

Tri-County Public Schools ISD 2358

**STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

2025-26

Revised August 2025

General Handbook

Introduction

This handbook includes necessary information as well as rules and regulations which are necessary for our school to run efficiently and effectively. Students will be held responsible for all the information listed herein. Additional guidelines and procedures not in the handbook will be enforced by staff and are expected to be followed by all students. **Full policies are available for viewing on the Tri-County Schools website (<http://www.tricounty.k12.mn.us>).**

Board Approval

This entire handbook will be approved by the Tri-County School Board at the September 2025 Regular School Board Meeting. This handbook may be changed or amended during the school year. Changes will be posted in the High School and District offices and will be mailed to the parents/guardians of each student.

2025-2026 School Calendar

Tri-County Schools 2025-2026 CALENDAR																																										
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Compulsory School Attendance Law

All children between the ages 7-18, and ages 5 and 6 if they are enrolled, must attend school every day on time unless lawfully excused by the school principal.

Equal Application

For the sake of consistency and fairness, all students, regardless of age, are required to abide by the same rules outlined in this handbook in regards to signing out, permission slips, excuses for absences, etc. Only when a student is living alone and is self-sufficient, legally emancipated OR if a student's IEP states so, alternative procedures can be agreed upon with the Principal.

School Postponement and Cancellation

In case of inclement weather, school announcements will be made over the following radio and television stations: KTRF-1230 AM, KNOX 1310 AM, KSNR-100.3 FM, KXJB-Channel 4, KVLV-Channel 11, WDAZ-Channel 8. Instant alerts are sent to all families. Announcements are also posted on the Tri-County Schools Website and Facebook page.

Student Records

Students and/or parents may see a student's records any time by consulting with the Principal. The items in the file may include: grades earned from 1st grade to present, all test scores of standardized tests, psychological test results, and disciplinary actions taken by school.

Directory Information

Directory information may be given out upon request by the district in any appropriate manner such as programs, team rosters, etc., unless the parent or student specifically requests the data to be excluded. Directory Information includes the following information relating to a student: name, address and telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, or other similar information.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance will be recited one or more times each week. Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge for any personal reasons may elect not to do so and all must respect the person's right to make that choice.

Student Messages

In order to avoid classroom interruptions, we cannot deliver personal messages to students except in the case of emergencies. Students will be allowed to use the office telephone only at lunch, after school, and in emergencies.

Student Visitors

Student visitors are not allowed at Tri-County Schools.

School Property

Students will be expected to pay for any school property which they destroy or damage purposefully or through negligence.

Reasonable Force

Whenever possible, staff will do everything possible to avert a need to restrain a student. The need to restrain a student is used only when the student poses a risk of harm to themselves or others. Nearly all instructional staff have been trained in crisis prevention strategies and proper restraint techniques through Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training.

Off Campus Statement

Students may be disciplined for off campus conduct which disrupts, interferes, or otherwise affects the environment, activities, or operation of the school.

Weapons/Firearms

In cooperation with the Minnesota Legislature, the school will not tolerate the possession of any weapon or use of any item as a weapon. School personnel will search a student's person, locker, or car if it is believed to hold a weapon. If a weapon is found, it will be confiscated, the police will be notified, and the student suspended or expelled. This includes but is not limited to such items as: firearms; knives; metal knuckles; and any item used in a threatening manner. Any confiscated items will be referred to criminal justice or juvenile justice authorities.

Smoking, Alcohol, and Drug Violations

Any student found using or in possession of alcohol, tobacco, products such as e-cigarettes/vaping pens which are designed to deliver nicotine, or other illegal drugs on school property during the school day or an evening school function, will automatically be suspended from school for one day. The student must have a conference with the Principal before being readmitted. Parents or guardians may attend this meeting. On the second offense, the student will be suspended for a period of three days, with a parent conference required. On the third or subsequent offenses, the student will be suspended, and the board of education will decide about expulsion. All E-cigarettes and vaping pens will be regarded as a tobacco related product/paraphernalia, regardless of whether they contain any nicotine.

Emergency Procedures

Fire Drills/Evacuation Plan: Rooms are to be cleared in a single file line. Keep to the right of the stairs nearest to you at all times. All open windows are to be closed, and the last one to leave the room should close the door. Always walk. Use the nearest exit from your room. Move out away from the building at least 500 feet. Do not return to the building until the all-clear signal has been given. The evacuation plan in case of a fire alarm in extremely cold weather is for the elementary students to exit through the elementary door and to proceed to the First Lutheran Church across the street from the school. High school students should exit through the usual fire drill exit to the First Lutheran Church also.

Tornado Warning: Elementary students should go to the science/FCS hallway and high school students should go to the cafeteria. A heavy book should be brought with the student and placed over the head. Students should sit on the floor next to the walls of their designated area. Teachers should bring their record book with them so all students can be accounted for in case of a disaster. It is very important to listen to all intercom instructions.

Review of Curriculum Materials

A review of curriculum materials may be allowed if the adult wanting to do that review does so with the knowledge of the principal. Any request to review materials shall be submitted on forms provided by the district.

Procedure to Voice Concerns

The Board recognizes the right of individuals or groups to present concerns about school personnel, the curriculum, instructional materials, or concerning school service in school facilities. In the interest of handling all concerns fairly and expeditiously, the board has established the following chain of command.

1. Before making a complaint directly to the board as a whole or to an individual board member, the individual or group involved would be advised to take their concern to the appropriate school staff member. This could be a teacher, a coach, a principal, assistant principal, or the superintendent.
2. The individual or group will be advised of the proper channeling of complaints, which is as follows:
 - a. Coach or Teacher
 - b. Dean of Students, Principal or Athletic Director
 - c. Superintendent
 - d. Board of Education
3. If a board member receives a complaint and has reason to believe that the person or persons involved will not go to the source of the problem, they should inform the superintendent of the situation. In no case will the board member go to the source of the problem himself/herself unless so directed by quorum of the board in legal session.
4. An individual or group who wishes to address the board must notify the superintendent in writing before the board is scheduled to meet.

Detection Canines

Detection canines will conduct random, unannounced inspections of all campus locations. The canines are trained to detect the presence of illicit drugs, alcohol, and gunpowder-based items. If prohibited items are found, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Bus Transportation

Independent School District 2358 operates a transportation system designed principally to transport rural children to and from school. The bus driver's word is law while driving the bus. Any student who habitually or continually causes discipline problems on the bus will be refused transportation at the discretion of the superintendent/principal and the bus driver. Bus drivers shall contact parents and the Superintendent, Principal and/or Dean of Students when they are having a problem with students on the bus. Students who continue to cause problems on the bus may be suspended for 2 days, 1 week, 2 weeks, or the balance of the school year from the school's transportation system.

Buses shall pick up students at the point closest to the student's home that is on a public road unless the bus has to turn around. In that case, the bus will turn around in the yard or driveway provided an adequate turn-around is maintained by the parent or guardian of those students. As a general rule, students that live up to one half mile from the main bus route will be required to walk to and from the bus stop. Between December 1 and March 1, buses will pick up students living more than one fourth mile from the bus stop, if requested by the parent. If a regularly scheduled route passes through the village limits in such a way that it is feasible for pupils that live one half mile or more from school to ride on that route, and there is room on the bus for this to be allowed, this will be permitted on an individual basis.

Bullying

The Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act defines bullying as intimidating, threatening, abusive or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and there is an actual or perceived imbalance of power between the student engaging in prohibited conduct and the target of the behavior and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services or privileges.

An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is prohibited on school district property or at school-related functions. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees. The misuse of technology including, but not limited to, teasing, intimidating, defaming, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district by sending or posting e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Website postings, including blogs, also may constitute an act of bullying.

Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying or any person with the knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to a staff member. The staff member will inform the Assistant Principal or Principal.

A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline for that act in accordance with school district's policies and procedures. The school district may take into account the following factors:

1. The developmental and maturity levels of the parties involved;
2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such

bullying. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment.

Religious, Racial, and Sexual Harassment and Violence

Everyone at District 2358 has a right to feel respected and safe. Consequently, all students should know about our policy to prevent religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence of any kind. A harasser may be a student or an adult. Harassment may include the following when related to religion, race, sex, or gender:

1. name calling, jokes, or rumors;
2. pulling on clothing;
3. graffiti;
4. notes or cartoons;
5. unwelcome touching of a person or clothing;
6. offensive or graphic posters or book covers; or
7. any words or actions that make you feel uncomfortable, embarrass you, or hurt your feelings.

If any words or actions make one feel uncomfortable or fearful, that person should tell a teacher, counselor, the principal or the Human Rights Officer (superintendent). A written report should be filled out and given to a teacher, counselor, the principal or the Human Rights Officer. Students' rights to privacy will be respected as much as possible. We take seriously all reports of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence and will take all appropriate actions based on the report. The school district will also take action if anyone tries to intimidate or take action to harm anyone because they have reported. This is a summary of the school district policy against religious, racial, and sexual harassment and violence. Complete policies are available in the superintendent's office upon request.

Hazing

Hazing means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the mental health of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or district policies or regulations.

Student organization means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, permit, condone, tolerate, or engage in hazing. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy which applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property during and after school hours. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation against anyone who is found to have violated this policy. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against anyone who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation or hearing related to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the Tri County School District and are always prohibited.

Cooperation in Disciplinary Investigations

Students must cooperate in all disciplinary investigations done by the Principal, Superintendent or a designee. Non-cooperation will subject a student to discipline.

AVEL eCARE: School health services are designed to promote and improve the health and wellness of students. Providing school health services assists students in developing and applying academic knowledge to help promote continuous growth toward becoming an effective citizen within our society. The eCARE eSchool program assists Tri-County School District in providing basic emergency care for students and staff; assessment and referral for all students; nurse oversight of medication; essential health services for special needs students; and health promotion and disease prevention activities which address wellness across the lifespan. With the philosophy that "healthy students learn better", professional school nurses address the physical, mental, emotional, and social health needs of our students on a daily basis and work with parents and community partners to best serve these needs.

eCARE School Health Office

Phone: 605-606-0550

Elementary Handbook

Academic Progress

When a student is not making satisfactory progress in a class, the parents will be contacted immediately and informed of these difficulties. Parents will be asked for their help and suggestions will be offered as to how they may help the teacher in solving the problems. A closer working relationship developed through communications will ensure a better education for our children.

School Hours

School officially begins at 8:20 a.m. Dismissal times are as follows:

Grades K – 3.....3:00

Grades 4 – 6.....3:02

Tri-County School believes students need to be safe and supervised at all times. Students who must arrive at the school prior to 8AM will report to the cafeteria where they will remain until 8:10. The reason for this is so that the school staff may have a few minutes to prepare themselves for the school day without interruption. Students are to leave school immediately after dismissal, unless permission has been granted for them to remain for a specific purpose.

Lunch Program

Lunches and breakfasts are available at Tri-County. Forms to apply for free and reduced meals will be mailed to each family and should be returned to the District Secretary's Office ASAP. All money for school lunches should be given to the main office or the student's home room teacher. We ask that payment be made by check if at all possible. One check can be written for several members of each family.

Food and Drink: Food and Drink is only allowed in the cafeteria during the students' lunch period. There will be no food or drink allowed in classrooms and/or at recess (with the exception of classroom rewards or celebrations). Water is the only acceptable food or drink in classrooms.

School Entrance Age

Entrance into first grade shall be superseded by law as enacted by the Minnesota State Legislature. The public schools of the state shall be equally free, open and accessible at all times to all children between the ages of six and twenty-one. Age for kindergarten, shall be that a child shall have reached his/her fifth birthday by September 1. If parents feel their child possesses special abilities and they wish him/her to start school even though the child does not meet entrance requirements, the parents have this alternative. The child may be tested by a certified psychologist, approved by the school, and if on the basis of testing results and professional consultation, the psychologist recommends entrance of the child into school, the child will be allowed to enter. The cost involved in the testing shall be borne by the parents.

Attendance

It has been shown that good attendance increases the likelihood of success in school. It is the school board's policy that a student shall not miss more than 10 days in a semester. Absences spent at school-sponsored activities, being sent home from school with an illness, suspensions or medical appointments plus 1 day after with a valid doctor's note are exempt from this count. For the safety of our students, parent/guardians must call the school at 436-2261 by 8:45 am to let the school know their student is accounted for. If no phone call is received, the school will strive to contact a parent/guardian to ensure the absent student is safe and their whereabouts are known. Parent/guardians will be notified by mail after 5 absences and again after 8 absences. Any student that reaches 10 absences must participate in a Student Attendance Intervention Meeting consisting of the student, parent/guardian, administration and any other individuals deemed necessary. At this meeting, a Student Attendance Intervention Plan outlining attendance requirements will be agreed upon for the student. Administration reserves the right to excuse or unexcused any absences depending on individual situations. Administration may also convene a Student Attendance Intervention Meeting at any time as they deem vital to student success. If a student shows a dangerous pattern of absences, the principal or Assistant Principal will issue written warnings to the student and parents/guardians. Disciplinary or legal action may be taken. Individual teachers may make more restrictive rules involving attendance and make-up work within the confines of state guidelines and law.

Playground Rules

Treat each other with respect. Students are not permitted to harass others verbally or physically. Fighting, spitting, throwing stones or snowballs, wrestling, king of the hill, swearing, teasing or similar acts will not be tolerated. Treat the playground supervisors with respect and courtesy. Their job is to keep everyone safe and peaceful. Refusal of the student to respect this authority shall be considered insubordinate conduct and will be dealt with by the Principal.

1. Use the playground equipment correctly and safely.
2. Do not climb on or over the fences. If a ball goes over the fence or across the street, ask permission to retrieve it.
3. You must wear shoes while on the playground.
4. Play on the playground where supervisors can see you. Stay away from windows-other classes are in session.
5. Tackle football is not allowed.
6. Students are expected to participate in recess, whether the group is inside or outside. Bring everything you need with you when you come to the playground. Students will be allowed to go in only with permission. Dress for the weather.
7. Bring in all equipment at the end of recess.

Consequences

Violation of the rules will result in:

- a. Warning
- b. Time-out
- c. Time-out and Detention
- d. Involvement of principal and/or parents

Discipline

Most discipline problems can be dealt with between student and teacher. If this is not possible, the parent will be contacted. From there the parent may be called in for a conference. In-school suspension may be assigned, or as a last resort the child may be sent home until he/she can conduct himself/herself in an orderly manner.

Cell Phones/Cameras

Students are encouraged not to bring cell phones or other electronic devices including smart watches, and earbuds/air pods to school. If students choose to bring a cell phone/device to school the expectations are as follows: Cell phones, electronic devices (including smart watches) and earbuds/air pods will remain in student backpacks/ lockers during the academic school day, including lunch and recess.

Students who need to be in contact with their family during the academic day are to ask permission to use one of our school phones. Parents are welcome and encouraged to contact our main office if there is a message that needs to be relayed.

Students assume the risk of damage, theft, or loss when choosing to bring a phone to school.

- Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted in locker rooms or bathrooms.
- Earbuds/headphones may be allowed at designated times for instructional purposes on school approved devices.
- Phone usage during lockdown and fire drills is prohibited.
- Using a cell phone to record or take photos of staff members or other students is not allowed without permission (administrator + individual).
- Recording or taking photos of classmates with the intent to bully or harass is not permitted.
- Using social media, apps, or any other function of a cell phone/device to spread rumors, bully, make fun of, exclude, or create a disruption in school or outside of school is not permitted.
- Sharing or asking classmates for inappropriate content is not permitted.
- Cell Phone Guidelines for off-campus school activities (i.e. extracurricular activities, outdoor and service trips, school field trips) will be individualized depending on the specific trip and activities. These expectations will be addressed at pre-trip meetings and/or on trip-specific permission slips.

Extenuating Circumstances

Students who use their cell phone to monitor a medical condition (i.e. diabetes, epilepsy) may have their cell phone with them at all times, but must adhere to all other expectations of the cell phone policy. Please contact school administration if there is an essential need for a phone for approval. In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a student should have a health plan or prior approval.

Confiscation and Consequences

Unauthorized Use: If any electronic device, including cell phones, is seen or heard during school hours it may be confiscated by any staff member.

- **First Infraction:** The device will be taken to the office and the student will pick it up at the end of the school day.
- **Second Infraction:** A parent/guardian must pick up the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.
- **Third Infraction:** A parent/guardian must pick up the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.
- **Fourth Infraction:** Cell phone plan created. Phone may be held by administration during days or not allowed on site. Parents/ Guardians devise a plan together with school administration.

Specific Restrictions

- **Locker Rooms and Bathrooms:** Devices with photo-taking capabilities are NOT allowed in locker rooms or bathrooms at any time. Confiscation and search of such devices is standard procedure if found in these areas.
- **Lockdowns and Fire Drills:** Phone usage during lockdown and fire drills is prohibited.
- **Unauthorized Recording:** Students who take pictures or videos of others without permission in any school setting, including the bus, will face disciplinary actions.
- **Smart Watches, Earbuds and Headphones:** Smart watches, earbuds and headphones may not be worn in the hallways or cafeteria.

Investigations and Inspections

Device Disabling: Disabling a cell phone or computer to thwart an investigation of a disciplinary matter will result in disciplinary action.

Device Inspection: The school reserves the right to inspect a student's electronic device, through proper legal channels, if there is reason to believe the student has violated school policies or engaged in misconduct while using the device.

School Responsibility

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices: The School is not responsible for, nor is it required to investigate, any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices brought onto school grounds or the bus.

Additional Rules

Recording and Posting: Students may not use a device to record, transmit, or post photos or videos of a person or persons on school grounds or the bus without express permission of an administrator in addition to the individual or individuals that are the subjects of the recording.

Phone Calls: Students are not to use their phones to call or text individuals during the school day. A telephone located in the office is available for student use. Students will NOT be called to the phone during the school day except for emergencies.

Compliance

By following these guidelines, students will help maintain a focused and respectful learning environment. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in disciplinary actions as described above.

End of Day Procedures

Students must have parental/guardian permission to ride a bus other than their own. A note should be presented or a phone call made to the child's teacher and to the bus driver. Students also need parental/guardian permission to leave the school with another child's parent. A note should be given or a phone call made to the teacher or District Office in these situations. Students must have adult supervision to stay in the building after school. A parent/guardian should contact the school by 1:00 if there is a change to the normal drop off plans for their child(ren).

After School Activities

When students are attending after school programs such as elementary basketball practice or 4H, they are required to behave in an appropriate manner. When activities are completed, students should be picked up as soon as possible. Students should wait for rides by the east or south doors.

Attending Extra-Curricular Activities

When students attend extra-curricular activities such as volleyball and basketball games, they are expected to be seated in the gymnasium watching those games rather than creating other activities in the hallways and cafeteria. Parents will be asked to take home those who do not abide by this rule. This may also lead to a suspension from attending future activities.

High School Handbook

Daily Class Schedule

Period 1	8:25 – 9:20
Period 2	9:23 – 10:13
Period 3	10:16 – 11:06
Period 4	11:09 – 11:59
Lunch	12:00– 12:30
Period 5	12:30 – 1:20
Period 6	1:23 – 2:13
Period 7	2:16 – 3:06
Test Makeup/Detention	3:10 – 4:00

Attendance

If a student is absent, a parent/guardian must notify the school. The **preferred method** is to call the main office at **218-436-2261** between **8:00–8:30 a.m.** or to email attendance@tricity.k12.mn.us.

If a call or email is not possible, the student must bring a **written note signed by a parent/guardian** upon their return. The note must include the specific reason for the absence. Without a call, email, or signed note, the absence will be marked **unexcused**.

The Principal will make the final determination of whether an absence is excused or unexcused.

Attendance Policy

It has been shown that good attendance increases the likelihood of success in school. It is the school board's policy that a student shall not miss more than 10 days in a semester. Absences spent at school-sponsored activities, being sent home from school with an illness, suspensions, or medical appointments plus 1 day after with valid doctor's note are exempt from this count. For the safety of our students, parent/guardians must call the school at 436-2261 by 8:45 am to let the school know their student is accounted for. If no phone call is received, the school will strive to contact a parent/guardian to ensure the absent student is safe and their whereabouts are known. Parent/guardians will be notified by mail after approximately 5 absences in any period(s) and again after 8 absences. Any student that reaches 10 absences in one or more periods must participate in a Student Attendance Intervention Meeting consisting of the student, parent/guardian, administration, and any other individuals deemed necessary. At this meeting, a Student Attendance Intervention Plan outlining attendance requirements will be agreed upon for the student. Administration reserves the right to excuse or unexcused any absences depending on individual situations. Administration may also convene a Student Attendance Intervention Meeting at any time as they deem vital to student success. If a student shows a dangerous pattern of absences, the Principal will issue written warnings to the student and parents/guardians. Disciplinary or legal action may be taken. Individual teachers may make more restrictive rules involving attendance and make-up work within the confines of state guidelines and law.

Excused and Unexcused Absences

All counted absences up to 10 are considered excused (see above for exempt absences) with a parent/guardian note or call. After 10 absences in a period, only absences with a doctor's note or school-initiated illness removal are considered excused. Everything else will be considered unexcused.

Makeup of Work

Makeup of missing work due to absences will be allowed on the following basis:

Excused Absences – All makeup work allowed. Allowed time is "equal to number of excused days absent + 1."

Unexcused Absences – No daily work allowed to be made up. Tests & Quizzes Makeup are allowed with a 25% reduction.

In School Suspension -

- (Level 1 – Procedural) - All makeup work allowed. Allowed time is "equal to number of excused days absent + 1."
- (Level 2 – Behavioral) - No daily work allowed to be made up. Tests & Quizzes Makeup are allowed with a 25% reduction.

Out of School Suspension – No daily work allowed to be made up. Tests & Quizzes Makeup are allowed with a 25% reduction.

Procedure Following Absences

Students who are absent for all or part of a day are responsible for making up missed work. Work must be completed within the allowed time frame (**1 day per excused absence plus 1 additional day**) in order to receive credit. Makeup tests must be completed after school during the makeup test/study table session.

- **Full-day absences:** A make-up slip is no longer required, as attendance is recorded in the Student Information System (Synergy). Students are still expected to complete all missed work within the allowed timeframe.

- **Partial-day absences:** Students who arrive late or leave early must **check in or out at the main office** to receive a slip. If you know in advance that you will be leaving during the school day, please plan ahead and pick up your slip **before school, during lunch, or during passing time**. Students should not leave class to get a slip, as this causes additional loss of instructional time.

Unexcused absences will result in loss of credit for the time missed and may also lead to disciplinary action.

Tardy Procedure

Students who are tardy to 1st period must report to the school office for an admittance slip before going to class. To have the tardy excused, the office must receive a signed note from a parent/guardian, an email sent to **attendance@tricity.k12.mn.us**, or a phone call from a parent/guardian. Without one of these, the tardy will be considered unexcused. Oversleeping, personal reasons, eating breakfast, running errands, or habitual car trouble are not valid excuses.

For all other class periods, teachers will handle tardiness. A student arriving late will be marked tardy until 15 minutes after the class begins. Any arrival more than 15 minutes late will be considered an absence for that period.

Consequences of Tardiness

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for every class. After **three cumulative tardies in a semester**, consequences will begin:

- **3rd & 4th Tardy:** Noon Detention
- **5th & 6th Tardies:** After School Detention
- **7+ Tardies:** Parent meeting and In-School Suspension (ISS) at both the 7th and 10th tardy. Students will also be considered ineligible for extracurricular activities for one event. After that point, each additional tardy will result in loss of eligibility for another event.

In addition to being physically late, students are also expected to arrive to class with all required materials. **Not being prepared for class is considered a “material tardy.”** For example, if you arrive at class but have to return to your locker to get a book, Chromebook, or other supplies, you are not ready to learn—and this will be marked as a material tardy. Material tardies count toward the same cumulative total as regular tardies.

Being punctual and prepared ensures that instructional time is not lost and sets a positive tone for the learning environment.

Truancy

A pupil is a continuing truant if absent from school without a valid excuse for three or more class periods on three days. Parents have the primary legal responsibility for educating their child. Frivolous reasons for absences that accumulate in numbers and jeopardize academic progress could constitute neglect. When there is no evidence that the parent is aware of the student’s absence, parents will be phoned to verify their student’s absence.

Skipping School/Classes

Any student who is clearly missing from school without permission is considered skipping and will serve detention time or In-School Suspension(s).

Student Sign-In and Sign-Out

Any student who needs to leave school during the day must have parent/guardian permission. This may be provided through a written note, a phone call to the office, or an email from home. Whenever possible, arrangements should be made before the start of the school day (by 8:25 a.m.) or during lunch. All students are required to **sign out in the main office** before leaving and **sign back in** upon their return.

Illness and Injury

A student who becomes ill must report to the office. Students will not be allowed to leave the building unless a parent comes for them or is informed of their leaving the school. Students who are injured in school should report the injury at once to the teacher in charge or to the school office. Each family is responsible for the costs of injury in all classes and athletics. An insurance waiver will be kept on file for all participants before the student can be in any activity.

Textbooks/School Property

The school will charge appropriate replacement fees for textbooks, workbooks, or library books lost, damaged, or destroyed by students. Students will be expected to pay for any school property which is damaged or destroyed through negligence.

Use of School Facility

Any class or student group who wishes to use the school facilities after school hours must secure the permission of their advisor, who will submit a plan to the administration that lists the time, chaperones, guests and/or decorations that are to be used during the activity. Advisors of the class/organization sponsoring a dance will be responsible for picking up the rules and regulations from the principal’s office and explain them to the class/organization involved

Vehicles

Vehicles driven to school must remain parked from the beginning of the school day until dismissal. Any exceptions require written authorization from the Principal. The only exception to this rule is for 11th–12th grade students with open campus privileges (see Lunch Hour section for details).

Lockers/Personal Property

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota that: *“School lockers are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school*

authorities for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation." Students are expected to use the locker that is assigned to them during the entire time they are enrolled at Tri-County. The school assumes no liability in the case of theft. We encourage students not to leave money or valuables in their lockers. Students may put a lock on their locker but must provide the office with the combination or a key.

Acceptable Use Agreement

Each student and their parent/guardian must sign the school's Acceptable Use Agreement before the student is allowed access to school technology, including the computer network, email, and the Internet. This agreement explains the expectations for responsible and appropriate use of technology at school. It also outlines the consequences that may occur if a student misuses technology or violates the terms of the agreement. By signing, both students and parents acknowledge that they understand the rules and give permission for the student to use school technology under these guidelines.

Academic Honesty Statement:

All students are encouraged to exhibit personal honesty in their classroom work and should expect the same from other students attending Tri-County. Doing so allows each student to be evaluated on **his/her individual efforts**. The entire Tri-County faculty supports this policy and will enforce this policy in all courses taught at Tri-County.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:

- **Cheating** (use of concealed answers, using unauthorized technology, copying an assignment or worksheet, or sharing information about an assignment or test)
 - If a student is caught cheating, the student's assignment, test, or paper will be held for evidence, and a grade of zero "0" will be given. Parents/Guardians and administrators will be notified. Offenses accumulate and can result in ISS or academic ineligibility under MSHSL bylaw 206.
- **Plagiarism**
 - Using another person's ideas, expressions, or writings as if they were one's own.
 - Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create work may be deemed plagiarism by the instructor.
 - Offering another student answers to an assignment, worksheets, notes, or test whether solicited or unsolicited in written or verbal form.
 - Theft of intellectual property such as assignments, worksheets, notes, notebooks, test or test answer keys.

NOTE TO STUDENTS: If you have any doubt about your academic habits or about what constitutes academic honesty in a given class or on a given assignment, **ASK YOUR TEACHER**. They will tell you what is acceptable for the assignment and the permissible parameters are for their assignments, tests or classes.

Public Display of Affection

Inappropriate displays of affection can be uncomfortable for both students and staff and are not permitted on school grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, kissing or other physical displays that are not appropriate in a school setting. Students who do not follow this policy will be considered insubordinate and may face disciplinary action.

Nuisance Devices

Students are not permitted to bring items to school that could disrupt the learning environment or interfere with the normal conduct of school. Examples include, but are not limited to, water guns, chains, laser pointers, fidget spinners, and other gadgets or objects that may cause distractions or pose a safety concern. Students who bring such items to school will have them confiscated and may face disciplinary action.

Student Dress

The faculty and Board of Education recognize that student dress and grooming can impact health, safety, the learning environment, and a student's ability to fully participate in school activities. It is the responsibility of students and parents/guardians to ensure that clothing worn to school is appropriate. Dress or grooming styles that disrupt the learning process are not permitted. Students are required to follow the dress code during school hours, defined as the time from arrival in the building until dismissal.

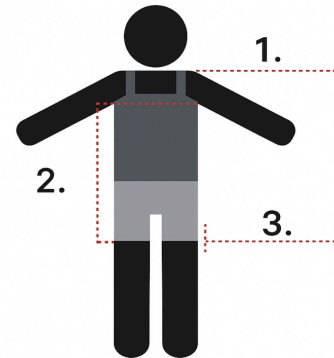
Minimum Coverage Requirements

1. Tops must have shoulder straps.
2. The area from one armpit across to the other armpit must be covered, and tops must extend down to meet the waistband of shorts, skirts, or pants.
3. Bottoms must cover to approximately halfway between the upper thigh and knee

Additional Coverage and Content Requirements

- Rips or tears in clothing should be no longer than 3–4 inches.
- Shoes must be worn at all times and be safe for the school environment. Pajamas, bedroom shoes, or slippers are not allowed except for school-approved activities.
- See-through or mesh garments may not be worn unless appropriate coverage underneath meets the minimum requirements listed above.
- Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal activity, violence, lewd content, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other controlled substances.
- Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
- Clothing may not display vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene language or images.
- Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech or imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
- Sunglasses may not be worn indoors except for medical reasons or school activities.
- Clothing and accessories that could endanger the safety of students or staff are not permitted.
- Clothing or accessories may not depict or imply gang affiliation.
- Hats and head coverings may be worn, but teachers may require their removal for safety, testing, or classroom management reasons. Hoods from jackets or hoodies may **not** be worn indoors.
- Specialized courses may require specific attire, such as sports uniforms, safety gear, or sanitation clothing.

DRESS CODE GUIDELINES



Enforcement

The Principal, Superintendent, and teaching staff will enforce this policy. Students whose dress or grooming does not meet these standards will be referred to the Principal. The student will receive a warning and guidance on what adjustments must be made. If the issue is not corrected, parents/guardians will be contacted. Continued noncompliance may result in removal from the class or activity until the situation is resolved.

Cell Phones/Cameras

Students are encouraged not to bring cell phones or other electronic devices including smart watches, and earbuds/air pods to school. If students choose to bring a cell phone/device to school the expectations are as follows: Cell phones, electronic devices (including smart watches) and earbuds/air pods will remain in student backpacks/ lockers during instructional time.

Students who need to be in contact with their family during the academic day are to ask permission to use one of our school phones. Parents are welcome and encouraged to contact our main office if there is a message that needs to be relayed.

Students assume the risk of damage, theft, or loss when choosing to bring a phone to school.

If cell phones and/or earbuds are brought to class, students will be required to place them in the designated “cell phone sleeves” in each classroom during the entire duration of instructional time (devices cannot be on person). Cell phone use is only allowed between classes and during lunch.

- Cell phone use of any kind is not permitted in locker rooms or bathrooms.
- Earbuds/headphones may be allowed at designated times for instructional purposes on school approved devices only. **Earbuds should not be worn in the hallway or at lunch** for safety reasons.
- If smartwatches are being used as a communication device or a disruption to learning, they can also be subject to confiscation and consequences.
- Phone usage during lockdown and fire drills is prohibited.

- Using a cell phone to record or take photos of staff members or other students is not allowed without permission from the Principal and the individual.
- Recording or taking photos of classmates with the intent to bully or harass is not permitted. Students in violation are subject to the district's Bullying and Harassment Policies.
- Using social media, apps, or any other function of a cell phone/device to spread rumors, bully, make fun of, exclude, or create a disruption in school or outside of school is not permitted.
- Sharing or asking classmates for inappropriate content is not permitted.
- Cell Phone Guidelines for off-campus school activities (i.e. extracurricular activities, outdoor and service trips, school field trips) will be individualized depending on the specific trip and activities. These expectations will be addressed at pre-trip meetings and/or on trip-specific permission slips.

Extenuating Circumstances

Students who use their cell phone to monitor a medical condition (i.e. diabetes, epilepsy) may have their cell phone with them at all times, but must adhere to all other expectations of the cell phone policy. Please contact school administration if there is an essential need for a phone for approval. In the case of medical necessity or emergency, a student should have a health plan or prior approval.

Confiscation and Consequences

Unauthorized Use: If any electronic device, including cell phones, is seen or heard during school hours it may be confiscated by any staff member.

- **First Offense:** In the classroom: Staff member has student place phone in a designated area until the end of the class period - **student picks up**. Outside of the classroom (example: hallway or bathroom during instructional time): Staff member turns phone into the office for remainder of the school day - **student picks up**.
- **Second Offense:** Staff member turns phone into the office for the remainder of the school day. **Student Picks Up** the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.
- **Third Offense:** Staff member turns phone into the office for the remainder of the school day. A **parent/guardian must pick up** the device, and additional consequences may be assigned.
- **Fourth Offense:** Cell phone plan created. Phone may be held by administration during days or not allowed on site. Parents/ Guardians devise a plan together with school administration or Phone no longer allowed on site.

Specific Restrictions

- **Locker Rooms and Bathrooms:** Devices with photo-taking capabilities are NOT allowed in locker rooms or bathrooms at any time. Confiscation and search of such devices is standard procedure if found in these areas.
- **Lockdowns and Fire Drills:** Phone usage during lockdown and fire drills is prohibited.
- **Unauthorized Recording:** Students who take pictures or videos of others without permission in any school setting, including the bus, will face disciplinary actions.
- **Smart Watches, Earbuds and Headphones:** Smart watches, earbuds and headphones may not be worn in the hallways or cafeteria.

Investigations and Inspections

- **Device Disabling:** Disabling a cell phone or computer to thwart an investigation of a disciplinary matter will result in disciplinary action.
- **Device Inspection:** The school reserves the right to inspect a student's electronic device, through proper legal channels, if there is reason to believe the student has violated school policies or engaged in misconduct while using the device.

School Responsibility

Lost, Stolen, or Damaged Devices: The School is not responsible for, nor is it required to investigate, any lost, stolen, or damaged electronic devices brought onto school grounds or the bus.

Additional Rules

- **Recording and Posting:** Students may not use a device to record, transmit, or post photos or videos of a person or persons on school grounds or the bus without express permission of an administrator in addition to the individual or individuals that are the subjects of the recording.
- **Phone Calls:** Students are not to use their phones to call or text individuals during the school day. A telephone located in the office is available for student use. Students will NOT be called to the phone during the school day except for emergencies.

Compliance

By following these guidelines, students will help maintain a focused and respectful learning environment. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in disciplinary actions as described above.

Lunch Hour

Students in grades 7-10 will have a closed noon hour. Students in grades 11-12 are allowed to leave the school grounds during lunch hour if the following criteria are met:

1. A parent/guardian signed waiver is on file in the district office.
2. A signed student agreement is on file in the district office.
3. A copy of the student's valid driver's license is on file in the district office. Farmer's Permits are not allowed. (This is for anyone interested in driving).
4. The student is passing all classes.

Students may lose open lunch privileges if any violations occur. Violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Found to be in violation of any MSHSL chemical rules.
2. Transporting any other students that are not siblings to the driver.
3. Distributing food upon return to other students
4. Any MSHSL chemical violation occurs or remains unserved.
5. Any disciplinary behavior has occurred as warranted by administration.
6. Any non-medical tardies for period 5. One warning may be given.

Administration reserves the right to grant or deny open lunch privileges as deemed reasonable. Administration also reserves the right to

determine the length of any loss of privileges.

Food and Drink: Food and Drink is only allowed in the cafeteria during the students' lunch period. There will be no food or drink allowed in classrooms and/or at recess (with the exception of classroom rewards or celebrations).
Water is the only acceptable food or drink in classrooms.

Passes

Students who wish to use the washroom or to go to the office, a locker, or the counselor must obtain a written pass from their classroom teacher.

Telephone Calls

Important messages for students will be relayed to them as quickly as possible. Students should not use the phone in the office unless it is an important call. Arrangements for leaving the school during the school day must be made before 8:25 a.m. or at lunch hour.

Grading System/Honor Roll/Honor Graduates

A 4.0 grading system is used: A=4.0, B=3.0, C=2.0, D=1.0, and F=0. College in the High School and Online College courses are weighted with one additional grade point (except for Ds and Fs). Students who earn an average of B+ (3.33) or better will be placed on the honor roll. Students of the graduating class will be honored if they have a B+ (3.33) or better average for all academic class work from grades 9-12. All course grades taken by a student in a college-option program will be computed in the student's grade-point average along with his/her high school courses in grades 9-12. Honor cords will be worn at graduation by seniors who are graduating with honors.

The following criteria will be used by the faculty to select the three commencement speakers:

1. Attendance record
2. Cooperation with students and faculty
3. Student's speaking ability

Student Promotion and Retention

If a student in grades 9-12 fails a required course, he/she will be required to repeat the course. Students in grades 7 or 8 who fail one-half or more of their core classes (English, mathematics, science, social studies) will be retained in the same grade for the next year.

Graduation Credit Requirements (Grades 9-12)

Twenty three (23) credits earned from grades nine through twelve are required for graduation. Required classes are listed each year in the registration booklet. All juniors and seniors will take six subjects each year, exclusive of band and/or chorus. Any exceptions must have the approval of the principal. Any time a class is dropped after the second week of school, an "F" will be recorded as the final grade; and this grade will be computed in the total transcript. With the Principal's permission a student may drop a class and add another class before the end of the second school week without receiving a grade of "F".

A student must have earned a minimum of 17 credits and must have completed at least 3 years of high school to be considered a senior. Students eligible to receive a diploma at Tri-County and who meet the following criteria may participate in graduation ceremonies. Determination as to whether or not a senior may participate in graduation ceremonies will be made immediately after the student completes the first semester of the senior year. Any senior who has earned at least 20 credits by the end of the first semester of the senior year will be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. Any senior who has not accumulated at least 20 credits by the end of the first semester, will be notified along with the parents of the student, in writing, that it is unlikely that the student will be eligible for participation in graduation ceremonies due to inability to meet graduation requirements. If the student receiving notification makes up all deficiencies through other course work such as at the Area Learning Center or other means approved by the high school principal, and if all deficiencies are made up by May 1 of that current year, the student may participate in ceremonies and will be included in the printed program and other publicity. Students who are deficient as of May 1 will not be included in the graduation program and publicity. They will not be permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies unless all graduation requirements are met by the date of graduation. Written notification will be sent to student and parent(s) that the student will not be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies unless all graduation requirements are met by the date of graduation. Only students who have earned at least the required number of credits toward graduation and have successfully completed the courses required for graduation by the end of the senior year will receive a diploma.

Report Card Incompletes

If a student is absent from school for a lengthy period of time because of illness or work, his/her work must be made up to the teacher's satisfaction or a grade of Incomplete will be recorded. Incompletes are used only when a portion of the grading period's work is missing due to circumstances largely beyond the student's control. Incompletes are not given in cases of student negligence. They must be made up within 10 school days after the end of the grading period, or credit will be lost for the quarter. Quarter 4 incompletes will result in failure for the quarter.

College in the High School Options (OCHS)

Students may receive credit for graduation through correspondence courses. Students who are sophomores and above who maintain a certain GPA are eligible for Online College in the High School (OCHS) courses. In order to take an OCHS course, students must complete any prerequisite courses offered at Tri-County.

- **Sophomores** may take one CTE OCHS course per semester.
- **Juniors and Seniors** may take one OCHS course per semester.

If Tri-County offers a College in the High School course in-house (e.g., College Chemistry), students must enroll in the in-house option rather than taking the same course online. This ensures enrollment in local electives remains strong and supports collaboration within the Tri-County classroom setting.

Final approval for OCHS enrollment is determined by the principal. Consideration will be given to the student's **attendance, work ethic in Tri-County classes, teacher recommendations, and overall readiness for college-level coursework.**

Study Table/Test Makeups

Tests will be made up during Study Table. (3:15-4:00) This also will be a quiet place for students to do schoolwork. A teacher will be present to supervise and assist students.

Student Conduct

Students may have the privilege of attending classes only if they conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. In a case of misconduct, the following action may be taken:

Lunch Detention

- Lunch detention will be served during the student's next lunch period following the infraction.
- Students will bring their lunch to the detention room and remain there until the lunch period is over.
- Students will not be allowed to leave the detention room for any reason other than an emergency.
- Students involved in extracurricular activities who are issued detention must serve at the assigned time in order to participate.
- There will not be talking, sleeping, music, computers, games, or phones during detention.
- Parents will be notified by the teacher when their child has received a detention.

After School Detention

After school detention may be assigned by the Principal. This will be at the Principal's discretion and will be from 3:15-4:00.

In-School Suspension

In-school suspension is used as a punishment for students who have serious misconduct. Students assigned to in-school suspension receive credit for work that can be done in the ISS room.

Out-of-School Suspension

Out-of-School Suspension means an action taken by the Principal/Superintendent prohibiting a student from attending school in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act. The purpose of suspension is to remove the student from the school environment and to provide time for professional staff, parent/guardian and student to discuss the matter and bring about an agreement of future conduct.

Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion

A student may be suspended, excluded or expelled for serious misconduct and/or a serious violation of school rules. Behavior in the school building and grounds, on buses, and at school sponsored activities at school and away, is included under this category. **Off campus conduct which disrupts, interferes, or otherwise affects the environment, activities or operation of the school can also result in disciplinary sanctions including suspension, exclusion, or expulsion.**

Examples of serious misconduct or serious violation of school rules include:

- Insubordination and back talk.
- Stealing--personal or school property
- Any use of tobacco or drugs, including alcohol on school grounds or in school vehicles.
- Causing physical harm or damage to any person.
- Repeated poor behavior in classroom settings which disturbs or delays the learning opportunity of any student.
- Habitual truancy.
- Fighting.
- Destruction of property.
- Willful conduct which disrupts the rights of others to an education.
- Physical or verbal/written harassment of another student

An informal administrative conference will be held with the student to determine facts and outline with the student what action is to be taken. Exception to this is where it appears the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to persons or property around him or her. The procedure may be suspension from school or an in-school suspension for a period of time to be determined in the conference with the student. A conference with parents/guardians may be required before the student is readmitted if the suspension is from school.

Conduct and Loss of Privileges or Positions

Teachers or administration may take away privileges such as signing out from study hall, from students whose conduct is unsatisfactory. Students who occupy positions of leadership and responsibility in athletics or organizations are expected to maintain the highest standards of conduct and may be removed from such positions if their behavior is unsatisfactory.

Extra-Curricular Handbook

Eligibility for School-Sponsored Activities

Students must be in good standing in order to participate in any school-sponsored activity. To be considered in good standing, the following rules apply:

1. **Attendance Requirement:** Students must be present for the **full school day** preceding an event that evening unless they have an approved excuse from the Principal in advance.
2. **Skipping/Unexcused Absences:** Skipping school or having an unexcused absence will prevent participation in the next scheduled event for the first offense. A second offense will result in loss of participation for the remainder of the season or activity.
3. **Discipline:** Any serious discipline problem may prevent participation in future activities. Such decisions will be at the discretion of the Principal.
4. **Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Violations:** Students are subject to penalties outlined in the school's policies regarding these violations in connection with extracurricular activities.
5. **After-Game Attendance:** Students are required to be in attendance in school after a game. Students must also attend school on the day preceding and the day following an out-of-school event (including activities and athletic events).
6. **Academic Standing:** Participants must not have outstanding work in any classes.
7. **Ineligible Athletes:** Athletes who are academically ineligible to travel with the team will be required to attend study table daily until work is completed or passing.

Extra-Curricular Fees

Every student in grades 7-12 will pay a \$45.00 participation fee for each athletic extra-curricular activity the student participates in with a maximum of \$90.00 per student and \$160.00 per family, per year. The fee must be paid to the Tri-County office before the student is allowed to begin the activity. No refunds will be given after the first official practice.

Extra-Curricular Bus Rules

Any student riding a school bus for an activity will be required to return to Karlstad, Halma, Lake Bronson, or Strandquist on that same bus unless a parent/guardian makes a request in person to the bus chaperone at the place of the event for the student to ride home with that parent. Athletic and other groups performing for the school generally are expected to ride the bus both ways.

Sexual, Racial, and Religious Violence

After determination of the violation of the sexual, racial, or religious violence rules, the student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve calendar months.

Tri-County High School Rule 1

Tri-County High School adheres to all Minnesota State High School League rules and regulations. The MSHSL manual is available for viewing in the High School Office.

Definition of Category I and Category II

Category I: all athletic, speech, and debate activities which have a regular season of interscholastic contests prior to the League-sponsored tournament.

Category II: those music and speech activities which do not have a regular season of interscholastic contests prior to League-sponsored tournaments.

Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Usage, Criminal Acts, or Sexual, Religious or Racial Harassment: According to bylaw 205.00 of the Minnesota State High School League (Chemical Eligibility Policy), the following rules apply to all extra and co-curricular sports at Tri-County Schools.

A student shall not at any time, regardless of the quantity:

- a. use or consume, have in possession, a beverage containing alcohol
- b. use, consume, or have in possession tobacco; or,
- c. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia.
- d. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away products containing or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products, or other chemicals.

"Tobacco Products" means: any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product.

- e. use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any substance or product where the intent of such use of the substance or product is to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor. Such substances and products shall include, but are not limited to, synthetic drugs, gasoline, glue, aerosol devices, bath salts, and any substances addressed by Minnesota or Federal Law. It is not a violation of this policy for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

The Minnesota State High School League and Tri-County School believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity.

Students should be able to participate in League-sponsored activities in an environment that is free from sexual, religious or racial harassment and sexual, religious or racial violence. It shall be a violation of this policy for a student participant in League activities to harass a person through conduct or communication that is determined to be sexual, religious or racial in nature.

First Violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive events or two weeks, 14 calendar days, of a season in which the student is a participant, whichever is greater.

Second Violation: The student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive events or three weeks, 21 calendar days, in which the student is a participant at the time of the violation, whichever is greater. The student shall seek counseling before reinstatement in extra-curricular activities. The student shall lose all awards for any activity that they are involved in at the time of the violation. If they are not involved in any activity at the time of the violation the student shall lose any awards that would have been earned in the activity that they are serving the ineligibility period. The student must complete the season of the activity in which they are completing the ineligibility period or the period of ineligibility shall not be considered to be served.

Third and Subsequent Violations: The student shall lose eligibility for the next twelve consecutive events or four weeks, 28 calendar days, in which the student is a participant at the time of the violation, whichever is greater. The student shall seek counseling before reinstatement in extra-curricular activities. The student shall lose all awards for any activity that they are involved in at the time of the violation. If they are not involved in any activity at the time of the violation the student shall lose any awards that would have been earned in the activity that they are serving the ineligibility period. The student must complete the season of the activity in which they are completing the ineligibility period or the period of ineligibility shall not be considered to be served.

If after the third or subsequent chemical violations, the student on his/her own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, and is assessed as chemically dependent and completes treatment, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MSHSL activities after a minimum period of six weeks after entering a program. Such certification must be issued by the director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.

Violations are cumulative in Grades 7 and 8. Cumulative violations begin with a new enrollment in grade 9 unless the student has already competed on a varsity or junior varsity level in any activity. Summer violations will be carried on the next school year.

Category II: Category II events include non-athletic extra-curricular activities such as music, drama, and speech. The student must serve the penalty for the athletic event in which he/she participates as well as one of the Category II events in which he/she participates. The student will be ineligible for the first contest following the violation. If subsequent violations occur, the student will be ineligible for two contests following the violation.

Note: The same penalties will apply for FCCLA, Knowledge Bowl, Honor Society, Student Council, School Play, Envirothon, Lego League, Homecoming Coronation, and other school sponsored competitive, performance, or **MSHSL sponsored leadership activity.**

Tri-County High School Rule 2

Students must display good sportsmanship in competition and have been regular in attendance at all practices and events unless pre-approved absences are excused by the coach/director.

First Violation: Loss of participation in one event. The participant will be required to attend as if participating in that event. If not attendance the result will be loss of eligibility for lettering or awards unless otherwise noted.

Second Violation: Dismissal from the activity for the remainder of the season.

Tri-County High School Rule 3

Detentions: If a student has a detention to serve, he/she will not be allowed to participate in an extra-curricular event until that detention is served. Participation will not be denied if there has not been an opportunity for the student to serve the penalty prior to the next scheduled game or contest. If practice is missed because a detention is being served at that time, it will be considered an unexcused absence from practice.

Tri-County High School Rule 4

Equipment: Students are responsible for returning all equipment used in the same condition that they received it in, except for normal wear.

All Violations: Students will pay for equipment which has been lost or abused.

Tri-County High School Rule 5

Academic Eligibility: Sixteen times during the school year, we evaluate and report student academic performance to students and parents.

Evaluation Dates 2025-2026

Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
September 22	November 24	February 9	April 13
October 6	December 8	February 23	April 27
October 20	January 5	March 9	May 11
October 31 End of Quarter 1	January 16 End of Quarter 2	March 20 End of Quarter 3	May 22 End of Quarter 4

End of Grading Period Eligibility: Will follow the guidelines listed below. i.e., quarter and semester grade eligibility.

Eligibility Reports in the Current Grading Period:

1. Eligibility Reports will be run at 8:20 am the Monday following the third (3rd) week of each quarter and every two (2) weeks thereafter. Eligibility dates will be published on the school calendar. Any student with a single failing grade (F) will be notified by administration of immediate ineligibility for all extracurricular activities. At this time the student will be given a form that must be filled out and signed by the teacher upon achieving a passing grade. Students will remain ineligible until they have a passing grade and have been notified by the administration of eligibility reinstatement. A student with a single failing grade can still attend practices, but cannot compete in any extracurricular activity and may not travel for an extracurricular activity that is scheduled to leave school early. This student will be ineligible for at least one contest. This student may become eligible when they have missed one contest, they have turned in a signed form, and their grade is passing. Teachers will have 3 school days to correct and enter any work for an ineligible student.
2. Any student failing two or more classes will be notified by administration of immediate ineligibility for all extracurricular activities. At this time the student will be given a form that must be filled out and signed by each teacher upon achieving a passing grade. Students will remain ineligible until they have passing grades and have been notified by the administration of eligibility reinstatement. A student with two or more failing grades cannot attend practice and will not be able to participate or travel for any extracurricular activities until they are passing in all classes. This student will be ineligible for at least two contests. This student may become eligible when they have missed two contests, they have turned in a signed form, and all their grades are passing. Teachers will have 3 school days to correct and enter any work for an ineligible student.
3. The Eligibility Report process will be in effect whether or not school is in session.
4. Incompletes: May be eligible as soon as Incomplete is made up. The student must bring a signed slip from the teacher saying the student has completed his/her work before the student is eligible again. Students will not be dismissed early to travel to contests or competitions until the Incomplete is made up.
5. Concert Eligibility: Students in band and/or chorus (7 – 12) will be eligible to perform in concerts even though they may have received an "F" or an "I" in any class.
6. Students will not be eligible for any MSHSL sponsored contests or any pep band, stage band or pop choir performances as these are considered extra-curricular in nature. They also will not be eligible for FCCLA, Knowledge Bowl, National Honor Society, Student Council, One-Act Play or Fall/Spring Play, Envirothon, Lego League, Math Counts, Spelling Bee, Homecoming Royalty, Honor Band, Honor Choir, Class Officer, Student Council and other school sponsored competitive and performance activities.
7. For all ineligibilities that occur during a time when there are no scheduled games or contests, a maximum of two missed contests or competitions will carry over with the period of ineligibility to begin with the next scheduled competition.
8. All outstanding ineligibilities at the end of the school year will carry forward to the next year and will result in a total of one missed contest or competition.
9. CIHS, OCHS, and NDCDE courses will abide by the same policy regarding failing and will be evaluated at the same time as regular education courses. Being Incomplete for NDCDE courses is defined as being more than two weeks behind in work (total assignments/18 = weekly course load).
10. High School students will not be allowed to miss classes to attend the Elementary Christmas Concerts or the Elementary Track meet if they are failing or incomplete at the time of the events.
11. Close-Up Trip: The Close-Up trip is subject to special eligibility rules. Students who are ineligible using Minnesota State High School League criteria will not be allowed to attend this trip. Penalties may be served in either category I or II activities to regain eligibility for this trip. If a student quits the Close-Up program or does not participate in the trip, all money earned by that individual through concessions and fundraisers is non-refundable. Money contributed by the individual will be refunded if timelines are met.

Acknowledgement Form

Tri-County Schools Student Handbook is available online at:

<https://tricity.k12.mn.us/student-handbook.html>

Students will be presented with a handbook presentation covering the importance of the handbook as a resource and expected to abide by school rules, policies, and procedures.

I understand that by signing this page, I need to abide by and support the rules and policies set by the Tri-County School Board and Administration.

In an effort to provide a safe and efficient learning environment for all students, I agree that I will review these rules with my parents or guardian and understand that we will be held accountable to follow these rules and policies.

Student Printed Name

Student Grade

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Printed Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date