. Seating must be limited to each table's capacity due to crowding and safety concerns. While in the cafeteria we respect ourselves and others by:

- maintaining conversational voices,
- cleaning up after ourselves, and
- treating others with respect.

Students who abuse cafeteria privileges or procedures will be assigned appropriate clean-up duties and/or disciplinary action. During good weather, students have the option of going outside, to the designated courtyard, for lunch. To control pests, show support for our custodians, and maintain a clean school, **FOOD SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN OUT OF THE CAFETERIA.**

Also (sad that we have to say it) - items purchased from the cafeteria must be made visible to the cafeteria staff at checkout! Theft from the cafeteria may result in a suspension and referral to the School Resource Officer (SRO). If you are in need of financial support, please see your school counselor or your administrator - we can help.

There are NO outside food deliveries accepted during the school day.

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

HCPS GRADING POLICY

1. In grades six through twelve, students receive a grade in all courses except for non-graded courses. The grading scale is listed below:

A = 89.5% - 100%
B = 79.5% - 89.49%
C = 69.5% - 79.49%
D = 59.5% - 69.49%
E = Below 59.5%

2. Attendance will factor into a student's final grade in the event of excessive unexcused absences. These extended absences may result in a loss of credit for a high school course. For further information, please refer to the HCPS Student Attendance Policy 02-0001-000.

3. In grades nine through twelve, and in any course taken in grades six through eight for which high school credit is awarded, a final examination, performance assessment, comprehensive portfolio, or similar product is required and reported in all courses of study.

4. For high school courses, the final grade will be calculated by determining the letter grade for each quarter using the quality point scale listed in Section I. This calculation will also be used for middle school students enrolled in high school courses.

5. For unweighted courses taught during the entire school year, multiply the quality points for each quarter by 2. The final exam grade will be multiplied by 1. Determine the sum of the quarter points and divide them by nine (9). The quotient will be converted to a letter grade according to the quality point scale listed in Section I. Graduation assessment requirements for Biology and American Government will now be met through the end-of-course exams. The End-of-Course (EOC) exams were adopted by the State Board on July 25, 2021. The EOC exams comprise 20 percent (20%) of the student's final grade in the relevant courses. Students must earn a passing course grade to earn course credit. Students who do not earn a passing course grade will need to repeat the course.**

6. In grades nine through twelve (9-12), the student's cumulative grade point average is calculated using the following weighted and non-weighted grades.

Grade	Quality Pts. Weighted Course	Quality Pts. Other Courses
<i>A</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>E</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

<i>Quarter 1</i>	<i>Quarter 2</i>	<i>Quarter 3</i>	<i>Quarter 4</i>	<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>Final Grade</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>B</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>B</i>

Showing my work:

$$2(2) + 3(2) + 4(2) + 3(2) + 2(1) = 26/9 = 2.89 \text{ (Grade of B)}$$

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

LATE WORK POLICY

- Due dates are set in the best interest of students and serve as guidance for their organization and skill acquisition.
- All assignments should be submitted on time in order to earn full credit unless stated otherwise by the teacher.
- Students have one week from the date grades are posted to TAC/HAC to communicate with the teacher regarding what Process and Product assignments can be made up and for what value.
 - Practice grades and in-class assignments due before the end of the period are excluded.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Final course assessments are required for all students in all courses of study. A final exam for all courses will be given at the conclusion of the course. Final exam grades are separate from quarterly grades. **Graduation assessment requirements for Biology and American Government will now be met through the end-of-course exams. The End-of-Course (EOC) exams were adopted by the State Board on July 25, 2021. The EOC exams comprise 20 percent (20%) of the student's final grade in the relevant courses. Students must earn a passing course grade to earn course credit. Students who do not earn a passing course grade will need to repeat the course.**

Students taking AP examinations have the option of being exempt from the final exam in the AP course.

FAHS GRADING POLICY

Fallston High School will follow the HCPS grading policy for the 2025-2026 school year:

<i>Grading Categories and Examples</i>		
<i>Practice (20%)</i> Building Attitudes, Habits, and Skills	<i>Process (30%)</i> Addressing Specific Short-Term Learning Outcomes	<i>Product (50%)</i> Culminating Demonstration of Knowledge
Weekly Skills for Success grades - attendance, participation, classwork completion, etc.	Readings, homework, classwork, quizzes, parts of a project, etc.	Tests, Labs, Projects, Essays, etc.

GRADING POLICY NOTES

- Assignments are not limited to the examples listed in the above chart (**translation - lots of options**).
- Teachers will provide multiple and varied assignments in each category (**translation - different types of assignments**).
- A minimum of three Product grades (unless communicated otherwise) will be assigned each quarter, supported by appropriate Process and Practice assignments (**translation - look for three (3) BIG grades each quarter. They're important**).
- Typically, two to four Process grades will be assigned to support each Product grade (**you may have 9-15+ grades each quarter in each class**).
- At least one Product grade will be posted to HAC prior to IPRs (**you'll know at mid-point how you're doing in class**).
- A student may not receive a zero on a Product assignment without due process (**you'll be hounded to get your products completed**).
- A missing assignment will be recorded as an NHI (not handed in) or ABS (absent) in TAC/HAC, impacting their percentage at that time until completed or exempted (**no credit if you don't do it**).
- No extra credit assignments will be offered at FHS (**just do the regular work well and you'll be fine**).
- All grades will be categorized as Product, Process, Practice, or Midterm/Final and related to measurable skills or content mastery (**you'll know what your grades are worth**).
- Teachers will communicate potential failures for a quarter or a course to students and parents/guardians via HAC/email (**teacher and counseling will be talking to you and your parents about your grades**).

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

Skills for Success

- Each week, one five-point Practice grade will be assigned, reflecting Skills for Success grades.
- These grades measure a student's effort to communicate, be prepared, participate, persevere, and self-manage during class.
- These grades include the impact of cell phone and earbud misuse.
- A complete rubric will be shared with both students and parents/guardians.
- Skills for Success Grades will be entered into TAC/HAC one time per week (an average of the week's grades). This grade will be named "Skills for Success – (Friday's Date)."

Retake and Resubmission Policy

- Students can retake and/or resubmit assignments at the discretion of the teacher.
- These opportunities will be clearly communicated to students.

Make-up Work Policy (Absenteeism)

- It is the responsibility of the student to request missed assignments.
- Students will be given the number of days equal to the number of days absent to turn in completed make-up work.
- All make-up work will be graded in accordance with the regular classroom grading policy.

****Students are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to document their assignments in a paper or electronic planner****

****Students are also STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to get into the habit of speaking with their teachers regarding grades, assignments, absences, etc. Emailing your teacher(s), when you have questions/needs, is suggested as well.****

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

Grading Codes

Score Code	Meaning	Effect
ABS	Absent – Student absent, assignment must be made up.	0.00%
(blank)	Scores not yet entered OR upcoming assignment.	No Effect
FA	Future Assignment – Upcoming assignment that will be turned in.	No Effect
MED	Medically Exempt – Student excused for medical reasons.	No Effect
NC	No Credit – Assignment did not earn credit. *Teachers should add a score comment (see below) to provide reasoning AND whether the assignment can be resubmitted.	0.00%
NHI	Not Handed In – Assignment was NOT turned in by the student.	0.00%
NYG	Not Yet Graded – Assignment WAS turned in by student and grading is in progress.	No Effect
TLTC	Too Late To Count – Final date to submit assignment has passed. The assignment is no longer being accepted for grading.	0.00%
X	Exempt – Student does not need to make up the assignment.	No Effect

INTERIMS AND REPORT CARDS (see schedule above)

Interim Reports will be available to students & parents via the Home Access Center (HAC).

Report cards are available at the end of each marking period through HAC. Letter grades and comments are used to designate student progress.

Parents may request a paper copy through the Main or Counseling Offices.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

At Fallston High School the qualities of honesty and integrity are important in our educational endeavors. Students are expected to present work reflecting their own effort. Any violation of this expectation shall constitute academic dishonesty. There are several ways in which students can be considered in violation of the Fallston Code of Academic Integrity, which may include, but may not be limited to, the following:

Artificial Intelligence (AI): AI tools will be used to supplement traditional learning methods, provide personalized learning experiences, and develop problem-solving skills.

Students must adhere to ethical guidelines when using AI. This includes respecting privacy, avoiding plagiarism, and acknowledging the contributions of AI tools in their work.

The expectations and parameters surrounding the use of AI will vary based on content area, class, teacher, and assignment. **Teachers will clearly communicate expectations and limitations for each assignment.** The HCPS AI Usage scale may be referenced as well (see below).

The default expectation is that students are responsible for the authenticity and integrity of their work. Misuse of AI such as using it to complete assignments dishonestly will be considered a violation of academic integrity policies.

Cheating: using or attempting to use, in an academic endeavor, any unauthorized materials, devices, information, or study aids as defined by the instructor

Fabricating: intentionally, and without authorization, falsifying or inventing any information or citation in a graded assignment Facilitating academic dishonesty: willingly receiving help from or providing help to another to commit an act of academic dishonesty

Plagiarizing: purposefully, or by omission, representing the work of another as one's own.

Failure to maintain academic integrity will result in disciplinary action. Consequences may include, but are not limited to, a zero for the work, parent notification, and referral to the office. Repeated violations will result in progressive discipline.



BACKPACKS/BAGS

Students are permitted to use backpacks or similar items to carry their schoolbooks, materials, or equipment while traveling to and from school. However, because of the importance of maintaining a safe environment in the school, items must be stored in lockers or designated areas during the school day. **No students may carry backpacks or other large bags during the school day.** Students should be carrying their devices, notebooks, and supplies in their hands. Students with large bags are to be sent back to their locker to store them. School nurses will provide clear bags & tags for medical needs or with admin approval.

Here's what Harford County says about BAGS.

Heard: Communication and Dialogue



CELL PHONES (click to see the HCPS policy)

Here's the short of it:

- cell phones (portable communication devices) **MUST** be stored in your hall locker during the school day.
- if it isn't stored in your locker and is visible to a staff member, disciplinary action will occur to include: storage of phone in main office for duration of day, contact a parent/guardian, school and/or administrator assigned detention.
- this is true for Air Pods/earbuds, headphones (personal listening devices) or any other wearable communication devices (WCD).
- **as with all school rules, progressive discipline will be used if policies are not followed.**

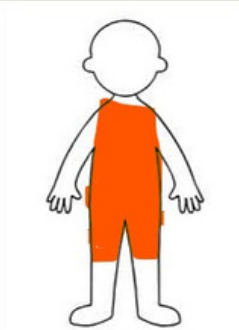
****Students will have access to their phones from 7:00 - 7:20 a.m. (goes in your locker before homeroom) and at lunch. Phones are returned to lockers after lunch.****

Dress Code

Want to know more? [Click HERE!](#)

No hats, hoods or headgear.

We don't display alcohol, drugs, gangs, tobacco, obscenity, profanity, sexually-suggestive items, symbols of hate, violence, etc.



Clothing covers chest, midriff, groin & butt areas down to upper thigh with opaque (not see-through) materials

Nothing deemed unsafe.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS - *lose it - pay for it; break it - pay for it; lose it & it gets broken - pay for it section of the handbook*

1. Students are held financially responsible for any damage to school-owned materials, equipment, or property.
2. *Students who bring valuables to school are responsible for the security of these items. Students should never leave money or other valuables in their hall or gym lockers at any time.* The school will assume no responsibility for personal items brought by students to the building. Parents and students are further reminded that Fallston High School will not be held responsible for school or personal items that are lost, misplaced, and/or left unattended by students.
3. Failure of students to meet financial obligations could result in withholding report cards, schedules and/or transcripts, graduation tickets and diplomas.
4. Students who acquire an HCPS device will be responsible for the safety, care, and security of that device. Any device that is lost or damaged will be handled as a financial obligation.
5. Fines are collected from those students who damage or lose materials issued to them or on loan from the Media Center. Your classroom teacher will determine the cost for the replacement of lost books and damaged books, which is the current replacement value.

HALLWAY PASSES

Students **must have** a pass when leaving the classroom.

Students are to **sign in AND out** of the classroom each time they need to leave.

When in the halls and on staircases, students should **remain to the right** and allow for an even and uninterrupted flow of traffic.

Students must report to the **closest restroom and/or water cooler** - no wandering.

Students are to return to their class within **five (5) minutes** of signing out.

STUDENT PARKING

Student parking is applied for and assigned at Fallston High School.

No student should be parking on campus without a parking permit.

Parking Regulations can be found [HERE](#).



PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Traditionally, certain kinds of behavior have been considered inappropriate in public places. Behaviors considered "public displays of affection" are never appropriate in school or at school events. Such behavior which includes kissing, romantic hugging, embracing or any form of sexual contact, is prohibited and could result in consequences.

The ole Kindergarten rule holds true here as well: **KEEP YOUR HANDS, FEET, FACE, BODY TO YOURSELF!**

Heard: Communication and Dialogue

“When things go wrong, as they sometimes will...” (Don’t Quit poem)

CONSEQUENCES FOR IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR (given by teacher and/or administrator)

Verbal Reprimand

Counseling or warning about behavior, reminded of rules/policies/procedures/expectations, provided alternative choices, and may include potential further discipline.

Conference

A meeting that may include teachers, staff, parents, student, administrator, and/or a counselor.

Loss of Privileges

A student may become ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, holding elected office, sports, or other school-sponsored events. Privileges that can be lost include (but are not limited to) participation in field trips, assemblies, class trips, dances, prom, and parking on school property.

Detention

Students may be required to spend additional time before or after school hours in a supervised setting.

Removal from Class

Student is removed from their classes for a day or more. Work is completed in an isolated area.

Suspension (Out of School)

The principal of a public school may, by law, suspend a student for ten days or less. Students suspended from school may not be on the property of any HCPS and may not participate in school activities during the time of the suspension. According to the state of Maryland, suspension days are considered lawful absences.

Long Term Suspension and Expulsion

A student may be suspended for up to ten days by the principal and referred to the Superintendent for additional consequences. The Superintendent may add to the ten days or expel a student from school.

Progressive discipline is the process of using increasingly severe steps or measures when a student fails to correct a problem after being given a reasonable opportunity to do so.

For more information regarding discipline policies and consequences, please visit HCPS Policies and Procedures at <http://www.hcps.org>.

Tons and tons of information about the following can be found in the **Policies and Procedures** section of the HCPS website. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about:

- Alcohol/Drugs
- Attendance
- Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment & Intimidation
- Dress Code
- Homework
- Inclement Weather
- Medication
- Metal Detectors
- Non-Disclosure Information
- Personal Property
- Privacy Rights
- Responsible Use
- Search and Seizure
- Student Insurance
- Student Discipline
- Title IX
- Transportation



Qualities of a Good High School Student

Academic Qualities

- ✓ **Responsibility** – Takes ownership of their learning, meets deadlines, and completes assignments without constant reminders
- ✓ **Curiosity** – Shows a genuine interest in learning and asks thoughtful questions
- ✓ **Perseverance** – Keeps working through challenges and doesn't give up easily
- ✓ **Organization** – Uses tools like planners or digital calendars to manage time and schoolwork

Behavioral Qualities

- ✓ **Respectfulness** – Treats teachers, peers, and school property with consideration
- ✓ **Integrity** – Demonstrates honesty, even when no one is watching (e.g., doesn't cheat or plagiarize)
- ✓ **Self-Discipline** – Manages emotions, avoids distractions, and makes positive choices

Social & Emotional Skills

- ✓ **Empathy** – Understands and cares about how others feel
- ✓ **Collaboration** – Works well in group settings, contributes fairly, and listens to others
- ✓ **Leadership** – Steps up when needed, helps others, and models positive behavior